

## ***Report to the Cabinet***

***Report reference: C-013-  
2019/20***

***Date of meeting: 31<sup>st</sup> October  
2019***



**Portfolio: Community and Partnerships**

**Subject: CCTV New Strategy 2020-2025**

**Responsible Officer: Caroline Wiggins (01992 564122).**

**Democratic Services: Adrian Hendry (01992 564246).**

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### **Recommendations/Decisions Required:**

**That Cabinet agrees the revised CCTV Strategy 2019-2025 and related capital programme expenditure which is contained within respective Directorate budgets.**

### **Executive Summary:**

The CCTV work programme 2015 – 2019 will conclude in March 2020 and a review of the CCTV repairs/replacement programme has been carried out to identify estimated costs and works required for the period 2020-2025.

A new CCTV Strategy 2019 – 2025 has been produced to reflect future requirements and this includes a review of the Capital and Revenue budget programme and estimated budget requirements through to 2025.

All expenditure identified for CCTV works stated within the new strategy is held within budgets of the respective Directorates and planned for within the budget setting process. However, CCTV requirements for the Civic Offices have not been included within this report/attached CCTV Strategy as they are subject to the Council's Accommodation Review.

It should also be noted, that subject to the Council's aspirations within its' Corporate Digital Strategy, it is possible that this strategy will require a review before 2025, as part of a wider digital infrastructure plan for the district.

### **Reasons for Proposed Decision:**

The current CCTV Strategy is nearing completion and Cabinet agreement is required for the future CCTV Capital and Revenue Programme 2020 to 2025.

### **Other Options for Action:**

Not to agree to fund the CCTV Strategy. However, this will have a significant and negative impact on the Council's ability to provide video coverage of EFDC buildings, car parks and crime hotspots and related criminal evidence for Essex Police.

## **Report:**

1. The Council now has a total of 782 CCTV cameras installed across 61 sites within the District, along with 11 portable units and 3 covert systems which are used on a regular basis. There are also three new CCTV installations currently in progress, which will bring site numbers to 65 and a total of 822 cameras by 2020.
2. The current CCTV Strategy and respective Capital & Revenue programme concludes in March 2020 and work has been undertaken to review all systems to identify need for repairs /replacement and decommissioning. In addition, Directorates across the Council have identified a range of new CCTV projects required over the next 5 years within the district, which includes car parks, Council owned properties and areas subject to crime and vandalism.
3. There is currently insufficient revenue funding to properly maintain existing CCTV systems and for those planned over the next 5 years and many of the cameras are reaching the end of their life expectancy and will therefore need to be replaced or systems upgraded. One of the largest sites affected is Debden Broadway, which is reaching critical status in terms of replacement. (A detailed analysis of these sites is included in the Financial Forecast within the new strategy document included with this report on pages 10/11).
4. As Members will be aware, CCTV plays an important part in providing criminal evidence and this covers crimes from fly-tipping to robbery and assault. It also helps to reduce fear of crime and is known as a deterrent to criminal activity. In 2018, CCTV evidence was provided to Essex Police and insurance companies on over 370 occasions. Essex Police are provided with CCTV footage on a no fee basis, but the Council charges insurance companies a fee in line with the highest rates nationally, at £120 per request.
5. Over the last few years, the Council's CCTV team has supported more local Town and Parish Council's with CCTV advice and support at cost recovery (consultancy time) and has provided repairs and servicing for CCTV systems on the same basis. It is possible that more parishes and towns may seek this type of support, in which case full cost recovery will be required.
6. In the medium to long-term, it is anticipated that the Council may wish to pursue the installation of an advanced digital platform for the district, which would provide an opportunity for CCTV to be enhanced both in terms of capability and efficiency. However, in the interim, the CCTV infrastructure needs to be maintained and refurbished to enable continuity of provision.
7. Cabinet is therefore asked to agree the CCTV strategy 2019 – 2025 and associated Capital and Revenue Programme.

## **Resource Implications**

The anticipated Capital Budget works going forward from 2020 – 2025 shows an average expenditure of £115,000 per annum over five years, this is a minor reduction of actual capital expenditure over the previous five years.

There is minimal increase in Revenue Expenditure over the period 2020 – 2025 of £500 per annum to cover the increase of cameras in the maintenance programme going forward.

**Legal and Governance Implications:**

CCTV is installed across the District under the guidelines of the National CCTV Code of Practice and complies fully with RIPA requirements.

**Safer, Cleaner and Greener Implications:**

The Council's CCTV footage is regularly used by Essex Police as criminal evidence and is used by a range of Council directorates in relation to incidents arising in Council car parks, fly-tipping cases and by Housing Services.

**Consultation Undertaken:**

Key Directorates within the Council have been consulted in relation to the CCTV and related requirements.

**Background Papers:**

CCTV Strategy 2015- 2019.