

REPORT TO: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 16 OCTOBER 2000

REPORT ON: 'MAKE OUR COMMUNITIES SAFER'
CHALLENGE COMPETITION BID

REPORT BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE

REPORT NO: 664-2000

1. PURPOSE

To seek approval for a funding bid to be made under the 'Make Our Communities Safer' Challenge Competition 2001/2002.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that members:

- (i) approve the submission of a bid to the Scottish Executive under the 'Make Our Communities Safer' Challenge Competition, which has two elements:
 - an additional 6 cameras, to be located in the Menzieshill and Hilltown areas, which will take the existing staffing and control room facilities at Tayside Police HQ to maximum capacity.
 - a feasibility study, looking at the most efficient and effective way of monitoring all the CCTV cameras operated by the Council, including those at multi-storey housing developments, car parks, schools and community facilities, in conjunction with those currently controlled at Police HQ, and taking account of the potential future expansion of the network.
- (ii) remit the Director of Economic Development to seek contributions to the funding package from other public sector partners.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The funding package set out in this report would require a contribution of up to £75,000 from the Council towards the capital costs of the new cameras and the proposed feasibility study. Provision for this expenditure will require to be made in the 2001/2002 Capital Plan. The capital cost to the Council will be reduced if funding contributions from other public sector partners are secured.
- 3.2 Additional revenue costs associated with line rental and maintenance of the proposed new cameras are estimated at £13,800 per annum. In addition, the independent evaluation of the CCTV network would require to be extended to cover the new areas at an estimated cost of £4,000. It is proposed that provision for these additional revenue costs be made in the 2001/2002 Revenue Budget.

4. LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

This report impacts on the key theme of 'people live without fear of personal violence from crime'.

5. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

None

6. BACKGROUND

6.1 The Scottish Executive is inviting bids for part-funding of CCTV projects under the 'Make Our Communities Safer' Challenge Competition 2001/2002. A total of £1.5 million is available across Scotland as part of a £3 million package of funding for community safety projects. Priority will be given to innovative projects and areas not previously assisted through the Competition. Up to 50% of costs can be applied for, with match funding being required from the Council and other sources.

6.2 In considering a bid for funding, there is a need to take a longer-term view of the Council's strategy for developing and managing CCTV. In particular, the following points should be noted:

- the existing CCTV Control Room at Tayside Police HQ is now operating at very close to capacity, in terms of staff/cameras ratios and the size of the facility, and could only handle a very modest expansion. The police are also concerned about diluting the effectiveness of the system if many more cameras have to be monitored directly by them.
- as well as the police-controlled network of 69 cameras, recent years have seen an increasing use of CCTV monitored directly by the Council at facilities such as schools, car parks and multi-storey housing developments. There may be ways in which the monitoring of these cameras could be better co-ordinated to ensure most effective use of the cameras and best value in the use of resources.

6.3 Proposals have therefore been developed to add 6 cameras to the existing police-controlled network, taking this up to the maximum capacity of the existing control room facilities, along with a study of the longer-term arrangements for management of CCTV. This would include an evaluation of the idea of a control facility to bring together the monitoring of all the Council's security cameras, with an ability to link instantly to the Police Control if a serious incident occurs. Some existing cameras under police control could be switched to such a facility, freeing up space for new cameras to cover priority areas, and the system would be able to switch flexibly between the two controls. The study would also look at ways of rationalising both the capital and revenue costs associated with CCTV, including the existing system and any future expansion.

6.4 Any bid for Challenge Competition funding must have the support of Tayside Police. Therefore, in order to determine where the additional cameras should be located, the Police were asked to consider the full list of areas which members have suggested would benefit from CCTV coverage over the next 3 years, and to decide which of these best met the established criteria for CCTV coverage at this stage. These criteria are:

- high pedestrian 'footfall' and/or volume of vehicle traffic
- range of community focal points which would be covered
- benefits provided 24 hours a day, rather than only at specific periods
- wider strategic value (eg due to coverage of major routes)

The Police view is that Menzieshill and Hilltown best meet the criteria at this time. 4 cameras would be required to effectively cover Menzieshill due to the layout and form of buildings on the estate, while 2 cameras would be located at the top of the Hilltown. Other areas recognised by the Police as having a good case for CCTV included Perth Road, Blackness Road and Linlathen, but Menzieshill and Hilltown are regarded as higher priorities at this stage. These other areas would also require a significant number of cameras to ensure adequate coverage, and further splitting the 6 additional cameras between areas would dilute their effectiveness. The potential provision of cameras in these, and other areas put forward by members, will be taken into account as part of the study of the longer-term development and management of CCTV. These areas can also be targeted by the CCTV Mobile Unit which is due to come into service later this year following the successful bid in last year's Challenge Competition.

6.5 The proposed study of longer-term CCTV management would cover:

- an audit of existing CCTV use and future possibilities for expansion
- a 'process mapping' exercise, showing how information from the wide range of cameras is currently managed
- an assessment of the technical, managerial and staffing issues involved in 'joining up' the monitoring of cameras, including links with the police-controlled network.

The study would involve external consultants and a range of departments within the Council. The aim would be to identify the most efficient and effective way in which CCTV cameras can be managed, from a 'best value' perspective.

6.6 The total cost of the proposals is estimated at £150,000. This is based on 6 additional cameras at a cost of £20,000 each, and an estimated cost of £30,000 for the feasibility study. It is proposed to bid for £75,000 representing 50% of the total cost. The balance would require to be met by the City Council or from other sources. Discussions are taking place with partner agencies with a view to securing a contribution to the funding package which would reduce the cost to the Council.

6.7 Revenue costs associated with the proposed cameras are estimated at £13,800 per annum, including line rental and maintenance. It is also proposed that the University of Abertay's existing commission for the independent evaluation of CCTV would be extended to cover the new area, at an estimated cost of £4,000.

6.8 In conclusion, it is felt that this year's bid to the Challenge Competition should address the need for a longer-term strategy for the management of CCTV in Dundee, informed by a detailed feasibility study as described above. The bid should also seek to add a number of cameras in the areas identified by the Police as best meeting the established criteria for CCTV coverage, maximising the use of the existing control room facilities.

Chief Executive

Date

Background Paper

'Make our Communities Safer' Challenge Competition 2001/2002
Application Guidance for CCTV Projects : The Scottish Executive