

Gloucester City Council

COMMITTEE : **OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT**

DATE : **30 NOVEMBER 2005**

SUBJECT : **MAINTENANCE OF AUTOMATIC NUMBER
PLATE RECOGNITION CAMERAS**

WARD : **ALL**

REPORT BY : **CABINET MEMBER FOR CARE AND
MAINTENANCE OF THE CITY**

NO. OF APPENDICES : **NONE**

REFERENCE NO. : **PT16115D**

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 For Cabinet to consider, approve and adopt the funding for maintenance of Automatic Number Plate Recognition cameras (ANPR).

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Cabinet is recommended to approve, in principle, the adoption of the annual maintenance costs associated with ANPR cameras of £16,050 subject to resources being made available through the budget process.

3.0 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Automatic Number Plate Recognition is a computer system that works by processing images of vehicle number plates captured by digital cameras and checking them against a database of vehicle number plates.
- 3.2 ANPR has undergone significant national development in the last three years.
- 3.3 There is now a clear drive to create a shared national ANPR infrastructure and coverage is being sought using a variety of agencies: highways; local authorities; public CCTV systems; mobile police units and customs & excise.
- 3.4 The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) vision for ANPR is to '*Deny Criminals the Use of the Road*', with the emphasis clearly on crime reduction.

- 3.5 Following trials in 23 force areas between June 2003 – June 2004 (*Project Laser 2*), the Government was sufficiently impressed by the results to make £12m of funding available to forces through the Home Office Police Standards Unit (PSU) for ANPR initiatives.
- 3.6 The situation regarding the development of CCTV in Gloucestershire appears to be unique. In other local authorities, it is the local authority that operates the control room including the provision of operators. In Gloucester, the system is maintained by the City Council but the control room and operating costs are borne by the police.
- 3.7 In the 8 months January to August 2005, the CCTV operators observed 2,151 incidents resulting in 649 arrests.

4.0 PROGRESS

- 4.1 In March 2005 Gloucestershire Constabulary was successful in a bid to the PSU for funding of £200k (the maximum available) to implement an ANPR system around Gloucester.
- 4.2 The outline proposal was for a 15 camera fixed site scheme in Gloucester including the capability to route an additional 4 CCTV cameras through the ANPR reader. The proposal also included plans for a full time police ANPR intercept team capable of enforcing the proposed scheme.

5.0 FUTURE WORK

- 5.1 The police regional project team to appoint a contractor to supply and install the proposed ANPR system.
- 5.2 To have the system fully functional by 31 March 2006.
- 5.3 The maintenance costs of £1,070 per camera are made up as follows:

Energy cost per annum	£ 55
BT Redcare line rental per camera	£620
Annual routine maintenance per camera	£395 - <i>Note: The routine maintenance cost can be reduced to £95 in the first year as the cameras will be under manufacturers warranty</i>

- 5.4 The police are committed to:
- a) The maintenance of the ANPR operating system at the control room estimated to be £20,000.
 - b) The provision of an additional CCTV Operator, £26,000, (salary plus overheads).
 - c) A full time police ANPR intercept team that guarantees more police officers in the City.

6.0 CONCLUSIONS

6.1 Evidence from areas that have been using ANPR for some time proves beyond doubt that it is a powerful tool for improving police performance, increasing public reassurance and detecting crime and so will be of significant benefit to Gloucester in its effort to reduce crime.

6.2 Evidenced performance benefits are set out in the table below:

Officers working on ANPR teams arrest 10 times more offenders than the average non ANPR-directed officer.

Arrests are mostly for significant numbers of robbery, vehicle crime, theft, burglary and drug offences.

57% of people stop searched as the result of an ANPR alert were arrested, compared to 14% when stop-searched not as a result of an ANPR alert.

75% of arrests from ANPR alerts (excluding warrants) resulted in a charge, compared to 45% of non ANPR cases.

Only 12 % of ANPR arrests resulted in a 'refused charge', compared to 21% for non-ANPR arrests.

Vehicle crime has fallen by 13% in ANPR areas, in contrast to rises elsewhere in the country.

6.3 The benefits from having a full time ANPR team are also clear. Evidence from citizen feedback in ANPR areas is that sustained deployment of ANPR increases uniformed police visibility and significantly enhances public reassurance.

6.4 In addition there is clear evidence that, because the offenders are captured on video, which they can see, the vast majority plead guilty, resulting in shorter file preparation times, no requirement for officers to attend court and less time from arrest to conviction.

6.5 The Home Office strategy for tackling vehicle crime envisages that ANPR, coupled with enforcement, will be a key means for achieving the target of reducing vehicle crime by 30%.

6.6 All the preceding information is only part of the body of clear evidence that ANPR will support many of the objectives outlined in the government white paper on police reform. They include:

- Increasing the number of offenders brought to justice
- Reducing overall crime levels
- Targeting persistent offenders via an intelligence led approach
- Increasing conviction rates, via reduced attrition rates
- Making more effective use of technology
- More effective partnership working with Local Authorities and DVLA
- Enhancing levels of police visibility
- Reducing officer time wasted at court via an increase in guilty pleas

7.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 All the capital costs associated with implementing the above ANPR system will be met from the allocated PSU funding and Gloucestershire Constabulary.
- 7.2 Funding for annual revenue costs associated with camera/structure maintenance; ANPR reader maintenance; power supply; staffing etc will need to be found locally.
- 7.3 The Council would be required to maintain the 15 ANPR cameras at £1,070 per camera giving a total of £16,050 per year. This can be reduced to £11,550 for the first year 2006/07. The £16,050 is growth on the revenue budget but could be met from the Abandoned Vehicles budget from next year due to savings generated by the use of the County contract. Members will need to consider this during the Council's budget process.
- 7.4 Gloucestershire Constabulary would be responsible for all other annual revenue costs associated with the ANPR scheme.
- 7.5 **Name of the Officer:** Steve Meers

8.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The system is installed and run by the Gloucestershire Police and thus the Data Protection implications are with them. This report only authorises a sum of money for maintenance as the Police will be appointing the contractor to carry out the work so there is unlikely to be any contractual relationship between them and the City Council. The Council may wish to be more closely involved to ensure value for money in how the Police contract out the maintenance work.
- 8.2 **Name of the Officer:** Gary Spencer

9.0 HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

- (a) Staffing Implications (Provided by P. Tsakpo)
- No direct staffing implication to this report.
- (b) Trade Union Comments (Provided by P. Jones)
- No comment.

10.0 CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 Community Safety Implications - The CCTV Management Group has been City Council led since its inception in 1993. It serves the purpose of managing the maintenance, development and upkeep of the City Council stock of City Centre CCTV Surveillance System. The Group and its functions fit within the framework of section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

- 10.2 The partnership working between the City Council and the police on CCTV has been divided such that the City Council carry out installation and maintenance of the system, including the control room, and the police are responsible for monitoring the system. The new cameras with ANPR are being installed through a regional police contract. The police will be responsible for the maintenance of the ANPR readers in the control room and additional staff required for monitoring. The City Council responsibility will be limited to the energy and line rental costs and maintenance of the camera system.
- 10.3 Health and Environmental Implications - There are no Health and Environmental Implications.

Background Papers :

Published Papers :

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