

REPORT TO COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

MOOR CCTV



Report Reference	COM-24-19
Meeting Date	3 rd February 2024
Agenda Item	8
Prepared by	Town Clerk

1.0 BACKGROUND

Cheshire East Council operates a CCTV system across all towns in the borough. In Knutsford, coverage is confined to the town centre and car parks. The Town Council has an SLA with Cheshire East Council to retain this service and provides funding of £14,596 pa.

Cheshire East Council has had temporary deployable cameras which can be moved to different locations depending on demand. For several years, the Town Council has requested one be placed on the Moor (near the shelter) to tackle anti-social behaviour, this has been supported by previous PCSOs. This has never been forthcoming as higher priority areas have always trumped the Moor (i.e. areas where more serious crime has been reported).

There is the option of the Town Council purchasing a camera and it being monitored by Cheshire East Council as part of the borough wide system. These cameras can then be moved to different locations as directed by the Town Council and Cheshire East Council would undertake all necessary data protection impact assessments and monitoring of the system. These units cost £2,600 to purchase and the ongoing cost is £680 per camera per year.

The Committee discussed this in May and agreed to apply for a grant from the Police and Crime Commissioner when their scheme re-opened. An application was submitted, but was rejected as the new scheme will not fund CCTV cameras as it focuses on other direct crime prevention projects.

When considered in May the report also looked at CCTV for Longridge. It is understood that this was separately taken forward by Great Places and an update on this will be provided at the meeting.

2.0 CCTV COVERAGE FOR THE MOOR

In the interests of openness and transparency it should be noted that the Town Clerk is the Chair of Friends of the Moor.

At its March meeting, Friends of the Moor discussed CCTV coverage following an incident of arson which could have resulted in the shelter catching fire. The situation as to why a temporary camera had not been installed was relayed. Friends of the Moor agreed that the Town Council should be requested to fund a camera to provide CCTV coverage of the Moor in the interests of improving safety and tackling antisocial behaviour.

It has been noted that many issues of antisocial behaviour on the Moor go unreported and that crime statistics therefore underrepresent the issue.

There is an upfront cost of £2,600 to fund a CCTV camera and ongoing costs of £680 per year. The

upfront cost could be funded by CIL.

3.0 DECISION REQUIRED

The committee should consider:

- a) Whether it wishes to recommend to Full Council that it funds a CCTV camera for The Moor
- b) Whether as part of any recommendation it recommends that an application through the council's CIL process is made to fund the upfront cost of purchasing the camera