

To: Scrutiny Manager

CALL IN FORM

I would like to call in the decision as detailed below:

Decision making body or individual

CABINET

Decision made

SEE ATTACHED.

Date decision made

10th DECEMBER 2008.

Reason for calling in the decision

SERIOUS CONCERNS ABOUT THE ^{LACK} OF EVIDENCE, BOTH FINANCIAL AND OPERATIONAL, TO SUPPORT THE SELECTED OPTION.

Desired Outcome

A comprehensive rethink in which the questions posed and statements made, in the Cabined report (for example 1.3.8 page 57) which have not been addressed are satisfactorily answered. That the lack of connection between the comprehensive feasibility study of March 2008 and the Cabined report, particularly in terms of working

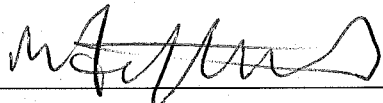
Desired Witnesses

Leads of the Council Chris Garland.
Cabined member Marion King
Officer Brian Morgan.
Independent Witness D.M. Jarrett BSc. MRICS of J.A Warren & Partners


Members calling in decision

Signed

1. MIKE FIOZ GORARD

1. 

2. FRAS WILSON

2. 

Overview and Scrutiny Committee responsible for examining this decision

. External . Overview and Scrutiny Committee

* conditions, impact upon overall predicted cost of equipment not yet decided upon and possible response from English Heritage & Planning in relation to works to existing site are fully addressed.

MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL
RECORD OF DECISION OF THE CABINET

Decision Made: 10 December 2008

CCTV – OPERATIONS APPRAISAL

Issue for Decision

To consider the outcome of the appraisals for the location of the CCTV control room resulting from the Best Value Review of CCTV.

Decision Made

1. That the CCTV control room should remain at its current location, and
 - (i) that the recording and monitoring equipment should be replaced where appropriate and that refurbishment takes place to improve:-
 - ventilation
 - fire suppression
 - facilities for staff
 - health and safety
 - and
 - (ii) that a back up facility be provided at an appropriate location

be funded from within the sum of £600,000 allocated in the capital programme.

2. That a camera replacement programme be instituted to the value of £100K.

Reasons for decision

On 14 November 2007 Cabinet received a report regarding an operations appraisal following Best Value Review of CCTV. A copy of the decision notice is attached at Appendix A of the Report of the Assistant Director of Development and Community Services.

The Report of the Assistant Director of Development and Community Services was not intended to be a rerun of the best value review but to consider the costs arising from the actions taken from the Cabinet's decision on 14 November 2007.

The Best Value Study reported that the cost of rebuilding and extending the CCTV Control Room in its current location was £602,403. This figure included replacing the equipment in the Control Room. At the time of the Best Value Review, £750,000 was in the capital programme. It was recommended that the difference

between the cost of £602,403 and the budget of £750,000 was used for camera replacement. Subsequently a further £50,000 was added to the capital programme for camera replacement. There is at present £820,000 in the capital programme for the creation of a new centre, replacement equipment and camera replacement.

The External Scrutiny Committee considered the Best Value Study on the 14th November 2007 and requested that 'the current health and safety issues regarding the CCTV room be assessed and instigated'. A copy of the decision is attached at Appendix B to the Report of the Assistant Director of Development and Community Services. It was for this reason that a further feasibility study was carried out. This study, which was reported in March 2008, projected that the cost of rebuilding an extended control room was £683,340 which, when combined with the replacement equipment cost, gives a total of £1,033,340. This figure is beyond the total amount available in the capital programme, and does not take into account the cost of business continuity if, for whatever reason, the Centre was inoperable:

The estimated costs are:-

	£
Building works	683,340
Monitoring and recording equipment	350,000
Business continuity	<u>50,000</u>
	<u>1,083,340</u>

As the costs of extending the control room in its current location were in excess of the budget sum, a number of alternative locations have been explored with different organizations, but none of these have resulted in the positive identification of an alternative site.

As part of the work on seeking alternative sites, a suitable site has been identified on the 1st floor of the new office building. Meetings have taken place with the Police Architectural Liaison Officer, who confirms that the area is suitable. The Procurement Section has appointed a Surveyor to provide a feasibility study of the suitability of this space. The additional protection measures have been costed. The feasibility study shows that the costs would be:-

	£
Construction	620,000
Monitoring and recording equipment	350,000
Business Continuity	30,000
Signal transmission	<u>100,000</u>
	<u>1,100,000</u>

This is marginally above the cost of extending the existing facility. To this figure needs to be added the cost of renting 110 sq.m. of floorspace.

The consideration of moving to Maidstone House would allow the opportunity of bringing together in one place, CCTV, community safety and a partnership office as a Public Safety Unit. This would support the Safer Maidstone Partnership but financial support from other agencies should be sought.

Further Options

The current site has been used since the original installation in 1995. There is not sufficient money available in the capital programme to either:-

- extend and refurbish the existing control room, or
- move the control room to Maidstone House.

There is, in addition, no other alternative site available.

There are two options available, which are to:-

- either increase the money available to carry out the works, or
- retain the control room unextended, in its current location.

In relation to increasing the money available, it would be possible to commute parts of the revenue budget. At present, in the budget 2008 / 2009 is:-

	£
Equipment purchase	10,830
Maintenance	34,530
Professional Services (Staffing)	<u>15,080</u>
	<u>60,440</u>

If this was commuted over a 5 year period, and another year was added to the capital programme (£50K), it would provide £1,172 million. This approach is not without risk. Firstly the outcome of the staffing tender is unknown and secondly, only £20K per year would be available for the replacement and maintenance of equipment.

The option that remains is to:-

- replace the equipment in the present control room, without the extension proposed in the Best Value Study,
- carry out some refurbishment,
- improve ventilation and fire suppression equipment so as to improve the health and safety of staff.

If the Control Room were to remain in its current location, the costs would be contained within the current budget:-

	£
Equipment	350,000
Building Works, to include:	
Improved ventilation	
Fire suppression	
New work stations	102,740
Professional fees	<u>25,000</u>
	477,740
Business continuity	<u>55,000</u>
	<u>532,740</u>

The building works identified are to improve the health and safety of staff.

This approach would enable the continued collection of evidence grade images, and would improve the working conditions and safety of staff. In addition, it would enable the £100K identified for camera replacement, to be used for that purpose.

During the construction phase there may be some disruption to the facility, but Officers are exploring whether the facility could be operated from a temporary

location. In addition, for reasons of business continuity, it is necessary to provide a secondary monitoring and recording facility in the event of system failure or staff evacuation. The cost of the back-up facility is £50K. This issue was not considered as part of the Best Value Study.

Consultant Support

This is a specialist area where technology is evolving and it is considered essential that a suitably qualified and experienced consultant is appointed to advise on technical matters, particularly the detail of the equipment. This will support the Council through the whole process and can include writing specifications, general advice and tender evaluation. For the sake of clarity, the Council has no other Consultants working on this issue.

Alternatives considered and why rejected

Alternative locations, both in the ownership of the Council and other bodies, have been examined and costed. There are two potential locations but the reality is that the Council cannot afford to provide an extended or new CCTV control room at these locations. The only financially realistic option that is available is to remain in the existing control room, carry out some refurbishment and replace the monitoring equipment. Whilst not ideal, it enables the provision of a highly regarded service at a cost that is budgeted for. It also enables a programme of camera replacement to take place.

Background Papers

None

These documents are available at the Council offices.

Should you be concerned about this decision and wish to call it in, please submit a call in form signed by any two Non-Executive Members to the Scrutiny Manager by: **18 December 2008.**