
CCTV CAMERAS – ROCHFORD TOWN CENTRE (Min 263/01)

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report seeks Members' approval for additional funds to install CCTV cameras in Rochford Market Square. Under the Chambers of Trade Town Centre Initiative, a bid of £5,080 has previously been agreed towards the cost of installation of a suitable system, but on the basis the estimate received, further funds would be required for the scheme to be implemented.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At Council on 24 July 2001, it was agreed that one-off grants be provided towards town centre projects identified by each Chamber of Trade. In the case of the Rochford Chamber of Trade, £5,080 was allocated towards the installation of a CCTV system in the Market Square.
- 2.2 Given the works taking place in the town centre, the installation of cameras has been left to be actioned towards the end of the project. A suggested scheme has been prepared and an estimate received for the required equipment and works.

3 SCHEME DETAILS

- 3.1 The proposal involves the provision of five cameras. Three of these would be located on the National Westminster Bank covering the areas in front of the Kings Head Public House, the Bakers Oven and the Natwest frontage and alley. The remaining two cameras would be located on 34 West Street to enable a view of the Spar and the area in front of the Rochford Take Away.
- 3.2 The contractors propose that the power supply for all the cameras would be located in the Natwest Bank, for which agreement would obviously be required. In addition, there may be issues to consider in respect of the installation of cameras on 34 West Street, which is a listed building.
- 3.3 The scheme prepared by the contractor seeks to provide the best coverage of the square at minimum cost. However, even this very basic scheme is estimated to cost in the region of £8,500, significantly more than the money allocated to the Chamber of Trade in their town centre initiative bid.

4 DISCUSSION

- 4.1 The proposed scheme for a CCTV system in the Market Square has been prepared on the basis of seeking to achieve a reasonable coverage of parts of the square, rather than complete coverage of every nook and cranny.
- 4.2 The five cameras proposed would be relatively close together and this arrangement helps to reduce the overall cost of the scheme. However, whilst the siting of cameras on the Natwest Bank may be acceptable, given that it is a modern building, there is some concern about the prospect of locating cameras on 34 West Street. An alternative less sensitive site would no doubt increase the cost of the scheme. Members' views are sought on the detail of the scheme proposed and whether an alternative arrangement should be considered.
- 4.3 The budget available to install a CCTV system to the Market Square is not adequate to achieve even the installation of a basis system. The estimate for the installation of this scheme is around £8,500. Therefore, if Members were minded to agree to the scheme, at minimum, a further £3,500 would need to be found, with perhaps a contingency of £1,500 being included in the overall budget.
- 4.4 It is possible to allocate additional funds from the Crime and Disorder Budget to enable the scheme to be achieved. If Members' are minded to see a scheme for CCTV in the Market Square, views are sought on the arrangements for providing the additional funding required.

5 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 CCTV cameras have been recognised as a tool for reducing crime in urban areas. However, it should be borne in mind that the Rochford town centre enhancements scheme includes significantly upgraded street lighting in the square, and recent government reports suggest that street lighting on its own reduces the incidence of crime and vandalism. The same Home Office reports also suggest that CCTV does not in itself have the same level of impact.

6 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The siting of cameras in the historic market square must be carefully considered.

7 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The budget available for the implementation of a system of CCTV cameras in the market square is £5,080, agreed as a one-off grant to the Rochford Chamber of Trade.
- 7.2 However, the estimate for a suitable system is £8,500 and, allowing for a contingency, a further £5,000 would be required to see this scheme implemented. The additional funds could be found from the Crime and Disorder budget. At the moment there is approximately £47,000 remaining in the reserve.
- 7.3 To date, an estimate has only been obtained from one supplier. If Members agree to implement a scheme, further estimates would be required in accordance with Standing Orders.

8 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The owners of buildings proposed for siting cameras would need to give their consent to the scheme.

9 RECOMMENDATION

- 9.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**

That, if the proposed scheme for a system of CCTV cameras in the Rochford Market Square is considered acceptable, the question of whether the system should be installed be determined and, if so, the source of the additional funds required. (HPS)

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Background Papers: None

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