

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

CABINET - 15th SEPTEMBER 2008

USING CCTV TO TACKLE CRIME AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR IN THE BOROUGH

REPORT OF CORPORATE DIRECTOR: COMMUNITY SERVICES

1.0 PURPOSE

This report provides a focused response to the development of CCTV provision within Telford & Wrekin which prioritises areas where acts of alcohol related violence and anti-social behaviour (ASB) are prevalent.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Members endorse the objectives outlined in paragraph 5.5 and note the proposed development of the Council's CCTV System highlighted in paragraphs 5.6 and 5.7;**
- 2.2 That a detailed CCTV Strategy for the Borough is developed and presented to Cabinet in December 2008.**

3.0 SUMMARY

- 3.1 The priorities identified in this paper are drawn from the Safer and Stronger Communities Implementation Plan for CCTV. This seeks to direct resources to areas of greatest need, based on evidence of crime and ASB data. The approach uses digital technology to capture reliable evidence quality images, making best use of pre-existing camera systems, and provides live monitoring at key times in hotspot locations.**

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The use of CCTV forms part of the Government's Crime Reduction Programme. Home Office guidance highlights that provision and location of CCTV, particularly with fixed systems but also with re-deployable CCTV, should be supported by reliable evidence of its cost effectiveness and sustainability.**

- 4.2 An essential part of the approach is to ensure that necessary processes and procedures are in place to enable effective deployment. Historically, CCTV provision in Telford and Wrekin has developed in a disparate manner, without the benefit of a clear set of objectives in place to ensure an effective approach. Ten district centres were fitted with stand alone systems, not monitored on a regular basis, and without any evaluation of their effectiveness or value for money.
- 4.3 The Council fitted digital systems are located in Wellington, Oakengates and Dawley. These systems are recognised as forming the infrastructure for surveillance in Telford and Wrekin's night time economy. These also provide the nucleus around which any further development of CCTV will take place.
- 4.4 To supplement these fixed cameras the Safer & Stronger Communities Partnership funded the purchase of a mobile camera system called Domehawk. These consist of 8 individual cameras which have been managed exclusively by the Police. These are placed on enabled lamp posts in identified hot spot areas and can be monitored by way of microwave link to 'line of site' lap top monitors. A protocol has been established with Environmental and Regeneration Services to prioritise the installation of camera fitting points on lampposts throughout Telford and Wrekin area. Currently 102 lampposts have been enabled and this agreement will ensure that crime and ASB 'hotspot' areas are prioritised in any future renewal or upgrading work. Deployment is directed by the Joint Tasking Group, which meets monthly, within the auspices of the Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership. The existing mobile cameras have been overhauled and some individual units replaced as necessary in order to improve the functionality of this resource. This has been drawn from the Safer and Stronger Communities Funding allocation.

5.0 INFORMATION

- 5.1 The starting point for the proposed approach for Telford and Wrekin is improvement and enhancement of existing CCTV equipment. This provides for the effective use of CCTV as a key tool in tackling ASB, crime and 'street disorder'. These measures will be supported and supplemented by other measures within the work of the Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership to tackle ASB, crime and street disorder.
- 5.2 This approach does not provide the means to improve CCTV coverage across all of Telford and Wrekin, but it will enable future development of district centres systems through this infrastructure. Any future developments would be linked via a local control centre at Oakengates to enable some level of monitoring. Beyond any considerations of technology, the capacity to monitor events is the most important aspect of any CCTV system. Advice to services, or areas seeking to develop CCTV would be guided, on the required standards and on the quality of technology which ensures best value for money and effective deployment.

5.3 This approach will ensure that any new cameras, when installed are monitored at a central point, by accredited staff, working to required specifications, at times and in locations identified as 'hot-spot' areas. Such a system will of necessity produce high quality imagery fit for evidential purposes in order to secure appropriate convictions for a range of offences, including violence, ASB, and drugs or alcohol related incidents. This has considerable reassurance value to communities.

5.4 One key measure of success of any CCTV system is to know that it works, and for the public to have confidence that those viewed and caught committing offences will be brought to justice.

5.5 Objectives for the deployment of CCTV system:

The following objectives have been identified as part of the necessary framework to ensure the CCTV systems commissioned are most effective in tackling ASB, Crime and street disorder:-

That partnerships:-

- a) Identify appropriate intervention areas and "hotspots" in order to deploy both static and rapid responsive CCTV where it is assessed as relevant to tackle ASB, crime or disorder problems.
- b) Only utilise equipment which produces images which are admissible in the courts for evidential purposes.
- c) Compliment other target hardening, preventative and community projects where appropriate.

5.6 The above have informed an investment appraisal and a formal commissioning process to ensure that the best possible technology is applied to meet the 'operational requirements' in the identified hot spot areas. These are identified primarily as Wellington, and Oakengates, but the opportunity has also been taken to link Dawley via an existing ICT link. This approach is consistent with an evidence led focus on ASB and crime reduction. This has involved capital spend on upgrading these links and infrastructure to establish an effective CCTV system. The investment provides for new digital decoders, computer equipment to access images, and 'air time' contracts with providers.

5.7 Key to this approach is the investment in monitoring arrangements, and work has been progressed with Shrewsbury and Atcham Borough Council CCTV on a Service Level Agreement. This can be supplemented by accredited staff operating from the Oakengates control centre. The latter will house a bank of digital decoders/ monitoring equipment and provide a relay to the monitoring station in Shrewsbury. At any time,

authorised personnel may access the equipment in the control centre to support particular Police operations.

5.8 In the regeneration of the borough towns and the emerging proposals for the development of Telford Town Centre, CCTV will play an increasingly important role and will need to be factored into planning and regeneration considerations; particularly as a resource in promoting a safe night time economy.

5.9 The current enhancements to the CCTV system are resulting in demands for technical improvements and/or monitoring in other District Centres and Borough Towns. There is no current budget allocation to meet these demands. An evaluation of the impact of the current improvement programme will be undertaken prior to extending, or building on this infrastructure. At this point other resourcing approaches will be investigated, including private finance, Borough-Towns Initiatives funding / regeneration schemes, Parish Council contributions and also planning stipulations via the Local Development Framework.

It is therefore proposed that a detailed CCTV Strategy be developed to support and direct any future investment or growth in CCTV for the Council.

6.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

6.1 There are no identifiable issues in relation to the implementation of this programme of work, beyond compliance with the legal requirements, and ensuring that this approach does not discriminate on issues of race, disability, gender, age, sexuality, gender identity, religion or cultural belief.

7.0 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

7.1 The intended environmental impact is one of enhanced community safety, but it is possible that the sighting of cameras may to some members of the public appear physically intrusive.

8.0 LEGAL COMMENT

8.1 The application of CCTV systems is governed by important legal considerations contained within the Data Protection Act 1998, Human Rights Act 1998, Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000, Freedom of Information Act, and Security Industries Act 2001. In following the requirements of law and best practice, no surveillance of individuals would take place without reasonable grounds and RIPOR compliance.

9.0 LINKS WITH CORPORATE PRIORITIES

9.1 Telford and Wrekin Council's Vision - The CCTV Programme links directly into the Council's Community Priority 4: "To provide a safer, stronger and cohesive community".

CCTV(final)

10.0 OPPORTUNITIES AND RISKS

The Implementation Plan has been subject to a risk management exercise in accordance with corporate procedures. Key controls and additional mitigation measures have been identified to address the risks.

11.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There is currently a sum of approximately £125,558 in 2008/09 made up of capital and one off reserves, available to fund the work required to provide these improvements to CCTV. A staged payment of £35,000 was made against this commissioned work (total £162,145) from last year's budget. The financial profile details this, together with the revenue costs.

11.2 Costs will form a key factor in determining both the quality and quantity of future CCTV provision in Telford. The table below outlines the anticipated costs associated with implementing the CCTV improvements incorporating servicing and maintenance costs associated with the portable and static CCTV systems. There is an ongoing revenue budget available within Community Services to fund these costs. This totals £75,380 for 2008/09.

Requirement within the CCTV strategy	Annual Projected Costs
TOTAL Revenue (Projected)	£76,802
TOTAL Revenue Funding Available	£75,380
Shortfall - to be addressed by Community Safety	£1,422
Capital Expenditure ADT Contract	£162,145
Capital Expenditure 07/08 against above contract	£35,000
Capital Expenditure remaining for 08/09 on ADT Contract	£127,145
TOTAL Capital/one off funding available 08/09	£125,558
Shortfall - to be met via Safer & Stronger Community Fund capital	£1,587

12.0 WARD IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1 The improvements to CCTV have borough-wide implications insofar that improvements will be made to link existing cameras with monitoring arrangements, based on their crime profile (evidenced of need). Scope exists within the proposals to further develop CCTV provision, but this is subject to the availability of resources.

13.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

References:

Home Office (1999) CCTV Initiative Application Prospectus

Home Office (2003) National Evaluation of CCTV: early findings on scheme implementation – effective practice guide; Scarman Centre National CCTV Evaluation Team

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