

REPORT: Executive Board Sub-Committee

DATE: 8th July 2010

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Environment & Economy

SUBJECT: Extension to Existing CCTV Maintenance Contract

WARDS: Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To request approval to waive Standing Orders to allow the existing specialist CCTV maintenance contract to be extended for six months.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

- 1 the Operational Director (Highways, Transportation & Logistics) be authorised to extend the existing contract for Maintenance of CCTV Security System with the contractor Technology Solutions Ltd. in the sum of £11,250.00 (estimate);**
- 2 in light of the need to trial and appraise the use of new technology during the extension and in accordance with Procurement SO 1.6, Standing Orders 3.1- 3.7 and 3.9 be waived on this occasion; and**
- 3 the terms of the extension to be agreed with the Strategic Director for Environment & Economy in consultation with the Executive Member for Community Safety.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 In October 2005 Technology Solutions Ltd. were awarded the Halton CCTV Maintenance Contract via a competitive tendering process in accordance with standing orders. Over the past few years Technology Solutions have maintained the system (including cameras on site and the control room) and have carried out upgrades to the equipment that have been key to enhancing the system.
- 3.2 The current maintenance contract is due to expire on 31 October 2010 and therefore the tendering procedure for procuring the new contract should now commence. It has an annual value of £22,250, which is covered by a revenue budget, as well as by income from other organisations, whom we recharge for carrying out monitoring and maintenance of their CCTV equipment within public spaces (e.g. car parks, play areas, etc.)

- 3.3 However, due to developments in technology we are currently investigating the possibility of utilising the existing wireless communication equipment that is used for the traffic monitoring cameras on the approaches to the Silver Jubilee Bridge, in place of existing CCTV fixed data links. If the wireless communication trials are successful we can consider using this new technology to communicate with the CCTV cameras in Runcorn Town Centre and make revenue savings on the existing BT fixed line rental costs. Until these trials are complete and a decision has been made over the future data transmission methods to be utilised, the nature and scope of the new maintenance contract cannot be accurately determined. These trials are being carried out in conjunction with our ICT Division.
- 3.4 In addition to this, the possibility of extending the coverage of these revised communication links to the rest of the borough can be considered. Despite the initial cost, this will result in lower installation and ongoing revenue costs for future CCTV camera installations and will allow the development of a borough-wide deployable camera project.
- 3.5 When the wireless communication trials are complete and the new communication system is progressed, then it will be prudent to investigate changes within the CCTV control room and at the cameras to make the best use of the new systems.
- 3.6 This will again have an effect on the future maintenance contract and the Council's requirements in relation to technical expertise. Therefore it is proposed that the preparation and letting of the new maintenance contract be delayed until the future communication systems are determined.
- 3.7 The current contractor, Technology Solutions Ltd. have indicated that they would be willing to continue providing CCTV maintenance services for the additional six months at the rates contained within the current contract.
- 3.8 Business Case

In view of the changes being investigated, any future maintenance contract will be required to cover different technology, which would change the scope of the contract; therefore it is prudent to extend the existing contract until the requirements are determined. The existing contract and proposed extension can be met from within existing budgets.

Transparency

Any decision will be subject to the Freedom of Information Act and related legislation and the public audit process including scrutiny by the Safer Halton Policy & Performance Board.

Propriety and Security

The usual integrity clauses are built into the existing contract and only appropriate staff have information about the contract.

Accountability

Accountability will remain with Operational Director (Highways, Transportation & Logistics) awarding the extension, which will be subject to potential internal and external audit and Safer Halton PPB scrutiny.

Position of the contract under the Public Contracts Regulations 2006

Given the proposed extension the tendering requirements of the Public Contracts Regulations 2006 will not apply.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no direct policy implications from this report.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Financial Implications

Maintenance contract costs will be met from existing resources.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES.

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

The CCTV operation can assist the police in incidents involving children and young people. These include incidents related to missing children, underage drinking and bullying.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

The presence of CCTV can encourage economic growth as businesses are attracted to areas where they feel more secure.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

Violence related incidents are a priority and the CCTV control room staff and Cheshire Police work in partnership to reduce assaults and injury by identifying potential incidents at an early stage.

6.4 A Safer Halton

The Town Centres and Local Areas CCTV programme contributes to making Halton safer; by working closely with partners to tackle crime and provide public reassurance in the areas of CCTV coverage.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

The assurance that CCTV can offer to business premises can encourage economic growth especially in the town centres.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

- 7.1 The lack of a maintenance contract would present a potential risk to the reliable operation of the system.

A full risk assessment is not required.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES.

- 8.1 Crime reduction is an essential issue for equality and diversity and every effort is made to improve community safety in areas of CCTV coverage in the borough.