



COUNCIL: 28 FEBRUARY 2024

Report of: Corporate Director of Transformation, Housing & Resources

Relevant Portfolio Holder: Councillor Gareth Dowling

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SUBJECT: SAFER STREETS 5

Wards affected: Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To approve Home Office grant funding and to use this funding to enhance the Council's CCTV network.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL

- 2.1 That the Home Office funding of £160,000 is approved and committed to be spent in accordance with paragraph 3.3 of this report.
- 2.2 That the Head of Planning and Regulatory Services is granted delegated authority, in discussion the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Community Safety, to bid, accept and administer opportunities for Community Safety external grant funding where the timescale and/or requirements for such funding prevent the matter from being presented to Members and that would otherwise lead to the funding opportunity not being taken.

3.0 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Following invites for Expressions of Interest, the West Lancashire Community Safety Partnership (CSP) submitted a bid to the Lancashire Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) in August 2023 for Round 5 of the Home Office *Safer Streets* fund. The purpose of the fund is to provide measures proven to tackle neighbourhood crime, violence against women and girls and anti-social behaviour (ASB).
- 3.2 The bid was supported by the Police and OPCC and was designed to meet the Home Office criteria and specifically to "Enhance the Safety of Students, Visitors and Workers in Ormskirk Town Centre and on University Campus Red Routes,

with a focus on Preventing and Detecting Violence to Women and Girls, Preventing and Detecting Serious Violence and Preventing and Detecting Serious Anti-Social Behaviour".

- 3.3 A key element of the bid logistics was to replace the Council's existing legacy CCTV monitoring wall, operator desk, and spot monitors, install a new Network Video Recorder in the CCTV Control Room and install 3 new CCTV cameras in Ormskirk Town Centre. The three locations which included, Railway Road, Ormskirk Bus Station and the junction of Wigan Road were supported by the Police through a 'Designing Out Crime' report.
- 3.4 The Council and CSP were informed on 26 September 2023 that the Home Office had approved the bid. However, the Home Office subsequently decided to reduce the amount of funding available to the Police and the OPCC and limit the scope of the funding. Projects due to be funded by the OPCC were subsequently put on hold and the Council and CSP were not informed that the funding could proceed until 23 January 2024. However, it remains a Home Office requirement that the Council must be able to commission the project and commit/spend the funding by 31 March 2024.

4.0 CURRENT POSITION

- 4.1 This short timescale makes it impossible for the Council to use routine procurement practices to award the work and commission the project. Moreover, there is no flexibility in the parameters dictated by the Home Office for the allocated funding and so the project could not be delivered, and the related benefits not realised.
- 4.2 An exemption to Contract Procedure Rules is therefore applicable to allow for the direct award of the project to a competent and experienced CCTV provider. The justification for such exemption is due to:
- Urgency: the grant agreement funding was only confirmed on 23 January 2024 and the monies must be spent by 31 March 2024 and so there was nothing the Council could have done to prepare itself a tender prior to this date.
 - A lack of suitable tenderers in the market: the market has been recently tested for similar CCTV works (albeit of a larger scope under the CCTV maintenance contract) with only two responses. It is therefore likely that there will be a very low number of potential bidders for this work.
 - Risk and loss of opportunity: if the monies are not spent within the timescales and according to the terms set out in the grant agreement then the Council will not receive or must repay the grant monies and the project cannot be delivered.
- 4.3 The late confirmation of the funding from the Home Office also necessitates the recommendations in this report that seek Council approval of the bid itself and to spend the funding as stated in paragraph 3.3 of this report.
- 4.4 If Members approve the recommendations in this report, Officers are able to prepare the specification for the work and ensure the related legal and procurement requirements are addressed so the project can be committed before

the given deadline date. The physical works would then be delivered thereafter over an agreed timescale.

- 4.5 In determining this matter, Members may recall that Council approved a budget to commission a full review of the Council's CCTV system as part of the 2023/24 budget. This review was to ensure the CCTV system remained cost effective and functional for the next 10-15 years. The review has been completed and Officers are currently assessing the findings before presenting relevant options to Members. However, the Home Office funding could be used to support and enhance the core functions of the existing CCTV system which would still allow for all review options to be considered. It also gives the added advantage of giving additional funding to allow such options to be properly considered in due course.

5.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The project will result in improvements to the Council's CCTV network and camera provision in Ormskirk. The updated CCTV monitoring wall, operator desk, and spot monitors will also improve the functionality available to CCTV operators. These additions will therefore improve surveillance and responsiveness to address the Council's priority to *Enhance and improve a safe, built environment* and the core function of the CSP to combat and reduce crime.

6.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The works outlined in paragraph 3.3 of this report can be delivered within the allocated funding. The delivery of the project can therefore be delivered within existing resources, including maintenance of the new equipment that would be installed.
- 6.2 The late confirmation of this funding has resulted in a great deal of unplanned and urgent work for Officers to obtain the relevant permissions and authorisations, which in turn, placed a significant risk to the delivery of the project itself. Officers are therefore keen to avoid a recurrence of this situation and the recommendation provided at paragraph 2.2 of this report is sought to mitigate this risk, but only where the timescale and/or requirements for such prevent the matter from being presented to Members accordingly.

7.0 RISK ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 Notwithstanding the challenging timescales, the Home Office funding provides an opportunity for the Council to update and improve its CCTV network. If the opportunity is not taken the works would have to be funded directly or not provided. The delivery of the project also still allows for the options of the pending CCTV review to be considered in due course.

8.0 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 Outside of the stated aims to combat and reduce crime and the related positive health impacts on persons who feel comforted by an improved CCTV network and related Council and Police response, there are no health and wellbeing implications arising from this report.

Background Documents

There are no background documents (as defined in Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) to this Report.

Equality Impact Assessment

There is a direct impact on members of the public, employees, elected members and / or stakeholders, therefore an Equality Impact Assessment is required. A formal equality impact assessment is attached as an Appendix to this report, the results of which have been taken into account in the Recommendations contained within this report.

Appendices

1. Equality Impact Assessment

Equality Impact Assessment Form



Directorate: Place & Community	Service: Community Safety
Completed by: Paul Charlson	Date: 08/02/24
Subject Title: Safer Streets 5	
1. DESCRIPTION	
Is a policy or strategy being produced or revised:	No
Is a service being designed, redesigned or cutback:	No
Is a commissioning plan or contract specification being developed:	Yes
Is a budget being set or funding allocated:	Yes
Is a programme or project being planned:	Yes
Are recommendations being presented to senior managers and/or Councillors:	Yes
Does the activity contribute to meeting our duties under the Equality Act 2010 and Public Sector Equality Duty (Eliminating unlawful discrimination/harassment, advancing equality of opportunity, fostering good relations):	No
Details of the matter under consideration:	
<p><i>If you answered Yes to any of the above go straight to Section 3</i></p> <p><i>If you answered No to all the above please complete Section 2</i></p>	
2. RELEVANCE	
Does the work being carried out impact on service users, staff or Councillors (stakeholders):	N/A
If Yes , provide details of how this impacts on service users, staff or Councillors (stakeholders): <i>If you answered Yes go to Section 3</i>	
If you answered No to both Sections 1 and 2 provide details of why there is no impact on these three groups: <i>You do not need to complete the rest of this form.</i>	
3. EVIDENCE COLLECTION	
Who does the work being carried out impact on, i.e. who is/are the stakeholder(s)?	Public, residents and businesses. CSP members.

If the work being carried out relates to a universal service, who needs or uses it most? (Is there any particular group affected more than others)?	N/A
Which of the protected characteristics are most relevant to the work being carried out?	
Age	No
Gender	No
Disability	No
Race and Culture	No
Sexual Orientation	No
Religion or Belief	No
Gender Reassignment	No
Marriage and Civil Partnership	No
Pregnancy and Maternity	No
4. DATA ANALYSIS	
In relation to the work being carried out, and the service/function in question, who is actually or currently using the service and why?	CCTV service operated by the Council. Its use impacts all public, residents and businesses and CSP members.
What will the impact of the work being carried out be on usage/the stakeholders?	Improved CCTV provision. Improved ability to identify and combat crime.
What are people's views about the services? Are some customers more satisfied than others, and if so what are the reasons? Can these be affected by the proposals?	Annual People Survey supportive of community safety measures.
What sources of data including consultation results have you used to analyse the impact of the work being carried out on users/stakeholders with protected characteristics?	See above.
If any further data/consultation is needed and is to be gathered, please specify:	None.
5. IMPACT OF DECISIONS	
In what way will the changes impact on people with particular protected characteristics (either positively or negatively or in terms of disproportionate impact)?	Improved CCTV provision. Improved ability to identify and combat crime.
6. CONSIDERING THE IMPACT	
If there is a negative impact what action can be taken to mitigate it? (If it is not possible or	All Council CCTV provision is delivered within relevant Office of Surveillance

desirable to take actions to reduce the impact, explain why this is the case (e.g. legislative or financial drivers etc.).	Commissioners guidance. The Security Systems & Alarms Inspection Board (SSAIB) also certify the Council's CCTV operation annually.
What actions do you plan to take to address any other issues above?	None. <i>If no actions are planned state no actions</i>
7. MONITORING AND REVIEWING	
When will this assessment be reviewed and who will review it?	Annually, as part of a full CCTV report and [above mentioned] SSAIB certification.