

REPORT TO: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE - 10TH DECEMBER 2007
REPORT ON: PUBLIC SPACE CCTV SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM
REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
REPORT NO: 588-2007

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To request approval for the letting of a contract for the provision of a digital video storage system.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That the Committee should approve the letting of a contract to BT Redcare at a cost of £119,414.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The Head of Finance has confirmed that funding for the project is available from allowances within the Capital Plan 2007/08 and from within the allowance for Risk Management as detailed below:-

Capital	CCTV	£ 40,000
	Health and Safety Works	£ 50,000
Revenue	Risk Management	£ 30,000
	Total	<u>£120,000</u>

3.2 The Annual Management charge of £8,832 can be accommodated within the Economic Development Departments Revenue Budget for CCTV Maintenance.

4.0 MAIN TEXT

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 Dundee City Council, in partnership with Tayside Police, manages, maintains and operates the Public Space CCTV Surveillance System operating in Dundee City Centre and various peripheral areas.

4.1.2 The system has been in operation since 1996 and, whilst continuing to be maintained during that period has been subject to equipment deterioration as it ages.

4.1.3 The point has been reached where it is essential for all the VCRs in the Police CCTV Control room to be replaced with digital recording equipment and this report seeks approval from Committee, in accordance with the Financial Regulations, to the procurement being undertaken on the basis of a single quotation.

4.2 Background

4.2.1 The CCTV system began operating in 1996/97 and now comprises 81 cameras managed by Tayside Police in a control room at Police Headquarters in West Bell Street, Dundee.

4.2.2 The system is maintained through a consortium established in 2003 whereby a single maintenance contract is in operation for the CCTV systems in Angus Council; Dundee City Council, Tay Road Bridge Joint Board and Perth and Kinross Council, comprising at total of 167 cameras.

- 4.2.3 The consortium has a three year maintenance contract which commenced in March 2003 with negotiated extensions, in accordance with the contract, for each of two successive years. A new contract is being established to commence from March 2008.
- 4.2.4 The contract incorporates provisions for the maintenance and like-for-like replacement of the video cassette recorders VCR's used to record output from the cameras and from which footage is taken in support of interventions and investigations by Tayside Police and any subsequent prosecutions.
- 4.2.5 The system in Dundee is self sufficient and is maintained by the Economic Development Department with funding provided from the revenue budget.
- 4.2.6 The VCRs operated in the control room have reached the end of their operating life and it is proving difficult to maintain or replace units. Digital recording technology has developed to the extent that modern CCTV systems are now provided with hard disc digital recorders whilst VCRs have been phased out by manufacturers.
- 4.2.7 Officers of Tayside Police and the Economic Development Department have researched appropriate replacement equipment and have visited the new CCTV installation system in Fife to discuss the latest, and best, practices adopted as part of this installation.
- 4.2.8 They have also had the opportunity of examining the outcome of a detailed option appraisal study and pilot undertaken by Fife Police. This study examined, in detail, the various options for establishing a digital video storage system that mirrored an IT Data System whereby the Central Server located at Police Headquarters stores the digital video images with Divisional Management / Officers being able to access the system by PC over a secure IT Network.
- 4.2.9 Officers of Tayside Police and the Property Division have concluded that the study by Fife Police and its recommendation, the adoption of a BT Redcare fully managed digital recording service remains valid and that Dundee should adopt the same system as that adopted by Fife Police and a number of other Scottish Police Forces.
- 4.2.10 Angus Council approved a report to upgrade their installation using the BT service in October 2007 and it is understood that Perth and Kinross Council are considering a similar replacement project in 2008/09.
- 4.2.11 The BT offer comprises an installation cost of £119,414 with an £8,832 annual service charge based on a three year term contract. This offer is for a system capable of handling 100 cameras. This will allow scope to extend the system in the future and it is also more economic to do it now than add on in future.
- 4.2.12 Towards the end of the three-year contract period, the Council will negotiate with BT to reach agreement on the best way to continue to maintain the equipment including options to purchase the current equipment, replacement of the system or an extension of the current contract for a specified period of time (i.e. 12 months).
- 4.2.13 Tayside Police have advised that the BT Redcare scheme is their preferred option because it would contribute to a standardised approach across Scotland and permit interconnectivity.
- 4.2.14 The adoption of the BT Redcare scheme precludes the Economic Development department from complying with the competitive tendering requirements of the standing orders. However, the Director of Economic Development is satisfied that this represents value for money.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This Report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management.

5.2 The digital storage system will allow quicker review of recordings resulting in savings in police time. Images can also be viewed over networks and emailed. This will increase police efficiency. The overall results should enable a substantial contribution towards reducing the fear of crime in the area.

6.0 CONSULTATIONS

6.1 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), Depute Chief Executive (Finance), Head of Finance and Tayside Police.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 None.

DOUGLAS A A GRIMMOND
DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

DATE: 29TH NOVEMBER 2007