

MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

14 NOVEMBER 2007

REPORT OF THE EXTERNAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

1. Introduction

1.1 The External Overview and Scrutiny Committee, at its meeting on 13 November 2007, considered the Best Value Review of CCTV – Findings and Options Report. This report followed the Committee's earlier consideration of the scope of the review. Members discussed a number of key issues that they wished Cabinet to consider as part of the review.

2. Considerations of the Committee

2.1 The Committee interviewed David Edwards, Director of Change and Support Services and Jenny Hunt, Best Value Support Officer with regard to the report. The following issues were raised by the Committee during the course of the discussion:

- The cost of the new replacement programme; it was identified that initially this would cost more than the current maintenance programme but in the long-term would create savings for the Council;
- The Committee was disappointed to see that despite the savings made by the Police because of CCTV they did not contribute to the service;
- The Committee was very concerned to see that there were health and safety issues with regard to the current location of the CCTV control room, as highlighted on page 70 of the exempt appendix;
- The Committee expressed concern that the current location of the CCTV room did not offer any opportunity for expansion of the service; and
- The refurbishment of the CCTV room was supported on the basis that the current working conditions were believed to be unacceptable by the Committee

3. Recommendation of the External Scrutiny Committee

3.1 That the Cabinet formally considers the following points when reviewing the Best Value Review of CCTV – Options Appraisal report:

- (1) The Police be requested to contribute to the funding of the service in light of the considerable savings created for the Police Service;
- (2) The current health and safety issues regarding the CCTV room be assessed and mitigated; and
- (3) In considering the options careful thought be given to the future expansion of the service. When the move takes place to the new Council Offices consideration should be given to releasing space on the basement level for the CCTV service.