

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION UNIT

1) AUTHOR(S) OF ASSESSMENT

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2) ASSESSMENT START DATE

6th July 2015.

3) VERSION AND/OR DATE OF COMPLETION OF THE ASSESSMENT

Version 3: 25 January, 2018.

4) PURPOSE OF THE UNIT AND DETAILS OF PROPOSAL

The unit provides a Closed Circuit Television service in many public areas, housing estates etc.

Following the Gwynedd Challenge engagement exercise, the budget was reduced by £90k. In addition, the system used to monitor and record is in need of modernisation i.e. the current analogue system has reached the end of its operational life and new cameras and hardware is required.

3 options have been identified as to the future of the service:

Option 1 - Single Manning.

Option 2 - Unmanned (with the option of remote access to the system by the Police.

Option 3 - End the service.

5) PARTICIPATION AND CONSULTATION

The Department has consulted with the Police as the main beneficiary of the service to discuss the options under consideration.

Following the Gwynedd Challenge the older people, young disabled people and disabled people felt that CCTV was very important because of safety. They worried about their personal safety, and see it as a useful tool in order to prevent and solve crimes such as theft from a person and from shops.

The Service has started consultations with staff and the relevant unions on the options.

It is also intended to hold discussions with the other relevant partners following a decision on the option to be adopted.

6) THE AVAILABLE EVIDENCE

Following the Gwynedd Challenge the budget was reduced by £90k, and as a result there has been a reduction of 3 posts. Every effort has been made to provide 24 hours, 7 day a week cover, but at times the service has failed to fulfil the provision due to Cartrefi Cymunedol Gwynedd's decision not to contribute the £35k annually to the service to monitor the Maesgeirchen and Maes Barcer estates.

The Well-Being of Future Generations Act has made it statutory that public bodies in Wales consider the long-term effect on their decision making in order to work better with each other, with people and their communities and to tackle long-term problems such as poverty, health inequalities and climate change. There are 7 Well-being goals under the Act and there are 2 options in terms of the future of the Service, which addresses the 2 goals that this service would be categorised under the Wales of Cohesive Communities and a more Equal Wales.

There is also a need for public bodies to ensure when making decisions, that they consider the effect they will have on the people who live their lives in Wales in the future. There are five things that public bodies need to consider in order to show that the principles of sustainable development is in hand:-

Long-term - option 2, is proposed in order to renew the system for the benefit of the service in the future.

Prevent - To have staff monitoring 24/7 can in theory prevent more crimes, but it could be argued that option 2 will continue to prevent crimes in the future by having better quality of evidence with a new system and that the Police have remote access to the system when an incident occurs.

Integration - option 2 will enable the Police to have remote access to the system.

Collaboration - with the Police and other partners.

Inclusion - the service is dependent upon the contribution of its partners.

7) RELEVANCE AND IMPACT

7a)

General Duties of the Equality Act	Relevance Does the cut affect the duties below?	The actual or likely impact
Abolishing illegal discrimination, harassment and victimisation	No	
Promoting equal opportunities	Yes	<p>Option 1 - No discriminatory impact.</p> <p>Option 2 - No discriminatory impact on promoting equal opportunities.</p> <p>Option 3 - The fear of going out could lead to reducing opportunities for some groups i.e. women, transgender people, in going to work in the evenings or to socialize.</p>
Encouraging good relationships	No	<p>Option 1 - No discriminatory impact.</p> <p>Option 2 - No discriminatory impact on encouraging good relationships.</p> <p>Option 3 - Any cuts to the service could lead to an increase in crimes which would undermine the duty to encourage good relationships.</p>

7b)

Characteristics	Relevance Does the cut affect the characteristics below?	The actual or likely impact
Race	Yes	<p>Option 1 - No discriminatory impact.</p> <p>Option 2 - No discriminatory impact in terms of equality in that the service would still provide 24/7 recording, but without the ability to respond to incidents, other than the Police having remote access at the time of the incident.</p> <p>Option 3 - Likely impact – the Police estimate that the majority of race hate crimes do not get reported because the victims are afraid or embarrassed.</p>
Disability	Yes	<p>Option 1 - No discriminatory impact.</p> <p>Option 2 - No discriminatory impact in terms of equality in that the service would still provide 24/7 recording, but without the ability to respond to incidents, other than the Police having remote access at the time of the incident.</p> <p>Option 3 - Likely impact – that people with disabilities could feel more vulnerable in towns if they are aware that there is no CCTV service in place.</p>
Gender	Yes	<p>Option 1 - No discriminatory impact.</p> <p>Option 2 – No discriminatory impact in terms of equality in that the service would still provide 24/7 recording, but without the ability to respond to incidents, other than the Police having remote access at the time of the incident.</p> <p>Option 3 - A negative impact. Some women could feel less confident in going out in the evenings. It is young men that are more likely to be a victim of crime and less likely to report a crime against them.</p>

Gender reassignment	Yes	<p>Option 1 - No discriminatory impact.</p> <p>Option 2 - No discriminatory impact in terms of equality in that the service would still provide 24/7 recording, but without the ability to respond to incidents, other than the Police having remote access at the time of the incident.</p> <p>Option 3 - A negative impact. Less of deterrent effect on hate crimes and less evidence if a crime has been committed.</p>
Sexual orientation	Yes	<p>Option 1 - No discriminatory impact.</p> <p>Option 2 - No discriminatory impact in terms of equality in that the service would still provide 24/7 recording, but without the ability to respond to incidents, other than the Police having remote access at the time of the incident.</p> <p>Option 3 - A negative impact. Less of a deterrent effect on hate crimes and less evidence if a crime has been committed.</p>
Religion or belief	Yes	<p>Option 1 - No discriminatory impact.</p> <p>Option 2 – No discriminatory impact in terms of equality in that the service would still provide 24/7 recording, but without the ability to respond to incidents, other than the Police having remote access at the time of the incident.</p> <p>Option 3 - A negative impact. Less of a deterrent effect on hate crimes and less evidence if a crime has been committed.</p>
The Welsh language	No	No discriminatory impact.
Age	Yes	<p>Option 1 - No discriminatory impact.</p> <p>Option 2 - No discriminatory impact in terms of equality in that the service would still provide 24/7 recording, but without the ability to respond to incidents, other than the Police having remote access at the time of the incident.</p> <p>Option 3 - A likely impact – vulnerable and older people feel less safe out in the evenings and believe that their lives are affected because of the fear of crime. Any reduction in the capacity to prevent crime and anti-social behaviour can have a negative effect in terms of the public's trust and fear of crime.</p>

Pregnancy and maternity	No	No discriminatory impact.
Marriage and civil partnership	No	No discriminatory impact.

8) ADDRESSING THE IMPACT

a)	Note any possible impact in terms of equality Any change to the CCTV Service could affect the whole community by increasing the fear of crime and the ability to detect, prevent and reduce crime and anti-social behaviour. From the options under consideration, there will be no discriminatory impact in terms of equality with Option 1 to continue to provide a monitored provision with staff 24/7. Under option 2 – from an equality perspective there is no discriminatory impact to the protected characteristics, the service will continue to record 24/7 but without being responsive, except when the Police choose to access the system at the time of the incident. Finally, Option 3 (ending the service) from an equality perspective will have an incommensurable negative effect on vulnerable groups in the community – young people, disabled people, minority ethnic groups etc, by increasing their fears, especially of hate crimes and the perceived level of public confidence in community safety.
b)	What steps can be taken to reduce or improve these impacts? The Department recommends Option 2 the adoption of Option 2 (the unmanned system with remote access), which would see the service continue but without being responsive, except when the Police choose to access the system. This option is dependent on financial investment in the service.
c)	Is there a need to reconsider the plan? No, the reasons and evidence noted above has compelled the service to consider the future of the service. Additionally the system used to monitor and record is in need of modernisation i.e. the analogue system has reached the end of its operational life and new cameras and hardware is required.