

Alex Stewart

OPERATIONS item 5

Committee: Operations
Date: 23 March 2006
Title: CCTV – Saffron Walden
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Agenda Item

5

Item for
decision

Summary

This report provides Members with details of a request to take over the complete management and responsibility for the CCTV System that is operational within the confines of the Saffron Walden.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Members permit the Town Council to take over the complete management and responsibility of the system.

Background Papers

Request from Saffron Walden Town Council

Impact

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|----------------------------|--|
| Communication/Consultation | Not Applicable |
| Community Safety | Section 17 implications have been considered |
| Equalities | Not applicable |
| Finance | If the Town Council takes over the system, it will result in a revenue cost saving of approximately £6,000 to the Council |
| Human Rights | Not applicable |
| Legal implications | CCTV systems in all areas are covered by a strict Data Protection Protocol |
| Ward-specific impacts | Saffron Walden only |
| Workforce/Workplace | None |

Situation

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- 1 In July of 2000, the Council secured a grant from the Home Office to install CCTV in the three major conurbations in the District. The grant was secured as a result of the excellent partnership arrangements that existed with Town and Parish Councils and in order to lower crime rates as a result of installation of CCTV.
- 2 Saffron Walden Town Council agreed to host the system in its offices (as did Stansted PC) and it was considered that it provided a useful addition to the system that the Town Council had already commissioned.
- 3 As a result of this, Saffron Walden was and is covered by 6 cameras of its own plus 8 as a result of the successful grant application. The Town Council is currently looking to further expand its system. The system has a link to the local Police Station and is governed by a strict Code of Practice.
- 4 With regard to the way in which the schemes are managed, the Town Council contributes to both on-going maintenance costs and the line rental from British Telecom. This currently equates to a 50/50 split in costs.
- 5 Were the Town Council to take over the complete management and responsibility of the system, the Council would not have to contribute towards these on-going revenue costs. This would result in an annual saving of approximately £6,000. In addition, it is considered that the costs will increase as line rental etc. increases with inflation. It is also considered that the maintenance costs will increase as the machines require replacing or updating.
- 6 A Task Group was established to look at a complete review of the system in 2004-05, the recommendations of the Task Group were accepted which resulted in all systems in the District being updated over the last financial year. The Task Group also considered the options of offering each Town/Parish Council the opportunity to take on the complete management of the system and to date, Saffron Walden is the only Town Council who has registered complete willingness.
- 7 In taking over the system, the Town Council would be able to continue to expand the scheme at its own pace and this would still contribute towards the overall aims and objectives of crime reductions as set out in the Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy (2005-2008).