

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7b

REPORT

To: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE		Subject: CCTV - EVALUATION FRAMEWORK
From: DIRECTOR OF PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT		
Date: 20 April 2000	Ref: MMcC/IJ/REP679	

1 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to seek approval for an evaluation framework to be used to assess bids from communities to support the development of CCTV.

2 Background

- 2.1 In 1997 the Council agreed to create a North Lanarkshire-wide "Supertrust" to co-ordinate the organisation, management and funding of CCTV provision in the town centre areas in place of the previously existing development trusts, formally establishing North Lanarkshire CCTV Ltd. This was partly to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of existing CCTV services and partly to assist in future long term development and resource planning. This activity reflected the Council's continued high priority for Community Safety issues generally and the value of CCTV in particular as an effective delivery mechanism in enhancing the safety and security aspects of a range of key council services.
- 2.2 While for historical reasons, the support and monitoring of the work of North Lanarkshire CCTV Ltd is undertaken by the Planning and Environment (EDU), its work meets a number of corporate and interdepartmental priorities in terms of the Corporate Plan (Community Safety strategy, Social Inclusion, housing and area regeneration initiatives) and the Council's Partnership commitments on Changing Gear. A number of key council services benefit from the provision of the existing CCTV programme and would be expected to benefit from future developments.
- 2.3 In summary, CCTV offers a practical and popular measure to tackle an issue which is always at or near the priority list for the public, local businesses, public service agencies and elected members. Demand for such services outstrips resources currently.
- 2.4 The Trust has been successful in attracting external funding from the CCTV Challenge Fund and in generating income from donations and monitoring fees. Last year the Scottish Executive announced a Challenge Fund Bid under Community Safety and CCTV headings to enable community organisations to bid for funding to support CCTV Development in their areas. Financial support from the Scottish Executive amounted to up to 50% of the Capital Costs. This Challenge Fund is of interest to a number of community organisations within North Lanarkshire and to date the Development Manager for North Lanarkshire CCTV Ltd has received approximately twelve live requests from elected members for the extension of CCTV in their wards and numerous enquiries from community based organisations and businesses.

3 Evaluation

- 3.1 To enable the Council to assess and evaluate these bids, establishing priorities for funding support an evaluation framework is required. The proposed framework would consider the following elements:
- Evidence of demand for CCTV coverage ie. crimes against property, crimes against the person (Statement from Strathclyde Police).
 - Evidence that other solutions to the crime problems have been considered and sought (Statement from Strathclyde Police).

- Demonstration of Community Support for CCTV, ie. Petition, letters of support, evidence of community consultation, evidence of community awareness of support.
- Commitment of financial support, ie. evidence of support from external bodies, Council departments, private sector, Health Board, Councillors community funds, evidence of support from the community e.g. fund raising activity.
- Capacity to include additional monitoring within existing resources.
- Capital costs.
- Revenue costs. Demonstration of community commitment, to ongoing revenue costs.
- Perceived value of the cameras to the community.

4 Issues

4.1 There are a number of further issues that require consideration in assessing any bid. These include:-

- Crucial to the decision making process is any statement provided by the Police outlining the problems within the community and the role that CCTV would play as a solution to these problems. It is imperative that CCTV is not seen as the first solution to a particular problem, rather it should be considered when other solutions ie. additional policing, neighbourhood watch initiatives etc. have failed.
- Any unique circumstances of a situation should be considered when any bid is being evaluated. A unique circumstance may be that the complete costs of introducing CCTV into the community would be met by the private sector. If there is no requirement for funding from the Council then the Council should work with the community to facilitate the introduction of CCTV providing all parties, including the Police, are in agreement that there is a demand for CCTV and that the private sector will be in a position to meet ongoing revenue costs.
- An attempt should be made to assess the value of the proposed cameras to the community in terms of wider benefits and this value should be factored into the evaluation.
- As part of the evaluation framework North Lanarkshire CCTV are seeking to achieve an average figure for the capital costs and a revenue figure for the monitoring of each camera so that a correlation between the level of crime in a community and the costs of the CCTV solution can be appraised.

5 Financial Implications

5.1 Over the past few years North Lanarkshire CCTV Limited has performed reasonably well in accessing external funding through Challenge Fund bids to support the introduction of CCTV into communities. It is anticipated that the Scottish Executive will announce their community CCTV Challenge Fund shortly which is likely to call for bids around October.

5.2 Bids for this fund have to be made by community organisations to meet the criteria of the Challenge Fund. If the Council wishes to support any of the Community Bids assessed and prioritised under the evaluation framework then it will have to consider allocating funding to support CCTV Development as part of the Capital Programme. Currently there is no provision to support this activity for the 2000/2001 period. However any community bids supported in the next round of Challenge Funding are not likely to be assessed and approved by the Scottish Executive until February/March 2001 therefore an allocation of funding from the 2001/2002 Capital Programme would enable projects to be carried out and contracts let in that year.

5.3 Currently the Planning and Environment Department has no provision for Capital monies to support CCTV in the 2000/2001 period. The Council has a commitment to support CCTV development in Cumbernauld and Kilsyth town centres as part of a previous successful Challenge Fund Bid. However this expenditure is linked to the physical development due to take place in Cumbernauld town centre. It is unlikely that the contract for this work will begin immediately therefore provision to meet these existing commitments can be met from the 2001/2002 Capital budget.

6 Assessment Process

6.1 It is proposed that an application to bid for funding will require to be completed by all groups or organisations and forwarded to the CCTV Development Manager at NLCCTV Ltd.. A draft application is attached at Appendix 1 of this report.

6.2 These bids will be considered by a Sub Group appointed by the Board of North Lanarkshire CCTV Ltd. Recommendations on priorities for support and levels of funding will be approved by the Board of North Lanarkshire CCTV Ltd. This will require to be approved "in principle" subject to funding being available from the Council.

- 6.3 A timetable on the bid process for the next round of funding will be devised on notification of the dates from the Scottish Executive.

7 Conclusion

- 7.1 If the Council wishes to continue to support the Development of CCTV within communities it has to be dealt with in a planned manner, governed by the limited capital and revenue resources available to support this activity
- 7.2 The Challenge Fund process provides an opportunity to achieve partnership funding to meet the needs of the Community. The Council has to have a clearly understood policy on how funding decisions in respect of community bids are made. The evaluation framework and assessment process provides an opportunity to award funding in line with the Council's Corporate Priorities in a process that is simple and can be understood by all.

8 Recommendation

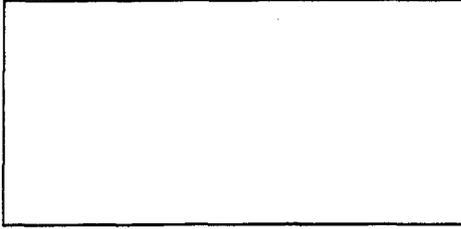
- 8.1 The Committee is asked to approve the evaluation framework and assessment process as detailed in this report, for implementation in the forthcoming round of CCTV Challenge Fund bids.



David M Porch
Director of Planning and Environment

For further information contact Maureen McConachie, Economic Development Manager (Tel : 01236 616266)
6/4/00

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APPLICATION FOR CCTV INSTALLATION

1 AREA

Location of area: _____

Town Centre Housing Area Community Based

Area to be covered: _____

Suggested no. of cameras required: _____

Daytime Night-time

Is there adequate lighting in place? Yes No

2 PROBLEMS

What difficulties are being experienced? _____

How has this been evidenced? _____

How long have problems been experienced? _____

What action has been taken to date? _____

Extent, if any, of Police action? _____

What steps have been taken so far? _____

How will CCTV assist? _____

1

*DRAFT***3 SUPPORT**

Is there community support? Yes No Don't know

If yes, please give details _____

Is there Police support? Yes No Don't know

If yes, please give details _____

Is there Local Authority support? Yes No Don't know

If yes, please give details _____

Is there Private Sector support? Yes No Don't know

If yes, please give details _____

Is there other support,
e.g. Health Board, P.T.E. etc? Yes No Don't know

If yes, please give details _____

4 RESOURCES

Where is the nearest current operational camera location? _____

Is it possible to extend current provision? _____

Could it be linked to any other system? _____

Would monitoring be required? _____

Timescale: _____

5 FUNDING

Approximate cost of installation: £ _____

Any support funding available: _____

Potential funding partners: _____

Suitable for Community Safety bid: Yes No

Private sector involvement: _____

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What level of funding is available: Capital £ _____ Revenue £ _____