

SCRUTINY PANEL B

Meeting held in the Committee Room, Council Offices, Urban Road, Kirkby-in-Ashfield,

on Thursday, 22nd March, 2018 at 6.30 pm

Present: Councillor Helen Hollis in the Chair;

Councillors Rachel Bissett, Christian Chapman,
Lauren Mitchell, Christine Quinn-Wilcox,
Paul Roberts, Mike Smith and Sam Wilson.

Officers Present: Mike Joy, Chris Parkes, Julie Robinson and
Rebecca Whitehead.

SB.14 Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary or Personal Interests and Non Disclosable Pecuniary/Other Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

SB.15 Minutes

RESOLVED

that the minutes of the meeting of the Panel held on 16th January, 2018 be received and approved as a correct record.

(Councillor Lauren Mitchell entered the meeting at 6.33 p.m. during consideration of the above item.)

SB.16 Scrutiny Review of CCTV

The Chairman reminded the Panel that this topic was added to the Scrutiny Workplan to enable Members to gain an understanding of Ashfield's current CCTV operations around the District.

The Panel had held an introductory meeting on this topic in October, 2017 to agree and discuss the terms of reference for the review. At that meeting Members expressed an interest in attending a site visit to view the new shared CCTV Control Room located at the Police Headquarters, Sherwood Lodge to see how the system operates on a day to day basis. Unfortunately, due to some technical issues, there had been a delay in launching the new control room and this had affected any site visits to the venue.

The Chairman was therefore pleased to report that the visit to view the new control room had taken place on the previous day and was attended by a number of Members and Officers. She informed the Panel that the site visit was extremely interesting and informative and enabled those participating in the visit to obtain an insight into how the cameras are used, how it is monitored and the quality of the system.

The Chairman briefly described the layout of the control room which contained

a large number of flat screen monitors along one wall and various desk monitors. The control room operatives demonstrated to the group how the cameras can zoom in to face level as and when required whilst retaining exceptional image quality.

The group were able to ask questions of the control room operatives and Mike Manley, Emergency Planning and CCTV Officer from Newark and Sherwood District Council was also on hand to take questions regarding the system and discuss how things were moving forward.

The Chairman then welcomed to the meeting Rebecca Whitehead, Community Protection Manager and Chris Parkes, Community Protection Team Leader who were in attendance to give an overview of how the Council is currently using CCTV, the location of the cameras and scope for any improvements.

The Community Protection Manager informed the Panel that the CCTV provision in Ashfield was part of a collaborative arrangement with Newark and Sherwood District Council and Broxtowe Borough Council with the control room relocating from Kelham Hall to the Police Headquarters at Sherwood Lodge.

The Panel were advised that the monitor wall in the new control room was made up of 12 monitors and at any time 26 Ashfield cameras (out of a total of 160 cameras) were permanently displayed equating to 24% of the overall display. The cameras were monitored 24 hours each and every day and in addition the control room staff provide a 24 hour contact centre for some of the Council's out-of-hours services.

As part of the collaborative arrangement Ashfield District Council have 29 wireless CCTV cameras across the 3 town centres and other key locations (parks and car parks). In addition, there are 2 rapid deployable cameras that can be moved to hot spot locations as necessary.

The Community Protection Manager reported that the locations of the CCTV cameras around the District had recently been discussed. A number of cameras had been repositioned due to Town Centre improvement works and she was pleased to report that the Community Protection Team Leader had successfully overseen the installation of a CCTV camera at Sutton Lawn.

The Community Protection Manager advised the Panel that the Emergency Planning and CCTV Officer from Newark and Sherwood District Council was keen to set up Leadership Team meetings to enable the shared service partners to discuss and review the service provision.

The Community Protection Manager added that the CCTV system was extremely efficient and it was essential that the footage and information gathered was used proactively.

Panel Members then took the opportunity to ask questions of the Community Protection Manager and Community Protection Team Leader and in doing so discussed the following:-

- The level of charges incurred by the Council for the supply of electricity to the lighting columns for the CCTV cameras;
- The analysis of CCTV data and subsequent actions;
- The potential to invest in studies to deter and reduce acts of crime and disorder;
- The need to advertise and raise public awareness of the fact that CCTV cameras are in operation;
- Life expectancy of the existing CCTV cameras;
- The potential to seek financial assistance from the Police towards the upgrade/replacement of CCTV cameras
- CCTV provision in the Rural areas;
- Maintenance programme for the upkeep of the CCTV cameras;
- The opportunity to purchase additional rapid deployable cameras to be used between the partnership as required.

As part of the discussion the Chairman referred Members to the Terms of Reference for the review which was to enable Members to gain an understanding of CCTV within Ashfield, how it contributes to the Council's Corporate Priorities and consider the impact they have within the community.

Members were asked to address the objectives identified in the agreed Terms of Reference to progress the review forward. Members acknowledged that CCTV was a popular tool for promoting community safety, reducing the fear of crime as well as detection and deterrent purposes.

The Scrutiny and Democratic Services Manager added that further discussions with the relevant parties would be required to enable the review to progress and suggested that an informal meeting be arranged to facilitate this course of action.

Following conclusion of the debate, the Chairman took the opportunity to thank all Members present, the Community Protection Manager and Community Protection Team Leader for their valuable contributions towards the Panel's review.

RESOLVED that

- a) an officer from the Council's Commercialism Team be invited to attend an informal meeting to offer their expertise in relation to any potential income opportunities within the commercial/private sector to provide CCTV monitoring and response services through the control room;
- b) officers from both the Council's Licensing and Planning Teams be invited to attend an informal meeting to offer advice regarding the potential for securing mandatory provision of CCTV for various types of business/commercial premises through its licensing and planning

processes, thus endeavouring to increase coverage and help support future crime prevention measures within the District;

- c) an invite be extended to the Council's Community Protection Manager and Community Protection Team Leader to attend an informal meeting to provide an overview of the current CCTV provision and assist the Panel with the review and its possible outcomes;
- d) an invite be extended to the Community Protection Manager and Emergency Planning and CCTV Officer from Newark and Sherwood to attend an informal meeting to enable Members to gain an understanding of the activities undertaken in the development of their CCTV commercialism plan;
- e) an invite be extended to the Police as a stakeholder to attend an informal meeting to provide their views/perspective on how CCTV can help to support crime prevention measures, address anti-social behaviour, provide a crime and anti-social behaviour deterrent and assist with crime investigations;
- f) in readiness for the informal meeting Panel Members be requested to compile a list of questions they would like to ask and forward these on to the Scrutiny and Democratic Services Manager or the Democratic Services Officer accordingly;
- g) following the informal meeting and based on the findings of the Panel, the Scrutiny and Democratic Services Manager be requested to prepare a set of recommendations to be submitted to Cabinet for consideration.

The meeting closed at 7.30 p.m.

Chairman.