

**RECEIVE A REPORT ON CCTV AND CONSIDER ANY ACTIONS AND
ASSOCIATED EXPENDITURE.**

Report to: Services Committee

Date of Report: 23/05/2024

Officer Writing the Report: Administration Officer

Pursuant to: [P&F held on 11.03.25 minute nr. 113/24/25](#)

Officers Recommendations

To note the Administration Officer comprehensive report on the associated costs of an IP connection ensuring best value is achieved and to continue with the Services Committee resolution.

Click here to view full resolution: [Services Committee meeting held on 13.02.25 minute nr. 113/24/25](#)

Report Summary

The purpose of the report is to offer additional information and understanding for the full cost of the CCTV further investigating the associated costs of an IP connection ensuring best value is achieved.

The Administration Officer has researched CCTV provisions in other Towns and Parishes to compare costs and setup. Please see information provided below;

Plymouth City Council (PCC)

Have a blend of both fibre broadband and wireless 4G cameras in operation.

However, they're moving away from fibre broadband due to it not being cost effective in comparison to 4G. They are moving solely towards wireless solutions as more cost effective to operate.

Please see Appendix A for a detailed overview, explaining the reasons why PCC is transitioning from costly and inflexible BT fibre services to more affordable and adaptable wireless 4G cameras for CCTV monitoring and outlining why 4G cameras require a SIM card and fixed APN/IP address for secure connectivity.

The last time PCC installed a BT fibre broadband service, the installation cost for the circuit started at £8,750, with an additional annual rental fee of £1,200 per camera.

A year ago, BT notified them of a 100% increase in both installation and rental costs.

The installation time frame for BT Fibre Connectivity had historically been approximately 6 months whereas to relocate 4G cameras it can be actioned in a matter of hours (subject to signal and power).

Torpoint Town Council

Currently have no street CCTV.

Torpoint are investigating CCTV provisions liaising with Cornwall Council and Devon and Cornwall Services.

Callington Town Council

Callington employs a private contractor, Fullstop Fire and Security, to manage and maintain their CCTV system, current CCTV provisions consist of 28 cameras.

Fullstop Fire and Security charges a monthly retainer fee to address any issues or glitches with the cameras or system.

A dedicated office space is provided by Callington Town Council for Fullstop Fire and Security to install and operate CCTV recording equipment. A Wi-Fi network is required for the set up and allows connectivity across all the cameras via a broadband connection.

The cameras are not actively monitored 24/7, but they record footage for up to 4 weeks on internal memory.

Anyone with the appropriate access can remotely view the CCTV footage – This includes the Town Council using remote access permissions.

The police have access to the office space and regularly use the cameras to review footage retrospectively if an incident has occurred.

The cameras are currently located on private land, with agreements made with the owners at no cost to date. This poses a future risk as any new land or property owners may request the cameras to be removed or seek compensation for energy costs or inconvenience.

Callington TC advised that the set up they currently have is "very costly," with the monthly retainer fee not being cheap either. The Town Clerk/ RFO has offered to provide more details if required.

Liskeard Town Council (LTC) / Bodmin Town Council and Wadebridge Town Council

LTC have 8 cameras with an additional 2 being procured following successful approval of a conditional grant from the Police and Crime Commissioner. Funding has been awarded via this grant providing that the cameras are networked and live monitored.

Starting 1 April, a live BT link will be established from LTC to County Hall in Truro, with a live feed being monitored by staff members in Truro County Hall.

In 2019 LTC paid £72,000 for the purchase and installation of 8 CCTV cameras and a further £12,000 for a fibre broadband link to Cornwall County Council Office.

While the system has been monitored by staff in Truro, from 1 April it is to be monitored by a private contractor supplied through Cornwall Council, with the costs shared among Liskeard, Weybridge, and Bodmin.

LTC have supplied annual costs for the operation, monitoring and maintenance of their CCTV cameras below.

Lease, BT, Monitoring, Maintenance & Energy		
Town Council	No. of Cameras	Total Annual Cost
Bodmin	13	£ 55,239.56
Liskeard	8	£ 35,967.64
Wadebridge	6	£ 28,409.09

Falmouth Town Council (FTC)

They are currently using fibre optic broadband to support their 19 CCTV cameras in operation. Maintenance costs total £1108 per month for all the cameras.

The Town Manager (TM) was unable to provide the installation costs, as Falmouth Town Council acquired the CCTV system 15 years ago. However, it was mentioned that the total costs for procuring CCTV Cameras was "phenomenally expensive."

The PC used for the cameras was circa £5,000 a few years ago with an additional £1,000 for screens/keyboard/admin pc etc.

The TM believes that the 5G option is a good direction to pursue in today's current climate. FTC opted for the fibre option 15 years ago when mobile signal was not suitable at the time.

FTC have their own dedicated CCTV room and contracted staff who monitor the system for 35 hours a week, alongside Helston who have 10 cameras. At a cost of £21 per hour annually £1,317 per year per camera.

The Town Manager was unable to provide the broadband cost per camera.

Similar to Callington, anyone with the appropriate access can remotely view the CCTV footage, allowing the Town Managers or Town Clerks to passively monitor the system on their screens.

Data Limits

Many carriers offer "unlimited" data plans, but even these plans are subject to FUP. This means that after a certain threshold of data usage (e.g., 50GB or 100GB per month), the carrier may throttle your connection speed, reduce your data speeds, or in some cases, even suspend your service temporarily.

Sim Cards and Data Usage:

Domestic unlimited data SIM cards are not truly unlimited, as they are subject to a Fair Usage Policy (FUP), which could cause the cameras to become inoperable after about 10 days into the month.

STC supplier has secured an agreement with the carriers to provide a 1TB per month FUP per SIM per month, which is necessary for streaming raw data 24/7 at 720p or 1080p resolution. 1080p is recommended due to its higher image quality, which is particularly important when zooming in on footage.

Additionally, they offer a Fixed APN, ensuring a stable, reliable and secure connection.

Also worth noting an agreement with carriers has been secured, stipulating that if STC move the cameras to locations with poor signal, a replacement SIM card from a different carrier at no additional cost will be provided.

The administration department has approached the Town Council's current business provider for work mobile phones to see if a deal could be broached direct. The response received is as follows:

'We do provide sims which can work with cameras, fixed IP can work out very expensive and from past experience, I am looping in our unified comms specialist as he specialises in this type of thing.'

After further conversations with PCC it was confirmed that a SIM card is assigned a fixed IP address, ensuring data is securely routed through a private, dedicated server. This significantly reduces the risk of unauthorised access or data breaches.

If STC were to tether to a wi fi connection it would require implementing secure data transmission protocols. This approach would be highly complex and costly. Not something recommended to do.

Given that CCTV systems are data-intensive, the camera supplier collaborates with a telecommunications provider to offer an integrated solution. This partnership simplifies the process by directing traffic through the telecom provider's interface

while maintaining the supplier as the single point of contact for any issues related to connectivity, hardware, or installation.

For Information purposes:

Data Limits

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In these cases, while the plan may technically provide "unlimited" data, **"unlimited"** doesn't mean **"unrestricted."** The carrier may prioritize network access for lower-usage customers after a certain data consumption threshold.

Throttling:

Throttling is a common approach used under FUP. After you reach a certain data usage limit, your speeds might be **reduced**, sometimes drastically (e.g., down to 2G speeds). This ensures that the network can still provide service to all users, but at a slower rate for high-usage users.

Throttling is especially common in mobile broadband or "unlimited" data plans.

Fixed APN

It also gives you a Fixed APN which ensures that your system is always connecting to the correct network with stable, predefined settings. For a CCTV system that requires continuous video streaming or stable data transmission, reliability is key, and a fixed APN reduces the risk of connection drops or issues caused by network switching.

Benefits of 5G Cameras vs Fixed IP Connection:

Members may wish to consider the following information:

The Invictus cameras presented are wireless.

The SIM card, along with the fixed APN/IP address allows the camera's to securely connect to the CCTV monitoring centre and provide video recording.

Without the SIM card, the cameras would be non-operational and provide no transmission of the video feed.

- While the initial cost may seem higher for 5G, it is a fixed cost for 5 years, making them significantly more cost-effective to operate compared to fibre. Cost comparisons are provided in the budget section.
- The equipment is sold outright and becomes the sole property of Saltash Town Council.
- Reduced impact on the environment and local businesses - Installing fibre would require excavations at each location, and depending on the nearest connection point, may lead to road closures.
- Faster installation times: Fibre installation could take up to 6 months or more, with separate excavations required at each location.
- Installation will also introduce additional street furniture, as BT needs to place equipment on the columns, which can be quite intrusive.
- The provider has secured pricing with the network provider EE until end of April 2025, with guaranteed rates for the next 5 years at today's prices. See Appendix B
- 5G networks offer wider coverage and can maintain a reliable connection even in remote or hard-to-reach locations, where traditional broadband or Wi-Fi signals may be weak or unavailable.
- When approaching the camera supplier requesting if alternative telecommunications for 5G could be explored it was confirmed that EE provides the best coverage in the area and can offer faster speeds than traditional fibre broadband at the most competitive prices. It is worth noting that EE also does not cap its unlimited data.
- The same equipment being used by the Plymouth Council Control Room, for easy integration with their recording system.
- Flexibility to relocate the equipment as required. These cameras can be deployed to different locations within hours, requiring only a mobile signal and power.

To further understand the general benefits of wireless 5G CCTV please see Appendix C

To further understand what an APN is please see Appendix D

How Does This Meet the Business Plan?

Aims

Strategic Priority 1 – Boosting Jobs and Economic Prosperity - Continue to promote Saltash as a vibrant and welcoming visitor destination by reinvesting and working in partnership with key stakeholders in key areas such as Victoria Gardens, the Town Centre, and future Waterside projects.

Strategic Priority 5 – Climate Emergency

To continue to acknowledge a climate emergency and to bring forward a local climate change strategy.

Budget Overview

Town	Purchase cost including broadband installation per camera	Annual Service and Monitoring Costs per camera (Including broadband or 5g connection)
Proposed Saltash CCTV provisions Supplied by PCC (5G)	£4,483	£1,500
Torpoint	N/A	N/A
Callington Town Council (Wi Fi Connection)	TBC	TBC

Liskeard Town Council (Fibre Broadband)	£10,500	£3,462.44
Falmouth Town Council (Fibre Broadband)	Unknown	£1,317 monitoring only

Additional costs required to be considered should members confirm 5G Camera's to be installed and that are yet to be ascertained:

- Installation
- Signage
- Insurance
- Electricity
- Maintenance

Budget Codes and Availability:

6270 PF EMF Crime Reduction Budget remaining £58,360

6229 SE CCTV Annual Maintenance Budget remaining £7,313

Committed Spend: Approximately £200 - £300 CCTV Maintenance 2025/26

Signature of Officer:

L Wright – Administration Officer