OPTIONS for CCTV FINANCIAL EFFICIENCIES

1. Option One

Removal of Bromley's Public Space CCTV system

The budget for the Bromley CCTV system is £565k per annum and decommissioning the system either wholly or in part could provide revenue savings annually for the Council. There may also be some scrap value to the system once decommissioned but this is a very specialised area and a specific financial assessment of the value of the system would need to be carried out.

However, there would be considerable risk in such a decision. The CCTV system is a fundamental part of Building a Better Bromley, The Safer Bromley Strategy, The Portfolio Plan and the local policing regime, where CCTV is both a deterrent and a system for enforcement.

The Council CCTV system also generates significant income of over £1million through parking and bus lane enforcement. Hence, if the Public Safety CCTV system should be decommissioned then the cameras and the majority of cameras and the operating matrix would need to be retained and there would also be a need for the continuation of the CCTV maintenance contract.

There are 75 cameras situated within the Car Parks of the Borough that are monitored by the Bromley CCTV Control room. With the cessation of monitoring and closing the control rooms these cameras could also be decommissioned and removed, adding a further saving on the maintenance budget in the region of £95k.

Discontinuing the Public Safety camera system (retaining the CCTV Bus Lane Enforcement and parking enforcement cameras)

Gross annual savings (including staff reductions)	£565k
Continuation with CCTV matrix/control room Maintenance contract etc.,	£245k
Net savings	£317k
Savings relating to removal of 75 CCTV cameras in car parks	£95k
Total net savings for removal of 95 cameras	£412k

2. Option Two

Reduction in monitoring within the control room

The current LBB control room monitors the 178 cameras in Bromley town centres, their enforcement cameras and including the 75 car park cameras. Parking enforcement have a mandate to use all of the town centre cameras

on the system for the enforcement of parking offences but the Control room operators have primacy and can take them back immediately if they are needed as part of an urgent incident. Specific statistics have not been available from the Police in relation to CCTV footage that is used to secure criminal conviction.

The control room operators are highly trained and qualified to monitor activity and incidents twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, and as well as CCTV monitoring, additional services are also provided such as lone worker surveillance, traffic and car park security and enforcement, care in the community, DVLA enforcement, special events such as sports and carnivals; an integrated approach to crime management and close liaison with key emergency services. NSL (previously NCP car parks) provide the 24-hour 365 days a year monitoring of Bromley's extensive network of cameras and the contract is due to expire at the end of March 2012.

The original monitoring contract for the CCTV control room in 1994 specified three operatives to be employed 24/7, consisting of two monitoring operatives and a supervisor. In 2010, in order to extend the contract for a further two years the contract was re structured to cut the hours that the operatives were employed in the control room. The decision was made to cut the number of operatives by 33%, producing a saving in excess of £50k.

Currently there are 12 operators working a shift system whereby two operatives are carrying out monitoring duties within the control room 24/7. Consideration has now been given to further reducing the number of hours of observations within the control room by reducing the shifts that the operators currently perform. For this reason, a review of the asserted quiet time was undertaken between 0000 – 0630hrs on Sunday to Wednesday for a period of one month in April/May. This was considered to be the quietest time within the town centres. The results are in appendix II. It is anticipated that this could achieve a reduction of 52 operator monitoring hours per week and would produce a saving in the revenue budget of approximately £33k.

However this would leave Bromley with no way of responding to calls from the emergency services and in particular the Police during these hours. A second option would be to reduce the monitoring in the control room by 50%. This option is not supported by the Police and would have health and safety implications for the operator, which would necessitate a full lone worker risk assessment with the contractor before introduction of this system.

In order to identify the likely level of demand in these time periods and to properly assess the risk associated with closure of the CCTV control room an assessment was carried out for a month between April 12th and May 11th. The activities are recorded in Appendix II.

Although this is considered the quietest time of the week, the statistics in Appendix two demonstrate that there is still a significant level of activity in the control room and Members will need to assess the risk of missing a significant crime such as a robbery, assault or a murder during this time period as opposed to the level of savings to be achieved.

Members may also wish to consider reducing the number of operators from two staff members to one at other times during the week, subject to a full review of the level of activity for members of the CCTV monitoring staff during the remaining part of the week. There would also be a need for a detailed assessment of the Health & Safety implications of lone working and the knock on effect for the partner agencies who may require access, search facilities and download capabilities during these periods. There would be a possible saving during these periods by reducing the number of operator hours directly employed for monitoring within the control room

Net annual savings in closing the control room for the designated period
Reduction of 2,704 hrs per week @ £12.20 ph **£33k pa**

Net annual savings in reducing the control room Monitoring staff by 50% for the designated period
Reduction of 1,352 hrs per week @ £12.20 ph **£16.5k pa**

3. <u>Option three</u>

<u>Joint contracting with neighbouring authorities</u>

Consideration has been given to joining with neighbouring Authorities in order to jointly commission contracts. Discussions were held two years ago with Bexley Council, initially centred on the London Borough of Bromley providing the service for Bexley when their control room was decommissioned. However, Bexley decided not to pursue a partnership arrangement with Bromley and went out to competitive tender. They now employ the services of a third party contractor (Siemens), who provided their new control room and subsequently entered into a ten year contract to provide their full CCTV service at an annual cost of £1,1m pa.
More recently discussions have taken also place with Siemens with respect to the operation of the Bromley Control room but as this would be a service with a third party contractor as opposed to a direct partnership with Bexley and in view of the fact that Bromley's total cost for the CCTV service is almost £500k less than Siemens charge Bexley for a similar service, it was decided not to pursue this avenue further.
Siemens will be invited to tender should they so choose when the Bromley service goes to tender in 2011/12.

Discussions were also held with other adjoining Boroughs with a view to investigating joint commissioning and the decision was made to explore a joint contract with Lewisham, who have a similar system to Bromley and who are due to tender for both CCTV monitoring and maintenance during the next few months. Bromley's Head of procurement and Head or Environmental Protection have had meetings with Lewisham's procurement team and have entered into a joint commissioning process.

Estimated savings of 10% on existing contract price
For monitoring and maintenance **£35k**

4. Option Four

Mobile CCTV

In 2007/08 Members agreed to fund the Bromley mobile CCTV system. This currently consists of 2 vans equipped with several covert CCTV cameras, 4 deployable overt street cameras, 7 sets of CCTV recording systems for home installation, 8 Vidilanz cameras (cameras used for out side deployment where no external power supply is available) and 2 mini mobile DVR's (used for installation in lamp columns' or in small discreet, inaccessible places).

The mobile running costs, vehicle rent, deployment, maintenance etc is £27k p.a. Currently there are approximately 70 deployments per annum, although some of the deployments can last several weeks. It id proposed that Members consider reducing the mobile CCTV within the Borough and the following options are proposed.

Net annual savings in removing one CCTV vehicle	**£7.5k pa**
Net annual savings in removing two CCTV vehicles	**£15k pa**
Net annual savings in cutting all mobile CCTV services	**£27k pa**

5.0 Options considered but not progressed

5.1 Co-location of the parking enforcement and public space CCTV control centres

Consideration was given to the co-location of Bromley's two control centres for bus lane and parking enforcement and public space CCTV monitoring within the same control room. This would involve decommissioning the parking enforcement CCTV control room and moving it to the public space CCTV monitoring room, where there is sufficient space available to accommodate both disciplines. Whilst this is physically possible, there are a number of issues that needed to be addressed such as dual use of staff and dual use of equipment. However, the main consideration is that the move would cost in the region of £75k and, with a saving of £7.5k pa in rent, it would not result in a level of savings that would make this cost effective.

5.2 Co-location of the Glades and The Council control centres.

Discussions were also opened with the Management of the Glades with a view to co-locating the two CCTV control room systems and the monitoring functions in one site.

The Glades Management made it clear from the outset of the discussions that the Glades CCTV was provided primarily for the retailers in the Glades and that the Glades monitoring is their priority and in itself forms only part of the wider guarding service provided by their contractors. Their service included specifically the physical

guarding process, fire and burglar alarm controls and access control directly on site for the retailers, who in turn fund the Glades security.

In their opinion, these services could only be provided from an on site control room located within the Glades complex and as such it would be unlikely that they would consider moving their commercial operation to the Civic Centre.

The possibility of moving all of the CCTV control room from the Civic Centre to the Glades was also considered, as there is LBB fibre in Elmfield Road that could be used to connect the two control rooms. However, a commercial payment would be charged for the Glades contractors to take on the responsibility of the Council public space CCTV system with a management surcharge also likely to be added. Although no specific detailed costing was carried out, significant annual saving is considered to be unlikely as the Council's purchasing power at tender would be as strong or stronger than that of the Glades. The necessary capital cost of moving the Bromley control room into the Glades has been estimated by the LBB incumbent contractor as being £200k to £250k for the move and refit of the control room at a different location. In view of these discussions and financial estimates this option was not considered viable.

Appendix II

An assessment of the level of activity within the CCTV control room during the hours of midnight to 6am, Sunday to Wednesday from April 12th to May 11th 2011

RESULTS

Police Radio calls (Asking for assistance)	93
Telephone calls (from emergency services)	12
High Street Bollard Activations	6
Anti Social Behaviour Monitored	33
Other Incidents Monitored	50
Pubs/Clubs Monitoring	130
Downloading Evidential Packages	8
Monitoring RIPA Authorised Surveillance	22
Pro active town centre scans	385
Total	**739**
Average incidents per shift	41
Average reactive incidents	19.5
Average proactive scans per shift	20.5