

REPORT TO FULL COUNCIL

CCTV FUNDING AGREEMENT



Report Reference C-20-03
Meeting Date 23rd November 2020
Agenda Item 9
Prepared by Town Clerk

1.0 BACKGROUND

Since 2014 the council has contributed towards the operation costs of the town centre CCTV provision. This has been on a three-year funding agreement with Cheshire East Council which initially ran from 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2018 and was renewed for the period to 31st March 2021 in January 2018.

In 2014 Cheshire East Council approached the Town Council to contribute towards the funding of CCTV (at a cost per camera) with the intention that if the council did not contribute it would be removed from the town centre. Initially, the Town Council rejected a request to fund the CCTV and it was scheduled for removal. Following a meeting with the then Inspector for Knutsford Police and members of the public having expressed concerns, the Town Council determined to enter into the three-year agreement on the basis that it would be proactively monitored.

In 2017 a significant upgrade was undertaken of the cameras in Knutsford to improve the quality of data capture and usability; the new cameras had improved visibility in areas of poor lighting and Cheshire East Council subsequently implemented a £100k upgrade to its control room systems which include motion detecting software to enable improved monitoring of areas.

In 2020, Cheshire East Council received a voluntary external audit by the National Security Inspectorate on behalf of the Home Office and UK Surveillance Camera Commissioner and received Stage Two accreditation.

Cheshire East Council is soon progressing to stage three of their service digitalisation which is the removal of all current transmission infrastructure and its replacement with a modern high speed digital transmission system that will speed up repair and maintenance and deliver live onboard camera analytics.

2.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The annual cost of the three-year agreement would be £13,366.14 an increase of £66.49 per year on the current agreement. The budget for the agreement has been included with the draft council budget for 2021/22.

3.0 DECISION REQUIRED

Council should consider the renewal of the three-year support agreement.