

**CRANBROOK TRAIN STATION AND CAR PARK CCTV**

**Introduction**

On 18 March 2024, the Council considered a report regarding the future provision of CCTV at the train station car park in Cranbrook. The report which had accompanied the agenda item recommended to enter into conversations with the County Council regarding the transfer of the train station car park to Cranbrook Town Council but councillors raised concerns at the meeting regarding the long-term maintenance costs of a large car park with a tarmac surface and the maintenance of safety barriers, not to mention the installation and ongoing costs of CCTV.

Councillors suggested entering into conversations with Devon County Council regarding the future of the car park, the future provision of CCTV there based on the principle that car parking should remain free of charge and seeking grant funding e.g. from South Western Railway's Customer and Community Improvement Fund (CCIF) (minute ref. 24/33).

**Progress Update**

On 11 April 2024, Devon County Council's (DCC) Deputy Director – Planning advised as follows:

Apologies for the delay in responding but I've been seeking further views from colleagues in Devon County Council (DCC) and South Western Railway (SWR) on options...

DCC colleagues responsible for CCTV have explained that the Network Operations Control Room only uses CCTV to support our statutory highway network management function and not for monitoring anti-social behaviour purposes - this would be a District Council function. On this basis, installing and managing CCTV cameras at Cranbrook Station would not be something which DCC would be willing to pursue.

I've also received advice from [name] at South Western Railway (SWR) – he explained that unless SWR are able to make a reasonable charge to cover costs, they would be unable to consider taking over the running of the station car park and installing CCTV. SWR CCTV cannot cover any areas which are not part of the station lease. He added that the chances of securing 'grant' funding is very slim unless there is a specific CCTV type fund out there. The costs would likely be in excess of £100k for the whole car park as a minimum depending on what ducting is already there and it would need a revenue stream to cover ongoing maintenance / management.

I appreciate this is not the response you were seeking; however, I hope you can appreciate that as such equipment would be costly to install with ongoing maintenance costs and with financial pressures on the Council and the fact that it does not align with our core highway responsibilities, we cannot justify the investment. The only route would be via SWR; however, they have queried whether there are grant funding opportunities and even if those costs could be found, it would be on the basis of SWR taking on a long-term lease for the car park and likely introduction of a nominal car parking charge to cover ongoing costs.

**Recommendation**

To note the update.