

ITEM 4

MINUTE EXTRACT

Time began	6.00pm
Time ended	7.45pm

COUNCIL CABINET 2 JUNE 2009

Present:	Councillor Jones (Chair) Councillors Allen, Care, Carr, Naitta, Skelton and Troup
In attendance	Councillors Jennings and Williamson

This record of decisions was published on 4 June 2009. The key decisions set out in this record will come into force and may be implemented on the expiry of five clear days unless a key decision is called in.

09/09 Approve Changes relating to Public Area CCTV

The Council Cabinet considered a report to approve changes relating to Public Area CCTV. The report described the critical issues relating to the operation of the public area CCTV scheme following detailed analysis and appraisal of the current system by external consultants. The analysis, which considered the public area CCTV system against the priorities and standards set out in the Home Office National Strategy (2007) and the CCTV Data Protection Code of Practice (1999), highlighted the strengths and weaknesses of the current system and urgent action was now needed to address the issues which had emerged. The analysis indicated that a significant proportion of the current 185 CCTV cameras contributed very little to the core purpose of the scheme – detecting crime and reducing the fear of crime. Almost all cameras, together with essential control room equipment, were reaching the end of their useful life and needed replacing and updating to keep pace with technological development. The immediate recommendation was to concentrate on providing active and targeted monitoring of city centre cameras, where activity was highest and the system had proved to be of value. The group of cameras, identified in Section B1 of Appendix B, and the recording equipment needed to be replaced in the next 12 months. Replacing the recording equipment was essential to allow any CCTV coverage to continue. A bid for an LPSA 2 grant of £250,000 had been made to fund these upgrades and was recommended for approval on the same agenda. The report highlighted that some cameras identified in Sections B2 and B3 of Appendix B, were likely to need replacement during the next few years. Decisions on whether to invest in camera replacements in these locations would need to be made in future years. Continuing operation of these camera locations would need to consider whether the cameras contributed to the core purpose of the CCTV scheme and whether funding was available. The report also advised that many cameras no longer contributed to the core purpose of

the public area CCTV scheme and it was proposed that these cameras were decommissioned. The camera locations were identified in Section B4 of Appendix B.

Options Considered

1. Maintaining the level of cameras included within the current system. This would not address the issues raised by Home Office research and would be unsustainable due to rising operating costs and significant replacement costs.
2. Removal of all public area CCTV. Such a step would be difficult to justify given the evidence that many cameras were effective.

Decision

To refer the report to the Scrutiny Management Commission and bring a report to a future meeting.

Reasons

To ensure that full consultation had taken place.

EXTRACT ENDS