



Cabinet

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Item
13(ii)

Report of	Head of Strategic Policy & Regeneration	Author	Nigel Myers & Chris Dowsing ☎ 282878
Title	Digital Strategy: renewal of CCTV fibre network		
Wards affected	Castle Ward/All Wards		

This report concerns external investment in the Council's CCTV fibre network to enhance and maintain the core service and also to enable superfast broadband

1. Decision(s) Required

- 1.1 To enter into an agreement to proceed, subject to due diligence, that will enable commercial investment in the Town Centre CCTV network to maintain and enhance the current CCTV service and to provide the opportunity for it to develop new, additional, monitoring services across the Borough.
- 1.2 To complete all due diligence (commercial, technical and operational) on ITS Technologies Ltd and/or any other provider to ensure they will provide the 'best value' as the fibre provider for this initiative.

2. Reasons for Decision(s)

- 2.1 To maintain and enhance the CCTV network and CCTV imagery
 - Saving the Authority an estimated expenditure of £80,000 in its renewal and upgrading
 - Allowing the network to expand its monitoring capacity within and beyond the Town Centre, so targeting areas of crime and disorder beyond the current network coverage, and
 - Opening up the potential for the CCTV network to provide monitoring of commercial property, schools and religious buildings,
- 2.2 To advance Colchester's Digital Strategy's aims and objectives by
 - Attracting inward investment of an initial £250,000 into the Borough
 - Providing greater competition in the broadband supply marketplace through creating another fixed network which permits all Internet Service Providers to use it
 - Enabling expansion to major new and unserved existing housing and commercial developments in the Borough, and
 - Generating an annual rental income for the Borough from commercial use of the renewed network.

3. Alternative Options

- 3.1 The alternative would be not to bring this asset to market creating a missed opportunity for the Council to obtain best value for its fixed assets and to realise the benefits outlined at 2.1 and 2.2 above.

4. Supporting Information

4.1 The CCTV need

- 4.1.1 Currently, Colchester Borough Council has an existing 5.5km CCTV network of ducting containing fibre cabling, originally constructed in 1997/1998. This fibre network in its current form has limited capacity for expansion and will require refurbishment to upgrade the capacity for future use. Essex County Council and Essex Police are existing tenants on the network which is used for CCTV and additional security measures (ANPR) in Colchester town centre.
- 4.1.2 An external technical audit of the network commissioned by the Council in January 2011 found that while the network is currently “fit for purpose” it is, however, at risk of degradation without specialist maintenance. The consultants FibreStream, recommended its replacement for CCTV purposes alone within 12-18 months.
- 4.1.3 The estimated cost of replacing the fibre network for CCTV purposes alone was put at approximately £80,000 by the consultants. However, the current fibre optic network uses analogue signalling and is ‘multimode’, that is, not suitable for the transmission of data over the installed system.

4.2 The Digital Strategy opportunity

- 4.2.1 Colchester Borough Council aspires to be the best connected authority in the East of England by 2013. To achieve this ambition Colchester will have accelerated the information of a holistic digital infrastructure enabling access to a superfast, affordable broadband service for all.

‘All homes, business premises and mobile phone users will be able to connect to an affordable, high speed broadband network, offering at least 25Mbps download speed and 10Mbps upload speed by 2012 and 40-50Mbps download and 25-30Mbps upload bandwidth by 2013.’ Colchester Digital Strategy

- 4.2.2 The Council’s Digital Strategy identifies the need for a hybrid approach to delivering the above target levels of connectivity in order to support the needs of residents, visitors and businesses for access to new IP applications and content provision for public, private and community needs. The Colchester Digital Strategy, adopted by the Cabinet in July 2011, recognised the need for private sector investment in digital infrastructure and to attract an ICT partner to invest in the Town Centre CCTV network to leverage the asset to enable the above vision to be delivered.

- 4.2.3 This intention was supported by the audit of the CCTV network undertaken by FibreStream which observed that the ducting could be re-purposed for a Next Generation Access network. Specifically:

‘The majority of the Duct Networkcould be utilised to for a functional high capacity fibre optic data network but this would have to built with the current network undisturbed and new overlay cables installed into separated communications cabinets.

This could also house a replacement new distribution network for the CCTV system giving it a further 15 plus years of service and reducing the risks currently faced by the legacy network’.

4.2.4 Fibrestream ascertained that the network can be used to interconnect a large community of digital based service, enabling services such as:

- Interconnection of carrier services at data centre locations providing a aggregation point for high bandwidth services this is commonly known as an internet exchange
- Public services network connecting NHS, Police, Council Services and other public sector service reducing costs operational costs to the public purse
- Delivering service to technology parks and innovation centres providing a hub for high bandwidth businesses
- Connecting residential locations to deliver Next Generation Access services to residents
- Delivery of E-Health to sheltered accommodation and residential homes
- Distribution of Wi-Fi hotspots to supply public access around Colchester providing information and support to tourists and residents
- Providing a medium for local news and support to transmitted to the general public
- Control of traffic flow systems
- Telemetry for emergency monitoring locations (flood protection and early warning)

4.2.5 Therefore, in order to contribute to correcting the “market failure” in the delivery of Next Generation Access broadband services across the Borough, investment is required in the town centre CCTV network. Through leveraging and refurbishing the existing town centre network assets, an urban NGA deployment will be enabled, supporting inward investment, encouraging the development of existing local businesses and tourism and, promoting Colchester as a ‘digital destination’. Colchester strives to deliver cost effective and efficient customer service and wants to be a pioneer in the region and a test bed for innovation, such as telehealth monitoring and telecare services.

5. Proposals

- 5.1 ITS Technologies Ltd has been identified as the potential partner to deliver this investment in renewing the CCTV fibre optic network.
- 5.2 The solution ITS Technologies Ltd are proposing will assist the Digital Strategy vision for Colchester Borough Council to be realised by renewing the existing 5.5km fibre ring already present in Colchester town centre and extending this to key local sites, including business parks and hospitals . The network can also be extended to the wider community to enable Colchester Borough Council to migrate more services online, provide more accurate information to more residents and reduce costs of dealing with enquiries (“channel shift”).
- 5.3 The Council’s ownership of the ducting and fibre will be maintained and use of the renewed fibre will therefore be cost-free to the Borough.
- 5.4 Existing network users will migrate to the new refurbished and extended network wherever commercially viable for an initial 3 year period..
- 5.5 Specifically, ITS Technologies Ltd is offering to undertake refurbishment of the existing network, increasing the fibre count to a 96 core single mode fibre cable, enabling a better service to the residents and businesses of Colchester town centre both for CCTV purposes and for delivering enhanced broadband connectivity. The investment required for this refurbishment is considered to be approximately £250,000 of which £100,000 will be invested in renewal of the CCTV network.

- 5.6 As outlined in 1.2 there are a number of outstanding commercial, technical and operational issues to be resolved in order to ratify ITS Technologies Ltd as the fibre provider for the Council's CCTV network. The Street Services and Enterprise teams, together with other specialist Officers, will be working in collaboration to resolve these issues prior to securing the external investment for the Council's CCTV network.

6. Strategic Plan References

- 6.1 The proposal will directly contribute to five of the nine Strategic Plan priorities: addressing older people's needs; addressing younger people's needs; enabling job creation; community safety; and congestion busting. This will be achieved by the use of emerging applications and technologies such as health telecare.

7. Consultation

- 7.1 There is ongoing stakeholder engagement taking place with key partners – internal and external. Externally, the opportunity is welcomed by Digital Strategy partners – the Chamber of Commerce, University of Essex, Essex County Council and others.

8. Publicity Considerations

- 8.1 A decision to proceed with the initiative will be publicised through a joint marketing protocol between CBC Communications and ITS Technologies Ltd. Using different channels following confirmation of this paper by the Cabinet. This will include the networks and partners listed in 7.1 as well as through the local media and CBC website. It is recognised that communications do need to be fully planned, coordinated and agreed by the CBC Communications and Marketing Team and the commercial partner.
- 8.2 It is also recognised that the commercial partner will implement its own marketing campaigns to stimulate and promote interest and demand for their products and services.

9. Financial implications

- 9.1 There is no direct financial investment required of Colchester Borough Council to deliver the proposals outlined at 5.1. to 5.6 above.
- 9.2 There is a requirement for Colchester Borough Council to provide access to the 5.5 kilometres of CCTV ducting it owns and manages in return for a market-rate annual rental (revenue stream).
- 9.3 As stated above (5.2), the Council will own the network but ITS Technologies Ltd will have a licence to use it for data transmission purposes for a period of 5 years' exclusivity and with the opportunity for further renewal on the expiry of that agreement.

10. Equality, Diversity and Human Rights implications

- 10.1 The proposal actively addresses digital exclusion and facilitates, among other benefits, telecare and telehealth applications using the TV as the channel for resident contact.
- 10.2 All businesses, partner organisations, grant recipients and other customers are treated equally and fairly. An Equality Impact Assessment for the current strategy has been completed and is available on the Colchester Borough Council website (www.colchester.gov.uk) by following this link:

<http://www.colchester.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=3734&p=0>

(then click on Economic Development Strategy 2010 to 2015)

10.3 There are no specific human rights implications.

11. Community Safety Implications

11.1 The initiative will maintain and enhance the core CCTV network which is a key means of delivering community safety within the Town Centre/Castle Ward. It will also extend the fixed network at very low cost to the Authority, enabling other and emerging crime “hot spots” to be covered.

11.2 New CCTV monitoring services could be possible over the network, including coverage of churches, educational establishments and commercial premises, potentially generating new revenue sources for the Authority while reducing crime and business costs.

12. Health and Safety Implications

12.1 There are no Health and Safety implications

13. Risk Management Implications

13.1 There are some specific risk management implications which the procurement process has addressed, namely:

- Maintaining Council ownership of and access to the renewed network without cost
- Avoidance of creating a “closed access network”, through allowing other carriers and content suppliers to use the network;
- Due diligence on the proposed partner: track-record, financial robustness, capacity for innovation and partnership working
- Timing, resilience, robustness, scalability and continuing evolution of the solution/s adopted
- Agreed contract length with review periods and call-off

Background Papers

Report to Cabinet of July 13th 2011, Head of Strategic Policy & Regeneration, “Colchester’s Digital Strategy”