

Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

BRIEFING NOTE – No10/18

Date: 26 November 2018

Briefing paper to: All Members of the Regeneration, Culture and Environment
Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Purpose: To provide and update on progress on the CCTV audit

Introduction

Members of the Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee requested that prior to receiving a report on work stream 1 of the CCTV audit, they be provided with a breakdown of CCTV cameras on a Ward by Ward basis (but not to include specific locations) and information as to the number of cameras which are not working by mid-November.

In addition Members requested that a Briefing Note be sent to Members by mid-November outlining the progress on the CCTV audit and setting out a plan showing the overall timescales for the remainder of the review.

Response

The Head of Regulatory Services and Community Safety Manager have now been tasked with coordinating a comprehensive review of the CCTV infrastructure, and will use the information provided by MCG for this review.

Using a list of cameras provided by MCG each camera has been rated using a RAG (red/amber/green) rating, with red being the highest priority for repair. This system has prioritised retail areas, transport hubs and areas of the night time economy. This has been shared with Kent Police.

This audit is based on 175 cameras in public spaces and open air car parks. It is worth noting that a comprehensive list of every camera paid for by Medway Council, contains a total of 442 CCTV cameras of which 75% are operational.

The RAG rating has been based on the highest risk areas such as those with a high footfall and through historical crime figures.

Within the Chatham area there are 61 cameras of which 32 are currently not operational.

Within the Gillingham area there are 30 cameras of which 19 are currently not operational.

Within the Rochester area there are 30 cameras of which 10 are currently not operational.

Within Strood and the Peninsula areas there are 20 cameras of which 13 are currently not operational.

Within Rainham, Twydall and outlying areas there are 34 cameras of which 16 are currently not operational.

The RAG rating system has identified 20 priority red cameras for repair, broken down as follows –

- Gillingham – 6
- Chatham – 7
- Rochester – 4
- Rainham, Twydall and outlying areas - 2
- Strood and Peninsula – 1

A total of 21 cameras have been identified for phase 2 of repair as amber –

- Gillingham – 2
- Chatham – 12
- Rochester – 1
- Rainham, Twydall and outlying areas - 2
- Strood and Peninsula – 4

At present we are not able to break down the number of CCTV cameras by Ward.

This list was submitted to MCG who have provided a quote in the region of £47,500. Timescales will be 16 weeks (dependencies – power, transmission at each location). Whilst the above works are undertaken, if a power or transmission issue occurs this will result in further costs and may cause timescales to alter.

We have been advised by MCG that the failure of individual cameras is down to a mixture of issues, ranging from some cameras that are not working at all, to others where the ‘pan/tilt/zoom’ mechanism has failed, to some having some form of interference.

This is further complicated by an indication from MCG that the fibre network in the Gillingham and Rainham area is in need of review. In addition 5 cameras were identified as a priority to be replaced in Twydall. This work will be completed by the end of November 2018 at a total cost of £8,150.

We have based this report on information provided by MCG at the time of writing.

Workstream one of the review is scheduled to be completed by December 2018. Options for funding are being considered including Capital reserves and S106 contributions.

Lead Officer:

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