

**ASHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL**



Council Offices,  
Urban Road,  
Kirkby in Ashfield  
Nottingham  
NG17 8DA

## Agenda

### **Scrutiny Panel B**

Date: **Wednesday, 18th October, 2017**

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Time: **6.30 pm**

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Venue: **Committee Room, Council Offices, Urban Road,  
Kirkby-in-Ashfield**

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For any further information please contact:

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# **SCRUTINY PANEL B**

## **Membership**

**Chairman:** Councillor Helen Hollis

**Vice-Chairman:** Councillor Mike Smith

**Councillors:**

Rachel Bissett

Glenys Maxwell

Christine Quinn-Wilcox

Sam Wilson

Christian Chapman

Lauren Mitchell

Paul Roberts

## **FILMING/AUDIO RECORDING NOTICE**

This meeting may be subject to filming or audio recording. If you have any queries regarding this, please contact Members' Services on 01623 457316.

## **SUMMONS**

You are hereby requested to attend a meeting of the Scrutiny Panel B to be held at the time/place and on the date mentioned above for the purpose of transacting the business set out below.



**R. Mitchell**  
**Chief Executive**

## **AGENDA**

**Page**

1. To receive apologies for absence, if any.
2. **Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary or Personal Interests and Non Disclosable Pecuniary/Other Interests.**
3. To approve as a correct record the minutes of a meeting of the Panel held on 19th July, 2017. 5 - 8
4. Introduction to Scrutiny Review of CCTV. 9 - 14

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## SCRUTINY PANEL B

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

on Wednesday, 19th July, 2017 at 6.30 pm

**Present:** Councillor Helen Hollis in the Chair;

Councillors Rachel Bissett, David Griffiths  
(substitute for Lauren Mitchell), Rachel Madden,  
Glenys Maxwell, Christine Quinn-Wilcox,  
Paul Roberts and Mike Smith.

**Apologies for Absence:** Councillors Lauren Mitchell and Sam Wilson.

**Officers Present:** Chris Booth, Mike Joy and Julie Robinson.

### **SB.1 Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary or Personal Interests and Non Disclosable Pecuniary/Other Interests**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **SB.2 Minutes**

RESOLVED

that the minutes of the meeting of the Panel held on 7<sup>th</sup> February, 2017 be received and approved as a correct record.

### **SB.3 Scrutiny Review - Introduction to Pest Control**

The Chairman introduced the item and advised the Panel that as part of the Scrutiny Workplan consultation, Members had approved Pest Control, with a particular focus on street vermin, as a topic that would benefit from scrutiny consideration.

As part of the preparatory work, the Chairman reported that she had recently accompanied one of the Pest Control Officers for a morning visiting a number of premises in order to obtain a greater understanding of the role and the work undertaken by the team. The Chairman commented that the experience was both helpful and enlightening and the Pest Control Officer had been extremely professional and knowledgeable in his work.

The Scrutiny Manager informed the Panel that the topic was added to the Scrutiny Workplan to gain a more detailed understanding of the services provided by Pest Control, consideration of whether there was an increase in the reporting of street vermin and if any improvements could be made.

At this meeting Members of the Panel were being asked to consider the information both provided in the report and presented to them.

To assist with the review, the Council's Environmental Health Manager was in attendance and proceeded to give a presentation to the Panel in relation to the Pest Control Service.

The Environmental Health Manager informed the Panel that the Team responsible for Pest Control comprised of two Pest Control Officers and a Team Leader (Commercial).

The services provided by the Team included:-

- Control of rats and mice
- Control of pigeons
- Commercial contracts
- Treatment for cockroaches, bedbugs, squirrels, moles, wasps, ants and other insect pests

The Environmental Health Manager informed the Panel that this authority currently charges a set fee of £60 for rat or mice control (x3 visits). However, some neighbouring authorities including Newark and Sherwood and Bassetlaw no longer provide a pest control service to residents.

The Environmental Health Manager advised the Panel that in accordance with the Prevention of Damage By Pests Act 1949, every local authority has a duty to take such steps as may be necessary to secure so far as is practicable that their District is kept free from rats and mice and in particular:-

1. Carry out such inspections as may be necessary.
2. Destroy rats and mice on Council land/property.
3. Enforce these duties on owners/occupiers.

In addition, under the Act it is the duty of the occupier to notify the local authority in writing if they become aware of substantial numbers of rats and mice on their property. Local authorities can consequently request that owners/occupiers carry out relevant treatments for rats or mice, undertake structural repairs and remove waste and harbourage.

Furthermore, in accordance with the Public Health Act 1936, local authorities can request that owners/occupiers of filthy and verminous premises destroy or remove vermin/rats or mice and thereafter cleanse the premises. The Environmental Health Manager assured the Panel that the Council would provide help and support to residents where necessary to remove waste from their premises.

Members were also asked to note the Service Excellence and Customer Satisfaction accreditations that have been awarded to the Pest Control Service. The service provided is also endorsed by Which? Trusted Trader, ensuring that the authority can be trusted to provide services tailored to meet the needs of the client which are fair and fit for purpose.

The Environmental Health Manager also took the opportunity to refer to Commercialisation with regard to the Pest Control Service. He advised the Panel that most services provided within the Pest Control Service were now fee based (before April, 2013 there was no charge for the treatments for rats and mice in domestic premises). The Council also deal with many commercial contracts and currently nearly 90 commercial contracts are in place.

The Environmental Health Manager emphasised that developing income to cover the costs of providing the service was essential to enable the service to continue. Figures for the net cost and income for the Pest Control Service indicated that the net cost was at its lowest to date.

In order to expand Commercialisation the Council was looking at diversification into other areas such as:-

- Pest proofing of businesses
- Clean and clear of houses/gardens
- Boarding up of premises
- Cleaning and disinfecting of filthy and verminous premises

To conclude, the Environmental Health Manager reported that the Pest Control Service provides a number of community benefits to residents. The professional service provided is recognised as being excellent value for money with positive feedback being received from customers.

Proactive work continues and this includes assisting the Council's Enforcement Officers to take action where necessary and working with Schools and local Community Groups to highlight pest/waste issues.

Panel Members then took the opportunity to ask questions of the Environmental Health Manager and in doing so discussed the following:-

- The most common type of rats within the District , what attracts them onto land and whether there were any 'hotspots' in the District;
- Does the District have a problem with cockroaches?
- Would the Council consider providing a Pest Control Service for neighbouring authorities to secure additional income?
- The current charges for Pest Control Services and the potential for discounts for certain groups;
- Promotion of the Pest Control Service via advertising/leaflets, social media and in Notice Boards;
- Education needs to play a key role to encourage awareness of the problems associated with pests and to ensure that good practice methods are always used;
- Collaborative working with the Waste Disposal Team to encourage responsible disposal of waste (flyers or notices on refuse bins could be distributed for this purpose);
- The enforcement process and outcomes.

(At this point in the proceedings Councillor Rachel Madden left the meeting at 7.30 p.m. during consideration of the above item).

Following conclusion of the presentation and debate, the Chairman took the opportunity to thank the Environmental Health Manager for his informative presentation and valuable contributions towards the Panel's review.

Members acknowledged that the Pest Control Service was run by helpful, experienced and knowledgeable fully qualified pest controllers who offered a professional service at all times. Consequently, all Members agreed that the current service provided was fit for purpose and promoted good practice.

#### RESOLVED

that the following recommendations be submitted to the next available meeting of the Cabinet for consideration:-

- a) Cabinet be requested to explore the promotion of the Pest Control Service via Notice Boards and advertising on refuse bins to highlight the importance of pest control/sensible disposal of waste;
- b) consideration be given to the development of an Education Programme to encourage schools, community groups and local residents to understand the importance of pest control issues;
- c) Councillors be requested to be more focused on pest control issues within their Wards;
- d) consideration be given to using social media as a communications channel to promote and advertise the Pest Control Service;
- e) Cabinet be requested to explore the expansion of commercialisation to enable the Pest Control Service to be offered to neighbouring authorities who currently do not provide this service in-house.

The meeting closed at 7.37 p.m.

Chairman.



<b>Report To:</b>	<b>SCRUTINY PANEL B</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>18 OCTOBER 2017</b>
<b>Heading:</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION TO SCRUTINY REVIEW OF CCTV</b>		
<b>Portfolio Holder:</b>	<b>SAFER STRONGER COMMUNITIES</b>		
<b>Ward/s:</b>	<b>ALL</b>		
<b>Key Decision:</b>	<b>NO</b>		
<b>Subject to Call-In:</b>	<b>NO</b>		

## **Purpose Of Report**

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee approved a review of CCTV at a meeting held on the 10 September 2017. The purpose of the review is to gain an understanding of CCTV, how it contributes to the Council's Corporate Priorities and consider the impact they have within the Community. This report provides an introduction to CCTV, outlining purpose, coverage and benefits.

Furthermore, Attached as Appendix A is a draft Terms of Reference for consideration at the meeting.

## **Recommendation(s)**

- Note the information contained in this report
- Agree a clear terms of reference, with anticipated value of the review
- Identify any further information required to carry out the review

## **Reasons for Recommendation(s)**

CCTV was added to the Scrutiny Workplan in September 2017.

## **Alternative Options Considered (With Reasons Why Not Adopted)**

No alternative options considered yet, any considerations following the review will be detailed to a report to Cabinet in due course.

## **Detailed Information**

### **What CCTV coverage do we have?**

As part of the strategy to make Ashfield a safer, healthier and more successful area, Ashfield District Council maintains a public space CCTV system. There are 29 wireless CCTV cameras

across the 3 town centres and other key locations. In addition there are 2 cameras than can be moved to hot spot locations.

The cameras are monitored 24 hours each and every day at a state of the art control room sited within Nottinghamshire Police headquarters. In addition the control room staff provide a 24hr contact centre for some of the council out-of-hours services.

To make best use of resources, Ashfield District Council have a collaborative arrangement with Newark and Sherwood District Council and Broxtowe Borough Council. Nottinghamshire Police are additional key stakeholders and have direct access to images in the event of an emergency situation. For comparison NSDC have 79 cameras and BBC have 63 cameras.

Ashfield District Council CCTV function is managed by the Community Protection service as part of the Place and Communities Directorate.

### **What the system is used For**

CCTV is a popular tool for promoting community safety and reducing the fear of crime. The use of CCTV as a tool to deter, detect and assist operations against crime has grown enormously. There are an estimated 4.2 million CCTV cameras in Britain with a growing realisation and acceptance of their likely contribution to reducing crime.

As well as detection uses, CCTV is also considered to have preventative/deterrent and reassurance effects. It can make people and communities feel safer and many have considerable confidence in its deterrent value. CCTV is most beneficial when used in conjunction with other crime reduction measures and adapted to local setting and needs.

Overall, CCTV can;

- Prevent crime from happening by early identification of risk, opportunity and potential crime hotspots
- Provide an increased rate of prosecution of offenders using CCTV pictures as evidence
- Contribute towards the package of measures detecting and reducing crime like policing, lighting and the overall environment and regeneration of an area
- Provide reassurance to the public and reduce the fear of crime

Ashfield District Council use CCTV for the following purposes;

- Protecting areas and premises
- Deterring and detecting crime and anti-social behaviour;
- Assisting in the identification of offenders leading to their arrest and successful prosecution or other appropriate action;
- Reducing fear of crime, anti-social behaviour and aggression;
- Maintaining and enhancing the commercial viability of the directly monitored locations and encouraging continued investment.

Whilst performance information is collected on CCTV activity, there is no reliable way to report how many offences were prevented through the deterrent effect. It is also difficult to report the confidence gained by visitors to the town centres or quantify the risk of reduction in visitor confidence or numbers if CCTV were removed.

## **What benefit does it bring?**

CCTV can help to support crime prevention measures, address anti-social behaviour, improves the quality of residents' lives, provides a crime and anti-social behaviour deterrent and assists with crime investigations.

Despite many contradictory international evaluations of the benefits of CCTV the most recent meta-analysis indicates that CCTV can have a positive effect on crime reduction.

The Police College 'What works' centre provides a national resource to inform decision makers on the merits of various crime reduction strategies. Research suggests the crime reduction is achieved through the deterrent effect and not necessarily the detection of offences.

There are also case studies that demonstrate the significant contribution that can be made to investigation of very serious crimes or the search for missing persons. Thankfully these are rare events and therefore it is not always possible to provide local case studies.

Recent concerns regarding protecting our town centres and other potentially crowded places from terrorist attacks has reinforced the potential benefits of CCTV. The National Surveillance Commissioner has expressed concern that a number of local authorities have reduced their CCTV coverage as a response to austerity.

## **Next Steps**

In progressing this review, Members of the Panel should consider;

- Discuss and agree the Draft Terms of Reference (attached as Appendix A);
- Identify required information list, including statistics, research & benchmarking;
- Specify any expert witnesses;
- Consider possibility of a site visit;
- Consider any public feedback required.

## **Implications**

### **Corporate Plan:**

Communities and Environment;

- Ensure the foundations for a good quality of life are in place; reducing crime and anti-social behaviour and facilitating cleaner and more attractive neighbourhoods
- Work with our partners to ensure we deliver services centred on the needs of people and places, rather than existing teams, agencies or institutions

### **Legal:**

In addition to Council policies, procedures, guidelines and Codes of Practice, CCTV and its operation are subject to legislation under:

- Government codes of practice.
- The Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA).
- The Human Rights Act 1998 (HRA).
- The Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).
- The Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA).
- The Protection of Freedoms Act 2012.

**Finance:**

There are no financial implications arising from this report at this stage of the review, should any be identified during the course of this Scrutiny Review, appropriate advice will be sought from Finance.

Budget Area	Implication
General Fund – Revenue Budget	N/A
General Fund – Capital Programme	N/A
Housing Revenue Account – Revenue Budget	N/A
Housing Revenue Account – Capital Programme	N/A

**Risk:**

Risk	Mitigation
There have been no risks yet identified at this stage of the review, any risks identified will be appropriately considered with consideration given to mitigation actions.	None yet identified.

**Human Resources:**

There are no HR implications identified in this report, any considerations will give attention to HR and seek appropriate advice.

**Equalities**

Consideration of this topic will take into account any equalities issues resulting from the research, findings and subsequent recommendations.

**Other Implications:**

None identified at this stage of the review.

**Report Author and Contact Officer**

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## Appendix A – Draft Terms of Reference

<b>Subject</b>	<b>CCTV</b>
<b>Purpose of Review</b>	The purpose of the review is to gain an understanding of CCTV, how it contributes to the Council's Corporate Priorities and consider the impact they have within the Community.
<b>What the Review will Consider</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Performance</li><li>• Impact</li><li>• Community Perception</li><li>• Best Practice</li></ul>
<b>Methodology</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Information gathering</li><li>• Officer expertise</li><li>• Performance Information</li><li>• Site visit</li></ul>
<b>Desired Outcome</b>	To gain a greater understanding of the impact that CCTV has in; <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reducing crime;</li><li>• investigation and successful prosecution of criminal activity;</li><li>• increasing community perceptions and confidence in Ashfield in relation to safety.</li></ul>
<b>Timescale</b>	October – December 2017

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