

28th January 2014**Agenda Item: 15****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR FOR PROMOTING INDEPENDENCE
AND PUBLIC PROTECTION****UPDATE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL WEIGHT
RESTRICTION CAMERA****Purpose of the Report**

1. To update the committee on the progress regarding the implementation of the Environmental Weight Restriction Camera.

Information and Advice**Background**

2. The Authority has in excess of 60 Environmental Weight Restrictions (EWR's) in force throughout the county. The restrictions are enforced on behalf of the county's Highways Department by the Trading Standards Service.
3. In order for an EWR to be effective it needs to be enforced otherwise it becomes abused. Enforcement exercises are currently carried out manually and are thus very resource intensive. As part of an arrangement with Highways Department, Trading Standards agreed to develop more effective methods of enforcement that could be deployed to solve issues within particular areas.
4. This led to the development of an automated camera system that could be deployed at a variety of sites. This would enable officers to capture evidence of vehicles that were potentially breaching a restriction, over a longer period of time, and also without the need of an officer to be physically present.
5. There was no automated system available on the market that would automatically capture vehicles breaching weight restrictions, so to develop such a system would involve employing innovative solutions.
6. Working with the support of ICT and procurement colleagues, an external supplier with appropriate technical expertise was selected and employed to develop the idea into a bespoke solution in partnership with the Council.

Current Position

7. A system is in the final stages of development that employs an Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) camera, and a series of specialist sensors that will enable the system to capture data regarding vehicles that are breaching the weight restriction. It will cope with all sorts of lighting and weather conditions.
8. The system will be intelligent, and will also be highly configurable to deal with different locations, designs of restrictions, and traffic situations.
9. It was planned that the system would be ready for factory testing in December. Due to the innovative nature of the system, initial night time tests in areas where there is no supplementary lighting, highlighted some technical difficulties with the imaging process.
10. There have been some technical changes to the design and it is hoped that these will overcome the issues that were occurring before. Initial indications have been very positive. Tests are currently being carried out, and the developer hopes to have the system ready for a factory test at the end of January.
11. Once these tests are satisfactory, they will build the remaining outstations and send the system off for electromagnetic compatibility and unmetered supply testing. Subject to satisfactory results from all of the tests the developers believe the system will be ready for supply at the end of February.
12. Once supplied the system will undergo site testing. This will involve the deployment of the camera at a number of specifically selected sites within the County to ensure that the system performs as required in the variety of sites that it will be deployed at. The sites for testing will be carefully selected to ensure that all aspects of the system are rigorously tested in very challenging conditions. Subject to the outcome of those site tests it is anticipated that the whole system can be signed off as completed and ready for full implementation at the end of March.

Statutory and Policy Implications

13. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

14. There are no financial implications to this report

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) It is recommended that the Community Safety Committee notes the progress with the development of the new Environmental Weight Restriction Camera.

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Constitutional Comments

15. As the report is for noting only, no constitutional comments are required.

Financial Comments (KAS 15/01/2014)

16. There are no financial implications contained within this report.

Background Papers

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

None

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

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