

## RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE

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Agenda Item No.

meeting date: TUESDAY, 26 MARCH 2013  
 title: LONGRIDGE CCTV SYSTEM  
 submitted by: MARSHAL SCOTT – CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
 principal author: BILL ALKER – COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER &  
 JOHN EDWARDS – ENGINEERING SERVICES MANAGER

### 1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To advise Members of the background behind the development of the Longridge CCTV system.
- 1.2 To give a detailed account of how the system is currently working and the costs of making it fully operative.
- 1.3 To seek the views of Members on whether they wish to become involved in making the system fully fit for purpose.
- 1.4 To also look at the possibility and costs involved in transmitting CCTV images from Longridge over to Clitheroe.
- 1.5 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities:
  - Council Ambitions – } One of the Council's key objectives and ambitions is to make Ribble Valley a safer and healthier place to live. By operating a successful CCTV system in Longridge this has
  - Community Objectives – } made people's lives safer from crime and has reassured people living, working or visiting the town.
  - Corporate Priorities – }
  - Other Considerations – }

### 2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 When the bid for the current CCTV system for Clitheroe and Whalley was being considered in 2001 it was decided not to include extending the system over to Longridge because of the cost of transmitting the signals between Longridge and the monitoring station in Clitheroe.
- 2.2 Subsequently, as a response to increased crime levels in Longridge, a standalone system was discussed with local businesses, Police, Longridge Town Council and the Ribble Valley Community Safety Partnership.
- 2.3 A five camera system centred around Berry Lane was devised and developed by the Police in conjunction with Channel 6, a local CCTV provider. The cameras were installed in 2006/07 and are located as follows:
  - Former Dog Inn, Berry Lane, Longridge.
  - Durham Ox, Berry Lane, Longridge.
  - Towneley Arms, Berry Lane, Longridge.

- Forest Arms, Berry Lane, Longridge.
  - Hampson's Accountants, Berry Lane, Longridge.
- 2.4 Fund raising was undertaken by the Longridge Community Beat Manager, who obtained contributions from local businesses, Longridge Town Council and the Community Safety Partnership.
  - 2.5 At a later date in 2011 a further two cameras linked to Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) were installed to cover the Shay Lane Industrial Estate in Longridge.
  - 2.6 The CCTV footage is currently monitored at Longridge Police Station by Police volunteers. This footage is recorded and the system has proved effective in providing evidence for arrests/convictions and prosecutions as a result of the recorded footage.
  - 2.7 The Longridge CCTV system is well thought of by both Longridge people, its businesses have bought into it as has the local Town Council.
  - 2.8 Longridge Town Council, at their meeting on 27 February 2013, have expressed their strong support for an improved CCTV service in the town by whatever technical and operational arrangements are necessary.

### 3 ISSUES

- 3.1 Since the system's introduction in 2006/07 the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) has provided a small annual maintenance budget of between £2,500 and £3,000 per annum.
- 3.2 The CSP has used the services of Channel 6 who installed the original system for any maintenance requirements.
- 3.3 A recent telephone conversation from Channel 6 has alerted us to a number of faults with the present system.
- 3.4 The dilemma facing the Community Safety Partnership is that they will have very limited funds for 2013/14 and the Borough Council does not have a budget for this system.
- 3.5 It is useful to consider the comments from our contractor who has, over the past 6 years maintained an ageing (6 years old) system on a very tight budget.
- 3.6 Steve Westell from Channel 6 comments as follows:

"At present there are a number of issues which have arisen which we have attempted to rectify unsuccessfully. The current faults that we are aware of are:

- no picture being received from the Durham Ox camera. This was due to failure of the transmitter/receiver link;
- no pan, tilt or zoom control over the Forest Arms camera. Again the fault is due to the transmitter unit;
- We have recently been informed that the camera at the former Dog Inn is now also out of order.

We now need to make some kind of decision but the problem we have is:

- the old equipment is now at a point where we can no longer expect reliable operation in the future;
- there are far superior pieces of wireless equipment available today with a host of manufacturers;
- if we were to ship the old equipment back to Canada for repair, we would still be left with old technology and doubtful reliability.

3.7 Clearly that amount of money required to do a full refurbishment of the current system is substantial and money which is not available in the CSP budget although it may be an option to consider spending money within the present CSP budget to patch up the current system?

3.8 Longridge Members at the last meeting of this Committee in January asked a number of questions about the current CCTV system in Longridge. In summary these were:

1. What would be the cost of making the present standalone system fit for purpose?
2. What would be the cost of transmitting CCTV images over to the monitoring station in Clitheroe?
3. What Police evidence do we have on the effectiveness of the system over the past 6 years of operation?

The RDT wireless equipment in use at Shay Lane (2 years old) is proving to be very reliable and is providing good service to the industrial estate. Ideally we would be looking at replacing all the current equipment with a modern equivalent but cost is the main stumbling block. To replace the old wireless devices we would need to be looking at spending in the region of £4,500 solely for upgrading the wireless connection for each camera. For all five camera systems this would equate to around £22,500.

3.9 Having spoken to various companies and technical experts there are three ways in which images could be transmitted from Longridge to Clitheroe:

- fibre optic;
- broadband;
- wireless.

3.10 We have made enquiries of leading suppliers of each method of transmission and would report as follows:

- Fibre optic: We have received a quote in the region of £30,000 capital plus £1,600 annual rental costs.
- Broadband: The Council's IT Manager has been consulted and recommends a private ADSL connection which would be secure and although cheaper than fibre

optic the costs is as yet unclear, this would partly depend on band width requirements.

- Wireless: We have spoken to a leading supplier who has quoted £22,000 plus VAT for this particular project.

- 3.11 As Members requested I have asked Inspector Graham Lister, the Geographic Inspector for the Ribble Valley to provide details of how Longridge CCTV system works towards combating crime in Longridge Town Centre. His comments are included at Appendix 1 to this report.
- 3.12 Members should also bear in mind the long-term future of Longridge Police Station as a monitoring base.
- 3.13 It should be noted that if images from the Longridge system were transmitted for display or viewing on the Ribble Valley Borough Council's CCTV system, then the control and operation of the Longridge equipment would need to fully comply with the protocols relating to the use of personal data for the RVBC system as agreed with the officer of the Information Commissioner. The proper storage, viewing and control of the data would become the responsibility of Ribble Valley Borough Council officers.
- 3.14 Since the establishment of the Council's own CCTV system many years ago, Members have expressed concern that the Police offer no financial support. A number of approaches have been made (both formal and informal) over that time but the Police have maintained the position that no contribution would be made.
- 3.15 Committee may wish to consider whether the election of a Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire might be an opportunity for a change in that policy to be explored, even if the contribution sought were limited to the capital costs involved in making the system fit for purpose.

#### 4 RISK ASSESSMENT

4.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications:

- Resources – The key issues are the costs of making the current system viable for future use. Currently there are no readily identifiable funds from either the Borough Council or the Community Safety Partnership and other sources of funding are not immediately apparent. This would also apply to the cost of transmitting images in from Longridge to Clitheroe. No contribution has been proposed by Longridge Town Council and no contribution has been proposed by the Police or by the Police and Crime Commissioner.
- Technical, Environmental and Legal – As can be seen from the report there are key defects with the existing system which would need to be put right for the system to operate effectively.
- Political – No implications identified.
- Reputation – Longridge residents and businesses have enjoyed the security of a standalone CCTV system for the past 6 years, which has made people's lives safer and healthier which is one of the Council's key ambitions.
- Equality & Diversity – No implications identified.

**5 RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE**

- 5.1 Note the reports of how CCTV system in Longridge has developed over the past 6 years and its current state of health.
- 5.2 Consider whether the Council wishes to make any financial contribution towards the upgrade of the Longridge CCTV system and identify any sources of funding which could help to that end.
- 5.3 Consider whether the Council wishes to pursue the option of transmitting CCTV images from Longridge to Clitheroe.
- 5.4 Consider whether to approach the Police and Crime Commissioner for a contribution for the costs identified.

BILL ALKER  
COMMUNITY SAFETY OFFICER

MARSHAL SCOTT  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 1 Various reports to Policy and Finance Committee in 2001 in relation to the creation of A CCTV system in Clitheroe and Whalley.

For further information please ask for Bill Alker, extension 4412.

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