

Authority to dispose of ANPR Cameras.

Date: 5th February 2024

Report of: Senior Project Officer

Report to: Chief Officer Climate, Energy & Green Spaces

Will the decision be open for call in? Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

Brief summary

To enforce the mandated Leeds Clean Air Zone (CAZ), the Council installed over 220 Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras through a contract with Siemens Mobility Limited – now Yunex Limited.

As Leeds became compliant with national air quality standards and the Leeds CAZ was not introduced, a large proportion of these cameras are not in use.

The Council has been approached by Yunex Limited with a buy-back offer, which is described in this report.

Recommendations

- a) For the Chief Officer of Climate, Energy & Green Space to approve the decision to sell those ANPR cameras not in use by the Council to Yunex Limited (Yunex), up to a total of 160 cameras. The value of this decision is referred to in the Confidential Appendix.
- b) Acknowledge and accept the risks outlined in the report regarding the potential implications of this decision.

What is this report about?

- 1 This report requests authority to dispose of up to 160 ANPR cameras purchased for the Leeds CAZ that are no longer in use.

What impact will this proposal have?

- 2 This proposal will generate considerable revenue and remove non-functional assets eliminating the risk of loss and damage of these cameras. If these lamppost-mounted assets are not taken down then they could pose a health and safety risk in the future and would incur future maintenance costs.

How does this proposal impact the three pillars of the Best City Ambition?

Health and Wellbeing Inclusive Growth Zero Carbon

- 3 This proposal is being taken forwards in the interests of spending money wisely. Given the financial pressures the Council is under, and that there is no near-term likelihood of a scheme requiring such a large volume of ANPR cameras it is proposed that the revenue generated is of most use.

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

Wards affected: n/a

Have ward members been consulted? Yes No

- 4 Key stakeholders within Highways & Transportation and Parking Enforcement have been engaged with and have confirmed no additional need for these cameras.
- 5 The Executive Member for Sustainable Development and Infrastructure and also the Executive Member for Climate, Energy, Environment and Green Space have been briefed on this proposal.

What are the resource implications?

- 6 This proposal would generate resource to support the financial pressures the Council is facing. The buy-back offer from Yunex includes the removal of the cameras, mounting equipment and cabling from site and 'making good'. The value of the buy-back offer is set out with Confidential Appendix 1.
- 7 Given that a large proportion of these cameras are switched off with no visibility, the Council would otherwise have to make arrangements to take-down these cameras and store them at our own costs in the event this proposal is not taken forwards. This would incur costs of c. £56,000 based on £350/camera for mobile elevated work platform (MEWP) hire, traffic management, and time to remove camera, bracket, cables and making good.

What are the key risks and how are they being managed?

- 8 In the event of a new enforcement scheme being required, then it would likely require new cameras to meet contemporary guidelines, and as such the current ones are likely to be unsuitable. The nature of this field means that it is highly competitive with regular advances in technology meaning that these cameras will quickly become outdated.

9 There are a number of other key risks associated with this decision, however due to their commercial nature these are detailed in the Confidential Appendix 1.

What are the legal implications?

10 Appendix 1 of the report is confidential under Access to Information Procedure Rule 10.4(3) as it contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of Yunex. It is felt that if disclosed this would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of the company.

11 The decision to dispose of the ANPR cameras to Yunex is a Significant Operational Decision and is not subject to call in.

Options, timescales and measuring success

What other options were considered?

12 The likelihood of implementing a large-scale charging scheme within the lifespan of the cameras is minimal. Other opportunities for use of the cameras have been explored including repurposing for bus lane enforcement and partnering with West Yorkshire Police to eliminate operational costs. Those cameras that have already been identified for alternative use are excluded from this buy-back proposal.

13 Leaving the cameras in place has been considered, however it is not appropriate to continue leaving the assets in situ due to the liability of retaining an asset on the footpath. The removal of these cameras would incur significant costs, as would storing the cameras for an undetermined period of time until any charging scheme was to be created, by which time the cameras may well be obsolete.

How will success be measured?

14 The proposal would generate revenue for the Council, whilst also removing non-functional assets which the Council have no operational visibility of and could pose a future health and safety risk. Given there's no near-term use for this significant volume of ANPR cameras, this proposal is suggested to represent value for money.

What is the timetable and who will be responsible for implementation?

15 Following the decision, Yunex could commence removal of the cameras in January. Approximately 30 cameras would be removed per week, giving an approximate total duration of 5 weeks.

16 The Climate, Energy & Green Space team will be responsible for implementation.

Appendices

- Buy Back Proposal from Yunex Limited (Confidential).

Background papers

- None