

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

COMMITTEE:	Council		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	12 th October 2023 7.00pm	LOCATION	Congleton Town Hall
REPORT FROM	Jackie MacArthur (Deputy Chief Officer)		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	16. CCTV Provision in Congleton		
Background	<p>Congleton Town Council currently pays an annual cost of £9,548 for CEC to monitor 5 CCTV camera around Congleton. These cameras are monitored 24 hours a day, 7 days a week from the CCTV HQ in Macclesfield. There are also two cameras in Congleton Park which are monitored by Cheshire East Council</p> <p>The length of the Town from Lawton Street to Mill Street and Swan Bank is covered by CCTV including Market Street. West Street is not currently covered by CCTV coverage. This has been discussed in the Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group (now Community Safety Group) and by Cheshire Police and the CCTV team as a hole in the coverage for Congleton – especially as West Street now contains a number of bars, restaurants and a club and is a busy part of the evening economy.</p> <p>CEC CCTV has invested £250,000 into the infrastructure and continue to invest in specialist training. Throughout 2022/23 they were dealing with around 1,191 incidents per month picked up by CCTV.</p> <p>This paper is to consider options for adding a CCTV camera to West Street. Also the costings for signing a new 3 year agreement for CCTV coverage.</p>		
Updates	<p>Following discussions with the CEC CCTV team, it is possible to widen the scope of CCTV to cover West Street. There are two options to move this forward:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• An annual monitoring cost of £1,800 for the camera OR• A one-off cost of £3,000 with free annual monitoring for the future of the committee. <p>The Officer's recommendation is to pay the one-off cost of £3,000 for the installation of the CCTV camera with no ongoing costs for monitoring. This will be written into a contract.</p> <p>We have also received a letter on the 4th of October giving the options for the future monitoring of CCTV for Congleton.</p> <p>The cost of monitoring 5 cameras will increase to £10,425.59 per year. This will be payable in August of each year. There is the option to sign for a one-year contract, which would then rise each year in line with the CPIH in February. Or we can sign a 3-year contract where the price will be frozen at £10,425.59 per year.</p>		

	<p>Officer recommendation is that for budgeting purposes and best value we sign a 3-year contract for the monitoring of cameras in Congleton at a price of £10,425.59.</p>
<p>Financial Implications</p>	<p>There is a 2023/24 budget for the annual CCTV costs, the budget is the amount of our current contract £9,548, therefore there is no spare budget for this option of purchasing a new camera at £3,000.</p> <p>An Ear Marked Reserve of £7,357 is set aside for Crime Prevention/Traffic Calming. It has remained unused since the financial year 2019/2020. Using EMR will mean no overspend on the budget line having no effect on our General Reserves and will enable CTC to make a one-off purchase to pay for the equipment to ensure CCTV coverage in the West Street area.</p> <p>The RFO in working on forwarding budgets for 2023/24 was anticipating that the annual costs would be in the region of £10,500 for CCTV and this will be built into the future budgets if Councillors recommend signing a new 3-year deal.</p>
<p>Decision Requested</p>	<p>To approve spending £3,000 from EMR 324 to commission CEC to install a CCTV camera for West Street.</p> <p>To approve signing a new three-year contract for the monitoring of all CCTV in Congleton at a price of £10,425.59 per year payable in August 2024, 2025, and 2026.</p>