

Harborough District Council

Report to the Cabinet Meeting of 7th June 2022



Title:	Charging for CCTV
Status:	Public report
Key Decision:	Yes
Report Author:	Jonathan Ward-Langman
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Dann
Appendices:	None

Executive Summary

The report proposes the adoption of an approach to charging for CCTV that will ensure consistency and equity. It will also enable the Council to make savings through cost recovery and ensure the sustainability of the CCTV monitoring service.

Recommendations

That Cabinet agrees:

1. A consistent and clear approach to charging for the monitoring and maintenance of CCTV cameras as outlined in Table 1, below and subject to annual review as part of its budget setting process.
2. That the costs of CCTV services in HDC buildings that accommodate other organisations (e.g., The Symington Building, the Market Hall) are charged to the HDC Assets service.
3. That the HDC Housing service is charged for CCTV provision covering Council buildings that accommodate homeless people.
4. Either Lutterworth Town Council or Special Expenses should be charged directly for the monitoring and maintenance of CCTV cameras in the town.
5. To charge for monitoring and maintenance of CCTV cameras in Market Harborough against Special Expenses.
6. That the new approach is implemented with effect from October 1st, 2022 where possible.

Reasons for Recommendations

To ensure financial sustainability and equity of charging of the CCTV service delivered by the Council.





1. Purpose of Report

To agree an approach to charging for CCTV services provided by the Council.

2. Background

- 2.1. Once installation of new cameras in Lutterworth and Welland Park is complete, Harborough Lifeline will support 80 CCTV cameras across the district.
- 2.2. In the past, the Council has provided monitoring and maintenance of the CCTV system entirely free of charge. There is scope to improve sustainability of the service and to ensure its continued effectiveness through cost recovery by charging. This requires the adoption of a comprehensive and equitable charging structure.

3. Details

- 3.1. The Council operates an integrated control centre providing a 24/7 service for Lifeline customers, CCTV, Lone-working, HART/Pubwatch etc. The Council's CCTV system provides monitoring of public spaces across Market Harborough and Lutterworth Town Centres and in two villages to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour and to protect the public. It also monitors cameras in Council buildings.
- 3.2. As well as monitoring camera footage the Control Centre is responsible for management and maintenance of the system, ensuring legal compliance, housing the IT infrastructure, liaising with partners and the public, and retrieving evidence for use by other agencies (primarily the Police).
- 3.3. Additionally, the Control Centre coordinates the HART and Pubwatch schemes: the HART scheme is supported through a local radio link system that is monitored and maintained by Control Centre staff, enabling local retail businesses to exchange information about criminal activity with each other and the Police directly, and provides a coordinated response that integrates retailers' own security provision, public space CCTV and the criminal justice system. HART and Pubwatch also coordinate banning orders relating to identified offenders and this is facilitated by the Control Centre. The cost of this service is recovered from businesses that subscribe to the partnerships.
- 3.4. Budget Challenge 2025 (BC25) savings include £4,000 per annum in maintenance and £8,000 p.a. through the recovery of monitoring charges. It was agreed last year that Cabinet would review charges for CCTV in 2022-23. Savings have already been achieved through more efficient and proactive maintenance.





- 3.5. The Council cannot legally charge for CCTV work undertaken for the Police. However, HDC may charge other organisations for CCTV services; other Council services may also be charged and then recover costs from external customers.
- 3.6. Any approach to charging must be equitable for all council taxpayers across the district. It could be argued at present that CCTV services provided in some parts of the district are subsidised by council taxpayers in others. If charges are introduced, they should be managed in a way that avoids any such subsidy and that distributes costs equitably.
- 3.7. In March 2019, the Council resolved to monitor additional cameras installed by Town and Parish Councils initially without charge and subject to review. It has been agreed that charges for this service will be implemented with effect from October 1st, 2022.
- 3.8. It is proposed that the costs of CCTV services in HDC buildings that accommodate other organisations (e.g., The Symington Building, the Market Hall) are charged to the HDC Assets service which can then recover them through service charges. The Symington Building has very extensive CCTV provision: this was installed because of the location of items of significant value (the 'Hallaton treasure') in the Harborough Museum.
- 3.9. It is proposed that the HDC Housing service is charged for CCTV provision covering Council buildings that accommodate homeless people. These costs can then be recovered through rents. This will include the planned development of accommodation at 4, Roman Way, Market Harborough.
- 3.10. The Council may wish to charge Lutterworth Town Council for CCTV services within its area, or alternatively Special Expenses. However, whereas those Parish Councils that have installed CCTV cameras have chosen to do so themselves, the cameras in Lutterworth have been installed by the District Council; as is the case with the cameras located in Market Harborough town centre, 50% of the cameras in Lutterworth cover retail business areas that are resources of benefit to the district as a whole.
- 3.11. The Council may be able to allocate the cost of CCTV services in Market Harborough to Special Expenses in order to ensure equity; this would be recommended if charges were levied for CCTV services in Lutterworth.





- 3.12. The impact of the new charging structure on annual Council Tax charges would be relatively small; the effect on Council Tax charges for Band D properties, based on current rates would be:
- i. To increase Council Tax for Market Harborough residents by £1.48 per annum.
 - ii. To increase Council Tax for Lutterworth residents by £0.71 per annum.
 - iii. To reduce Council Tax for residents in other wards across the Harborough District by £0.63 per annum.
- 3.13. Several cameras cover green spaces and car parks that belong to the Council: there may be potential to recover some costs of monitoring and maintaining cameras through charges to the Council's Assets Service which may then be able to recover them from external funding.
- 3.14. The cost of maintenance varies; internal cameras require less regular servicing and are less vulnerable to faults and malfunction due to weather conditions.
- 3.15. All cameras monitored by Lifeline are maintained under a single service agreement: this is more efficient as diagnosis of problems requires access to both cameras and monitoring infrastructure. A programme of planned replacement and maintenance is already delivering savings. It is proposed that maintenance costs are disaggregated and recharged directly to other Councils and HDC services.
- 3.16. Monitoring of cameras varies according to their location: more time is spent monitoring cameras that cover priority areas (e.g., Town Centres, parks). It is proposed that charges are banded to reflect this with an additional charge for cameras with Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) capacity.
- 3.17. Council has authorised a delegation to approve new charges and amendments to Fees and Charges. Any amendments to Special Expenses can only be made when Council next sets a budget (in February 2023). Therefore, any new charges to Market Harborough Special Expenses and to Lutterworth Town Council would apply from April 2023.



Table 1: Proposed Charges per annum:

Camera category	Proposed annual charge
High frequency monitoring and maintenance	£600 and maintenance cost
Medium frequency monitoring and maintenance	£300 and maintenance cost
Low frequency monitoring and maintenance	£100 and maintenance cost
No monitoring: maintenance only	Maintenance cost only
ANPR capacity	£100 additional p.a.

Maintenance costs are approximately £150 per camera per annum.

4. Implications of Decisions

4.1. Corporate Priorities

Community Leadership to create a sense of pride and belonging.

4.2. Financial

The proposed changes to charging would enable the Council to recover an increased proportion of the costs of delivery of the CCTV service over the period of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy as agreed during the BC25 programme. The revised charges would have a very small impact on Council Tax across the District (see above).

4.3. Legal

The use of CCTV for the promotion of community safety is governed by legislation, regulations, and codes of practice. Management of the CCTV system includes ensuring that the Council complies with these. An internal audit of Data Protection in 2017 by LGSS was satisfactory and recommendations made have been addressed.

4.4. Policy

None

4.5. Environmental Implications including contributions to achieving a net zero carbon Council by 2030

None.

4.6. Risk Management

None.





4.7. Equalities Impact

None.

4.8. Data Protection

See Legal implications, above.

5. Summary of Consultation and Outcome

Consultation with colleagues as part of the BC25 programme and subsequently.

6. Alternative Options Considered

1. The Council could withdraw the provision of CCTV in public spaces as this is not a statutory service, but this would be detrimental to community safety.
2. The Council could provide the CCTV service free of charge.
3. The Council could introduce charges in some cases on a differential basis.

7. Background papers

Report to Council Executive "Review of Harborough CCTV provision" December 3rd 2018.

