

From: David Brazier, Cabinet Member – Environment & Transport
John Burr, Director – Highways, Transportation & Waste

To: Environment & Transport Cabinet Committee – 17 September 2014

Subject: 14/00103 Upgrading Safety Camera Partnership Equipment

Classification: Unrestricted

Past Pathway of Paper: N/A

Future Pathway of Paper: For Cabinet Member Decision

Electoral Division: All electoral divisions

Summary: As part of the Kent and Medway Safety Camera Partnership this paper reports on a project for the County Council to upgrade existing fixed site Safety Camera equipment with funding ring-fenced from income received by Kent Police.

Recommendation(s):

The Environment & Transport Cabinet Committee is asked to consider, endorse or make recommendations to the Cabinet Member on the proposed decision to undertake a project to upgrade the existing Safety Camera Partnership equipment.

1. Introduction & Background

- 1.1 Safety Cameras are a key part of the enforcement of speed limits in Kent and their operation is managed through a partnership between Kent Police, the Highways Agency, Medway Council and Kent County Council. There are currently 79 fixed, 1 red light and 1 average speed site in Kent and Medway. The sites and the technology involved (the cameras are still ‘wet’ film technology) are out dated and in need of increasing maintenance to keep them operational. Within the Kent and Medway Safety Camera Partnership, Kent Police are undertaking a replacement programme for the mobile cameras and Kent County Council are leading on the upgrading of the fixed sites, and the introduction of digital camera technology on Kent and Medway roads.
- 1.2 The upgrade is a key action contained within the Kent Road Casualty Reduction Strategy (2014-2020), which was recommended for approval by this Committee on 24 April 2014. Section 4.1 of the report highlighted the “*ongoing digitalisation of safety cameras and decommissioning of fixed sites in favour of more flexible mobile sites*”. This report now seeks Members endorsement for the County Council to implement this, as a distinct project, on behalf of the Partnership.

2. Financial Implications

The funding for the upgrade is from income received by Kent Police to process people attending National Driver Offender Retraining Scheme (NDORS) courses in Kent and Medway. This funding must go back into Safety Camera

and/or Road Safety Partnerships as directed by the Secretary of State. There is no risk to the County Council as no KCC funding has been made available, beyond that already allocated for maintenance. It is anticipated that total costs will be c£1.5m which will enable some 30 sites to be upgraded. The upgrade will go hand in hand with a review to ensure the sites continue to reduce casualties. It is expected that a good number of sites will be replaced by mobile enforcement and some will be decommissioned. Given that the proposal is to replace existing outdated camera and site equipment it is anticipated that efficiencies will be achieved and maintenance costs reduced. Future budgets will be agreed through the County Councils' Medium Term Financial Plan process from 2015/16.

3. Bold Steps for Kent and Policy Framework

The upgrading of the safety camera equipment and sites is one of the measures contained within the Road Casualty Reduction Strategy for Kent (2014) which links to the '*helping the Kent economy grow*' theme in Bold Steps for Kent. This is in respect of keeping workers safe and productive by reducing injuries as well as reducing delay to journeys resulting from crashes. The relevant themes in the Local Transport Plan for Kent 2011-2016 are '*a safer and healthier County*' and '*enjoying life in Kent*'. There are also links with the County Councils' Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (2013) in respect of our wider public health objectives.

4. Recommendation(s)

The Environment & Transport Cabinet Committee is asked to consider, endorse or make recommendations to the Cabinet Member on the proposed decision to undertake a project to upgrade the existing Safety Camera Partnership equipment.

5. Background Documents

Safety Cameras and the role of the KMSCP are outlined in the Road Casualty Reduction Strategy for Kent (2014-2020). The Strategy was approved by the Cabinet Member, with the support of this committee on 24 April 2014. <https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/documents/s46173/Appendix%201%20-%20Road%20Casualty%20Reduction%20Strategy%20for%20Kent%202014-2020.pdf>

6. Contact details

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