

7. TOWN CLERK'S UPDATE - MINUTE 291/24 - CCTV LIVE MONITORING HUB AT NEW COUNTY HALL, TRURO

UPDATE – The Town Council approved participating in a Joint CCTV Live Monitoring Hub at New County Hall, Truro, subject to further discussions regarding costs and the contractual arrangements with the Live Monitoring Hub Contractor.

“To approve the participation of the Town Council in the joint lease arrangements of the Live Monitoring Hub at New County Hall, Truro b). To note the willingness of the Live Monitoring contractor to use the 5 year contract period suggested by the Town Council and develop further with the Contractor and the Police the Live Monitoring provision.”

CCTV – Live Monitoring Contractor – When the CCTV report was considered it was thought that the Town Council would have to enter into a direct contract with the CCTV Live Monitoring Contractor (or perhaps with some of the other East Cornwall towns). Instead, Cornwall Council have confirmed that to help set up the Live Monitoring Hub. Cornwall Council would contract directly with the Live Hub Monitoring Hub contractor. This will negate the need for individual Town Councils to enter into up to 7 contracts. Noting* the monitoring screens are all located in the venue making this easier to achieve.

CCTV – Live Monitoring Costs – The partnership has been updated that the cheaper of the two options (Option 1 was the Town Council's budget envelope for the CCTV Live Monitoring. That the Town Council would look at reducing the hours of (44 hours) Live Monitoring to keep the total budget manageable.

CCTV Gross Costs – An updated budget sheet (attached 7.a.) from Cornwall Council Fire & Rescue Service has been received 24th January 2025. It has been supplied to the RFO / Deputy Town Clerk and is reflected in the Budget and Precept Setting Report at agenda item 12.

Plymouth Monitoring Hub – following the last Town Council meeting, a request to re-engage with the Town Council in the previous 2023/2024 discussion and provide some Live Monitoring Hub costs. On 5th December 2024 a request was made to re-engage and provide a set of costings. These have not been forthcoming. It is possible that having detailed experience of the cost benefits of the New County Hall, Truro option, that a “just to make up the numbers quote” is not forthcoming.

Previous Information – Context Setting - Background – in 2019, the Town Council put in place a new town centre 8 CCTV camera scheme. This replaced the decommissioned obsolete 5 CCTV camera scheme. The Office of the Devon and Cornwall Police and Crime Commissioner supported the project with a grant of £15,000 which was conditional upon the system connecting into a joint live monitoring arrangement which would have crime reduction and emergency planning benefits.

Originally, the scheme was subject to a 7-year agreement for both a). the Live Monitoring (Cornwall Council – Fire and Rescue Service) and b). (Cornwall Council – Highways – ENERVEO contractors). Repair, Maintenance and energy costs. Most CCTV cameras are mounted on

Cornwall Council Highways lampstands and / or other property. The agreements running from 1st September 2019.

In early 2023, the Cornwall Council Fire and Rescue Service gave an early indication of their intention of closing their current Live Monitoring Hub at Tolvaddon and no longer providing the service themselves. The Cornwall Council Fire and Rescue Service consequently have completely funded the construction of new Live Monitoring Hub at New County Hall, Truro. (attachment a). Noting that, all the participating Town Council CCTV Live Monitoring BT secure broadband connections are into New County Hall, Truro in any case. To replicate this connection would cost (£15,000-£20,000) per town and result in sometimes significant time delays.

Cornwall Council – Highways - who have been providing (through their contractor ENERVEO) the 7-year agreement b). Repair, Maintenance and energy costs have offered to take on the role of being the Cornwall Council service which will be the internal “sponsor” of the new Live Monitoring Hub, New County Hall. This is in respect of the lease. They will not cover the lease costs or manage town specific requirements of the local situation. Although, currently the Live Monitoring Contractor is a “nominated supplier” to Cornwall Council they will not manage the ongoing relationship between the contractor and the Town Councils.

Cornwall Council – Fire & Rescue Service Update – The latest contact is a request for the Town Councils (7 in total in the partnership) to indicate by 27th November 2024 whether they are going to participate in the new arrangement. Cornwall Council will have their own budget setting process. If they are able to proceed with their delayed plans to decommission the current CCTV Live Monitoring Hub at Tolvaddon this should have positive budget implications.

Live Monitoring Hub Contractor – has confirmed that the 5 years suggested by the Town Council would be a good basis for a Live Monitoring Contract. He has also confirmed that both sets of screens (Cohort 1 Camborne / Redruth / Truro) and (Cohort 2 Liskeard, Perranzabuloe (including Perranporth) Wadebridge, Bodmin) will both be located within the Live Monitoring Hub allowing operational flexibility.

Maintenance and Energy – CCTV cameras within the town centre which are predominantly mounted on Cornwall Council Highways (ENERVEO as the sub-contractor) owned infrastructure typically lampstands and the power supplied within. This cost remains the same in all circumstances.

BT Broadband Secure Link – between the current cabinet which is located on the Parade near the planters alongside the Fountain. Currently, this is connected to the New County Hall, Truro. £1,575 is the current BT annual line rental.

Any new line BT Broadband Secure Link – whether to our Mayors’ Parlour or Newquay Police Station or Plymouth Control Centre were given estimated connection charges of £15,000 - £20,000 with an annual BT operating line rental of £5,000 as new customers.

Other Options: –

Our Monitoring Hub – take out of service a room near the control box near the Fountain Monument which houses the equipment. The closest would be the Mayor’s Parlour or Council Chamber.

- This would bring about a loss of income from bookings.
- It would impact the ongoing operations of the Council and its Committee’s which would need to be given priority use of one of the other meeting rooms which would impact bookings still further.
- It would also involve the ongoing use of the room by those monitoring and accessing the CCTV footage which is likely to include a range of times late night and very early mornings outside of the current opening times which is likely.
- £15,000-£20,000 – BT Secure Broadband connection – £5,000 – annual line rental as a new provision.
- £25,000-£30,000 – Conversion and Equipment of a room of make secure coded entry CCTV Live monitoring hub.
- Live Monitoring Contractor – to tender the job of live monitoring contractor and ongoing management of the contract.
- Data Protection and Airwaves Compliance – time and costs implications.

Newquay Town Council – operate a CCTV Live Monitoring Hub at the Newquay Police Station for both Newquay and St Austell Town Councils. Our initial approach was made on 6th September 2023 and followed up again 18th November 2024. Essentially, they only have space for a single additional settlement. They are providing a quotation to Truro City Council. The main reasoning for offering the service to them first is purely due to being on the same Police radio channel. Hence, there are potential benefits to them of Truro officers covering Newquay when necessary.

Plymouth Monitoring Hub – in 2023 over several months, there were initial discussions including Teams meetings regarding connecting (either just Liskeard separately or a form of joint Liskeard / Bodmin / Wadebridge east Cornwall towns) into the Plymouth Monitoring Hub. It was indicated that we were looking at a number of different options. These included the provision of a Live Monitoring Hub at the Emergency Planning Control Room at New County Hall. Where the BT secure broadband links and existing contractual commitments and data protection compliance were already in place.

The Plymouth Monitoring Hub personel were very obliging and believed the costs and data compliance risks of trying to set up our own town specific control hub would make connecting into them more cost effective and legally safe. However, they did note that the Live Monitoring Hub at New County Hall, would be cheaper by £15,000-£20,000 per Town Council to set up with the existing connections into New County Hall, Truro. In discussion, the Plymouth Monitoring Hub confirmed that the new BT annual line rental was £5,000 per line compared with the current £1,575 cost. On 5th December 2024 a request was made to re-engage and provide a set of costings. These have not been forthcoming. It is possible that having detailed experience of the cost benefits of the New County Hall, Truro option, that a “just to make up the numbers quote” is not forthcoming.

Comments – it is more cost, time and space use effective to take part in the new Live Monitoring Hub, at New County Hall. The lease costs supplied. If all 7 Towns participate the annual costs would be £985. If only 6 £1,1,50 per Town Council. Therefore, it recommended that we confirm to Cornwall Council and the other Town Councils that we are happy to participate in the Live Monitoring Hub at New County Hall, Truro. Discussions with the Live Monitoring Contractor should continue.

16. GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION – STRENGTHENING THE STANDARDS AND CONDUCT FRAMEWORK FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN ENGLAND – To approve a corporate view that the intent of the proposals should be broadly supported and should apply also to members of the public dealing with Town Councils and Local Authorities.

Note* There is hyperlink to the Government consultation on the Town Council Agenda Sheet and in the text in blue immediately in blue. A pdf version of the Cornwall Association of Local Councils (CALC) presentation from 21st January 2025 has also been requested. This explains the local context in which Cornwall Council is the Local Authority carrying out the Monitoring Officer function for all the Local Council.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/strengthening-the-standards-and-conduct-framework-for-local-authorities-in-england/strengthening-the-standards-and-conduct-framework-for-local-authorities-in-england>

In brief, the Government is seeking views on proposals to introduce measures to strengthen the standards and conduct regime for local authorities in England. The proposals being consulted upon include:

- The introduction of a mandatory minimum code of conduct for local authorities in England
- A requirement that all principal authorities convene formal standards committees to make decisions on code of conduct breaches, and publish the outcomes of all formal investigations
- The introduction of the power for all local authorities (including combined authorities) to suspend councillors or mayors found in serious breach of their code of conduct and, as appropriate, interim suspension for the most serious and complex cases that may involve police investigations.
- A new category of disqualification for gross misconduct and those subject to a sanction of suspension more than once in a 5-year period.
- A role for a national body to deal with appeals.

Sarah Mason – Cornwall Association of Local Councils (CALC) - recommended that Town Councils that have adopted the “Civility and Respect” pledge (as has Liskeard Town Council) should respond to this Government consultation. One of the elements of the pledge being to support further initiatives that achieve its aims.

The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) are trying to collate responses from Town and Parish Councils by 2nd February 2025. Cornwall Association of Local Councils (CALC) are trying to collate responses by 12th February 2025. The Government consultation closes on 26th February 2025. The Government consultation can be responded to corporately by the Council itself. The Government is also keen to hear individuals’ experiences so Councillors can enter their own responses.

For this agenda, we are trying to get to a corporate view to submit by 2nd February 2025. Councillors can use the link and enter any views that they have up until the 26th February 2025.

RECOMMENDATON: That the corporate view is that that the intent of the proposals should be broadly supported and should apply also to members of the public dealing with Town Councils and Local Authorities.