

Update On Possible Review of CCTV

Summary

1. This report presents a brief history of a proposed topic on CCTV in York, and asks Members to consider whether they now wish to proceed with a review of the provision and usage of CCTV across the city.

Background to Topic

2. In Jan 2010 this committee received a topic registration form on CCTV submitted by Cllr Bowgett. Members were informed that an update Executive report on CCTV in York was expected from officers in July 2010, which would answer many of the questions raised in the topic registration form. On that basis, the committee chose to defer their decision on whether to proceed with a review.
3. In September 2010, the officer report was received by this committee together with some written views on the report from Cllr Vassie, who was unable to attend the meeting. At that time, Members were informed that North Yorkshire Police Authority had been tasked by the York and North Yorkshire Safer Communities Forum to bring together a 'Task & Finish Group' to undertake a review of the costs and effectiveness of CCTV provision across the North Yorkshire police force area. It was expected that this would include looking at:
 - The advantage of new technologies and networks
 - Agreed evaluation methods and results
 - Learning from other areas and national guidelines
 - Approaches to needs assessment
 - Opportunities to do things better, cheaper, more effectively & efficiently
 - Opportunities for joint working
4. Again, the committee chose not to proceed with the review at that time. Instead, it was agreed to await the outcome of the Police Authority

review before deciding whether or not the scrutiny review was necessary. The Police Authority review was commenced with all councils in North Yorkshire feeding in information on their individual CCTV provision etc.

5. In January 2011 Cllr Alexander registered a further CCTV scrutiny topic, which was considered at a meeting of this committee on 18 January 2011. It was noted that although the issues raised in both CCTV topic registrations had some similarities, they were not identical. It was agreed therefore that the Chair and Vice Chair would meet with Cllr Vassie and Cllr Alexander, to amalgamate the two topic registration forms into one (taking account of Cllr Vassie's written views), and identify a suitable remit for a review for the consideration of this committee.
6. The committee were then informed that a decision had been taken to halt the Police Authority review, following a proposal that Local Government North Yorkshire & York Board (LGNYY) carry out a review of a number of services (including CCTV) where there was scope to introduce a shared service in an effort to secure significant (and quantifiable) efficiency savings.
7. At a meeting of this committee in March 2011, the committee considered how best to amalgamate the individual topic registration forms previously received in order that and agreed review take into consideration all of the concerns raised. They also received a briefing note on the Local Government North Yorkshire & York Board shared service project – see Annex A.
8. The Committee agreed that if a review were to be undertaken, the remit for the review would need to take into consideration the outcome of the work of the Consultants tasked with producing a business case for the inclusion of CCTV as part of the LGNYY project. It was agreed that a number of the Committee should meet with the Consultants to highlight the concerns of Members about the use of CCTV in York etc so that those concerns could be considered as part of the Consultants work. That meeting was held in April 2011 and the notes taken are shown at Annex B.
9. The Consultants report is still being developed and will not be public until it goes to a meeting of LGNYY in September. An early draft was discussed at a meeting of the relevant Chief Executives a few months ago (York was not present) and they agreed to widen the remit of the

customer access part of the report. In relation to CCT, the draft feedback was that the business should:

- Be based on tapping into what already exists with one council buying from another.
 - Clarify if there are any savings in this particularly when compared to any investment costs.
10. A more detailed report on the findings will be made available to this committee, following the LGNYY meeting in September 2011.

Consultation

11. Officers from Network Management have been consulted throughout the consideration of the CCTV topic and have attended previous meetings of this Committee to discuss the feasibility of the topic with Members and to provide presentation on the current use of CCTV across the city.

Options

12. Having considered the information within this report and its associated Annexes Members may choose to:
- proceed with a review of the use of CCTV in York and identify a suitable remit and objectives for the review
 - request further information in order to inform a decision on whether or not to proceed with a review
 - agree not to proceed with a review at this time
 - agree that a review of CCTV in York is not required

Corporate Strategy

13. A review of CCTV in York would support the Council's corporate strategy to make York a safer city with low crime rates.

Implications

14. There are no known Financial, HR, Legal, Equalities, Crime & Disorder, ITT or other implications associated with the recommendation in this report.

Risk Management

15. There are no known risks associated with the recommendation in this report.

Recommendations

16. Members are asked to agree
- whether or not they wish to proceed with a scrutiny review on CCTV in York

If a decision is taken to proceed with the review, Members are asked to agree a remit and a number of objectives for the review.

Reason: To progress the work of this Overview & Scrutiny Committee, in line with scrutiny procedures and protocols.

Contact Details

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Report Approved



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Specialist Implications Officer(s): N/A

Wards Affected:

All



For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers: N/A

Annexes

Annex A – Briefing Note on Local Government North Yorkshire & York Board Shared Service Project

Annex B – Notes taken at Meeting with Consultants in April 2011