Culture and Communities Committee

10.00am, Tuesday, 16 August 2022

Public Realm CCTV Update

Routine
Wards
Council Commitments

1. Recommendations

1.1 The Culture and Communities Committee are asked to note this update on the upgrade of the Public Realm Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) service in Edinburgh.

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Report

Public Realm CCTV Update

2. Executive Summary

2.1 This report provides an update on the progress made towards developing the Public Realm Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) service in Edinburgh.

3. Background

3.1 The City of Edinburgh Council operates a CCTV camera estate across the public realm, housing blocks, the transport network and Council buildings. Provision of CCTV services is non-statutory, and the service is provided to support public safety and security, including the prevention and detection of crime.

3.2 An internal audit review of CCTV infrastructure conducted in 2017/18, included a recommendation for the creation of a corporate plan for CCTV to ensure that all CCTV operations across the Council are managed efficiently, consistently, and are legislatively compliant. Significant investment is required across the public realm CCTV estate to establish an effective and efficient service and the current analogue systems have surpassed the end of their serviceable life expectancy, particularly given the shift in technology from analogue to IP.

3.3 A CCTV Working Group was formed following approval from the Culture and Communities Committee meeting on 30 January 2018 and the Working Group is supporting the upgrade of the public realm CCTV system.

3.4 The project has secured European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) funding as part of the 8th City Programme; Scottish Cities Alliance smart cities initiative. This funding is focused on the upgrade of public safety infrastructure, for developing a 'Smart City' and covers the period from 2019 - 2022.

3.5 The ERDF funding is £712,000 (40% of the overall project cost), with £1,068,000 (60%) being match funded from the Council's capital budget allocation for the CCTV upgrade.

3.6 The upgrade of public realm CCTV is one of the initiatives included in the Council's Digital and Smart City Strategy and is being future-proofed for any developments in the Smart City Operations Centre (SCOC) programme within the Council.

4. Main report

4.1 The Public Realm CCTV Upgrade (otherwise known as the 'IP Video Surveillance System' project) is currently in its implementation phase.

Progress Update

4.2 A temporary control room has been set up in the City Chambers to ensure business continuity whilst the existing Central Monitoring Facility is refurbished to convert it into a SCOC. The SCOC will be fit for purpose and designed to best practice British Standards, with capacity to co-locate other operational service areas in the future.

4.3 Furthermore, the existing service has now successfully migrated onto a new digital video management system. This was a crucial milestone in the project and has enabled the previous system, which was running since 2005, to be decommissioned.

4.4 The new system is networked to key stakeholder control rooms, such as Police Scotland, to enable seamless co-ordination for escalating incidents. The system as implemented is a foundational public safety and visual infrastructure. This means that it is capable of adaptable expansion as the overarching 'Smart City' programme develops.

4.5 The roll out of camera replacements across the city is now underway. As downtime of city centre cameras is not permitted during August due to the security requirements for the Fringe Festival, key camera locations will be replaced with high-definition cameras in July to significantly improve picture quality and public safety ahead of the festivals.

4.6 As part of the procurement exercise in 2021, new camera locations were developed in partnership with Police Scotland. These locations were agreed based on crime, disorder and public safety priorities and they have now been surveyed with the intention to introduce coverage into areas of the city which previously had no public realm CCTV camera presence.

4.7 In addition, additional cameras will be installed onto existing CCTV columns on key thoroughfares and junctions across the city to supplement the coverage transmitted back to the City Operations Centre. These static-view cameras will also provide data on traffic flow and congestion, whilst bolstering public safety incident monitoring.

4.8 The project is expected to be completed in November 2022.

Security Services Co-location

4.9 During the delivery phase of the project, an opportunity was identified to incorporate Security Services and the Monitoring and Alarm Receiving Centre (MARC) into the City Operations Centre.

4.10 The design was adapted to accommodate this, and the City Operations Centre will now provide a fit for purpose, modern facility for Public Realm CCTV, corporate CCTV, intruder alarms, lone-working alarms and other security related systems.

4.11 The Security Services team must migrate all functions out of New Parliament House by September 2022. This coincides with the completion of the City Operations Centre and enables best practice co-location and future integration of public safety infrastructure.

4.12 Following the completion of the City Operations Centre, opportunities to further develop security and operational services will be investigated (as per the Digital and Smart City Strategy).

Parks

4.13 Elected Members have also requested an update on CCTV coverage within public parks in the city.

4.14 A new camera network has recently been completed throughout Saughton Park - covering key thoroughfares and locations of interest, such as the bandstand, glasshouse and café.

4.15 Dedicated camera coverage is also provided in the following parks. These parks are included in the current the upgrade project:

    4.16.1 Muirhouse Park;

    4.16.2 Rosefield Park;

    4.16.3 White Park; and

    4.16.4 Prestonfield Park.

4.16 Furthermore, a new permanent camera location at the Meadows is being surveyed and prepared for installation.

4.17 Work will continue with services across the Council to develop strategies to improve camera coverage and lighting within parks.

5.   Next Steps

5.1 The rollout of high-definition camera replacements in the public realm.

5.2 The completion of the City Operations Centre.

5.3 The high-level project plan in Appendix 1 outlines the next steps in the project. A final update will be presented to Committee in six months (when the project is complete).

6.   Financial impact

6.1 The IP Video Surveillance System project receives £712,000 in funding from ERDF, with £1,068,000 being match funded from the Council's capital budget allocation for the upgrade. This brings the total budget for the upgrade to £1,780,000.

7. Stakeholder/Community Impact

7.1 This project will make open data sets (pedestrian, cyclist, vehicle counts etc) available to the public – it is envisaged that businesses, third sector organisations and academics can make use of the data. The intention is to use the data sets for the purposes of traffic flow modelling and generate insights as to where congestion occurs. Thereby improving Edinburgh's air quality and reducing carbon emissions.

7.2 The development of an open platform, public safety network with the capability to absorb security sub-systems will reduce duplication of security control rooms across the city thus reducing emissions.

7.3 The new system user interface will improve significantly for frontline operators. This will lead to an improvement in morale, job satisfaction, employee retention and wellbeing of frontline staff.

7.4 The Council's Sustainable Procurement Strategy was applied through the request of Community Benefits during the procurement process. The contractors will be required to deliver Community Benefits, which will continue to be monitored throughout the life of the contract.

8. Background reading/external references

8.1 Criteria for Potential Development of CCTV Network, report to Culture and Communities Committee, 26 March 2019

8.2 Digital and Smart City Strategy – report to Policy and Strategy Committee, 6 October 2020.

8.3 Award of Contracts for IP Video Surveillance System and Fibre Network – report to Finance and Resources Committee, 12 August 2021.

9. Appendices

9.1 Appendix 1 – High Level Project Plan.

Appendix 1 – High Level Project Plan

<u>Planning Phase: Milestone 1</u> Stakeholder workshops to co-ordinate works, finalise and approve details of the solution whilst mitigating risk to business continuity.	Complete
<u>Implementation Phase: Milestone 2 – Central Monitoring Facility (CMF)</u> A temporary control room to be fitted out, enabling the service to continue without disruption as retrofitting works are carried out in the CMF and a new video management system is installed.	Complete
<u>Implementation Phase: Milestone 3 – Cameras</u> Roll out of camera replacements across the city, this is staggered to ensure that 92% of the cameras are operational as a minimum at any period. Downtime is not permitted during August due to the Fringe Festival, therefore replacement programme in the city centre is on hold during this period.	June 2022 – September 2022
<u>Post-Implementation Phase: Milestone 4 – Testing</u> Video Management System and each camera is tested for security, functionality and snagging. Project complete.	September - November 2022