

ASHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL



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

Agenda

Scrutiny Panel B

Date: **Thursday, 27th September, 2018**

Time: **7.00 pm**

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

For any further information please contact:

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SCRUTINY PANEL B

Membership

Chairman: Councillor Helen Hollis
Vice-Chairman: Councillor Mick Murphy

Councillors:
Don Davis Cathy Mason
Glenys Maxwell Lauren Mitchell
Christine Quinn-Wilcox

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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

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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 28th June, 2018. 5 - 8
4. Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme. 9 - 12
5. Scrutiny Review of CCTV. 13 - 18

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SCRUTINY PANEL B

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

on Thursday, 28th June, 2018 at 7.00 pm

Present: Councillor Helen Hollis in the Chair;

Councillors Don Davis, Rachel Madden
(substitute for Glenys Maxwell), Cathy Mason,
Lauren Mitchell, Mick Murphy and
Christine Quinn-Wilcox.

Apology for Absence: Councillor Glenys Maxwell.

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

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 22nd March, 2018 be
received and approved as a correct record.

SB.3 Scrutiny Review of CCTV

The Chairman gave a brief overview of the work undertaken to date in relation
to the review of CCTV. The objective for the review was to gain an
understanding of CCTV, how it contributes to the Council's Corporate Priorities
and consider the impact CCTV has within the community.

The Chairman explained that to date the Panel had held two meetings to
discuss the topic whereby Members had sought information to gain an
understanding of Ashfield District Council's CCTV provision, how the service
operates and whether there were further areas that could be explored and
improved to ensure that the CCTV provision within the District was effective
and fit for purpose.

The Chairman also reported that a site visit to the CCTV Control Room at
Sherwood Lodge was undertaken on the 21st March to enable Panel Members
and Officers to gain a better understanding of the system, how it operates, the
staffing resources and examine the quality of the imaging.

Members were advised that the site visit was both interesting and beneficial and provided an insight into how the cameras were used and the quality of imaging that could be obtained, which included being able to zoom in to face level whilst retaining exceptional definition.

The Service Manager – Democratic and Scrutiny Services then proceeded to give a brief update to bring the new Members on the Panel up to speed with the review thus far.

He explained that there were a number of action points that were agreed at the last meeting to progress the review however, due to the change in the political administration of the Council, these had not been undertaken. He assured the Panel that plans were in place to reschedule this work and a series of informal meetings would be held with the Community Protection Team, Commercialism Team and any other relevant Departments to assist the Panel in their deliberations.

Furthermore, a second visit to the CCTV Control Room was being organised for any Panel Member wanting to view the format and ask questions of the operatives based there.

The Service Manager – Democratic and Scrutiny Services also informed the Panel that he had recently met with the Portfolio Holder who has the executive responsibility for Community Safety. Going forward partnership meetings with stakeholders and the Portfolio Holder would be scheduled to discuss any concerns and questions that Members felt were relevant to the review.

Additional information provided by the Service Manager – Community Safety was circulated to Members at the meeting in respect of the CCTV budget for 2017/18 and 2018/19 and data illustrating incident categories and CCTV statistics for the period April 2017 to April 2018.

The Chairman welcomed to the meeting Rebecca Whitehead, the Council's Service Manager – Community Safety who was in attendance to provide an overview of the current CCTV provision and assist the Panel with the review and possible outcomes.

The Service Manager - Community Safety briefly outlined the current position in respect of the provision of CCTV. She explained that Ashfield District Council's CCTV function was managed by the Community Protection Service and was part of a collaborative working arrangement with Newark and Sherwood District Council and Broxtowe Borough Council.

All the CCTV equipment in the District was replaced in 2012 which was an expensive but essential exercise to ensure that the system remained effective and fit for purpose. Ashfield District Council have 29 wireless cameras across the 3 town centres and other key locations. In addition, the use of rapid deployable cameras at hot spot locations are agreed on the basis of partnership need as opposed to reported demand/statistics.

The Service Manager - Community Safety emphasised that CCTV was used to both detect and deter crime and could also make people and communities feel safer.

Panel Members took the opportunity to ask questions of the Service Manager - Community Safety and in doing so discussed the following:-

- CCTV technology and reviews;
- Links with Nottinghamshire Police – should a financial contribution be sought from the Police towards the use/upkeep of the CCTV system?;
- The potential to share information/costs with the Police and other Stakeholders should facial recognition equipment be installed;
- The analysis of data to illustrate the effectiveness of providing CCTV across the District;
- The potential to examine expanding the CCTV collaborative arrangement with other authorities to reduce ongoing costs;
- The current position with regard to the operation of cameras at Junction 27;
- The maintenance programme for the CCTV cameras;
- The criteria established for rolling out rapid deployable cameras;
- The use of covert CCTV;
- The potential to install CCTV dummy cameras in specific areas.

The Chairman thanked the Service Manager - Community Safety for her attendance and contributions towards the scrutiny review.

The Service Manager – Democratic and Scrutiny Services informed the Panel that following the action points being resolved from the last meeting a series of recommendations would be presented to the next meeting of this Panel to consider and thereafter refer to Cabinet for their attention.

RESOLVED that in readiness for the next meeting the Service Manager – Democratic and Scrutiny Services be requested to:-

- a) arrange a further visit to the CCTV Control Room based at Sherwood Lodge to enable Panel Members to view the format and ask questions of the operatives based there;
- b) extend an invitation to the Council's Commercialism Team 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;
- c) extend an invitation to the Council's Planning and Licensing Teams to attend an informal meeting to offer advice regarding the potential for securing mandatory CCTV provision 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;
- d) extend an invitation to the Council's Service Manager - Community Safety to attend an informal meeting to assist the Panel with the review and its possible outcomes;

- e) extend an invitation to the Community Protection Manager and Emergency Planning and CCTV Officer at Newark and Sherwood District Council to attend an informal meeting to brief Members on the activities undertaken in the development of the CCTV commercialism plan;
- f) extend an invitation to the Police as a stakeholder to attend an informal meeting to provide a viewpoint on how CCTV can help to support crime prevention measures, address anti-social behaviour and assist with crime investigations;
- g) Panel Members be requested to compile a series of questions for the informal meeting and forward these on to the Service Manager – Democratic and Scrutiny Services or Democratic Services Team.

The meeting closed at 7.35 p.m.

Chairman.

Report To:	Scrutiny Panel B	Date:	27th September 2018
Heading:	SYRIAN VULNERABLE PERSONS RESETTLEMENT SCHEME (SVPR)		
Portfolio Holder:	PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR HOUSING – CLLR J WILMOTT		
Ward/s:	ALL		
Key Decision:	NO		
Subject to Call-In:			

Purpose of Report

To enable Scrutiny Panel members to consider and review the Council's role in the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement scheme (SVPR).

This report will detail the background to the SVPR, the Council's involvement to date and role going forward.

Recommendation(s)

Members are requested to;

- 1. Take note of the content of this report**
- 2. To consider and comment upon the Council's role in the SVPR**

Reasons for Recommendation(s)

The Council is required to fulfil its obligations in resettling an agreed number of Syrian refugee families. We are part way through this process and so it is a good opportunity to review progress and consider changes and improvements to service.

Alternative Options Considered (With Reasons Why Not Adopted)

None

Detailed Information

Background

On 14th March 2017 the Council accepted its first two refugee families (x2 families of 6) under the Government's Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement scheme (SVPR). A further two families were resettled in Ashfield in November 2017. The families have been identified as

needing resettlement by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and have been nominated for rehousing in the UK.

Under the scheme the Government has committed to resettle up to 20,000 Syrian refugees between 2016 and 2020. The Council has committed to accommodate 46 individuals, this equates to 8 – 10 families.

The SVPR scheme is voluntary for local authorities (LA) but the Government is relying on LA's to help them meet their obligations and there is an expectation that all LA's will participate.

Under the terms of the SVPR refugee families are accommodated for a 5 year period in the first instance. Decisions on whether families stay in this country or return to Syria will be made at the end of their stay.

The Council receives a grant from the Home Office to support each individual refugee. The grant is expected to meet the cost of preparing the properties and for all support that the families need. It is not expected to cover the cost of education (for children) or health services. The annual grant per refugee reduces over the 5 year period, as individual and families become more independent and require less support. There is no financial contribution from the Council or County Council.

Partnership working

The Council works closely with Mansfield District Council (MDC) to coordinate the scheme, drawing on the expertise they have developed by housing SVPR families ahead of us.

In addition, resettlement and community support is provided by Tuntum Housing's Supported Housing Service which has been working with refugees for a number of years.

Faith groups have provided a significant amount of support to the families, providing volunteering opportunities, securing employment for one parent, invitations to social events, support with homework and after school activities.

Housing

Three families have been housed by housing association partners and one in a property acquired by a local church as an investment.

Resettlement and Community support

Families are supported by the Council and its partners to settle into the community and live independently. The support provided includes:

- Sustaining their tenancy
- Claiming benefits
- Learning English
- Accessing employment and training opportunities for the parents
- Settling children into school
- Accessing places of worship
- Understanding English culture
- Getting involved in the local community
- Accessing the health system

All 4 families quickly settled in to the local community. Addressing issues relating to health, language skills, education and income were a priority but very quickly the families moved beyond that and became engaged in social and faith based activities, employment and volunteering.

Within a matter of days the children were playing with others on the street and the parents too have developed a strong bond and very positive relationship with their neighbours and others on their street.

Many of the children have excelled at school, with positive school reports about their standard of English and quality of their school work. Some children have been appointed as prefects had have won awards such as 'pupil of the school'.

Future intake

The Council has committed to resettle a further two families in November 2018 and is working to identify suitable properties for these families. A final two families should arrive in mid 2019.

Lessons learnt

- It is important to support families to become independent and not create dependencies as support is reduced each year
- Community and faith groups are a great source of support though care must be taken to ensure they also enable independence and offer appropriate support
- Reasonable assumptions can be wrong. Concerns about how the families may be received by neighbours and the local community were unfounded. Neighbours have been very supportive and in some cases protective of the families. Likewise, an expectation that the families would develop close relations with one another has not proved to be the case.
- The key to becoming part of the local community and to unlocking opportunities, such as employment, has been language skills. Commencing English language lessons as soon as possible has been important in achieving this.

Implications

Corporate Plan:

The work fits in with our Communities and Environment aim of enabling thriving, prosperous and self-sufficient communities where people shape their own futures

Legal:

No issues identified

Finance:

Budget Area	Implication
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General Fund – Revenue Budget	Not applicable
General Fund – Capital Programme	Not applicable
Housing Revenue Account – Revenue Budget	Not applicable
Housing Revenue Account – Capital Programme	Not applicable

Risk:

Risk	Mitigation
No issues identified	

Human Resources:

No issues identified

Equalities:

No issues identified

Other Implications:

None

Reason(s) for Urgency (if applicable):

Background Papers

Report Author and Contact Officer

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Report To:	SCRUTINY PANEL B	Date:	27 SEPTEMBER 2018
Heading:	SCRUTINY REVIEW OF CCTV		
Portfolio Holder:			
Ward/s:	ALL		
Key Decision:	NO		
Subject to Call-In:	NO		

Purpose of Report

To provide Members of the Panel with a progress update regarding the review of public space CCTV and outline recent developments to the subject area that may impact future discussions in concluding the review in due course.

Recommendation(s)

Members are requested to;

- **Note the information contained in the report;**
- **Discuss the current scope and potential conclusions.**

Reasons for Recommendation(s)

CCTV was added as a review item on the workplan 2018/19.

Alternative Options Considered

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

Detailed Information

The objective for 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”.

In undertaking this review Members have worked with the Service Manager, Community Safety, Community Protection Team Leader and the Emergency Planning and CCTV Officer from Newark

and Sherwood District Council (whom provide CCTV coverage for Ashfield as part of a Partnership arrangement).

At the last meeting of the Panel, Members were provided with additional information in respect of the CCTV budget for 2017/18 and 2018/19 and data illustrating incident categories and CCTV statistics for the period April 2017 to April 2018.

Ashfield District Council's CCTV coverage is provided through a Service Level Agreement arrangement with Newark and Sherwood District Council. In addition to supplying Ashfield District Council's CCTV Coverage, Newark and Sherwood also supply, monitor and maintain coverage for Broxtowe Borough Council.

As part of the agreement, Ashfield District Council have 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.

In addition to Newark and Sherwood, Ashfield and Broxtowe, the Police are additional key stakeholders and have direct access to images in the event of an emergency situation. For comparison, Newark and Sherwood District Council have 79 cameras and Broxtowe Borough Council have 63 cameras. Ashfield District Council CCTV function is managed by the Community Protection Service as part of the Place and Communities Directorate.

Action Point

Members of the Panel have already undertaken a site visit to Sherwood Lodge (CCTV Control Room) to gain an understanding of the system, how it is used, staffing, type of monitoring and quality of imaging. Members may wish to consider an additional visit on the evening to gain an understanding of the types of issues faced during an evening and how they are dealt with/ responded to.

Location of Cameras

As part of the initial discussions, Members of the Panel were interested as to how the camera locations are chosen, how often they are reviewed and scope for being more reactive to issues as they arise through the use of the deployable cameras (2).

Members were informed that 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 Sutton Lawn had recently had a CCTV camera installed.

During a visit to the CCTV Control Room, Members were informed of all of the locations for Ashfield District Council's CCTV Units.

Action Point

Members may wish to discuss in further detail the locations for the cameras covering Ashfield, exploring activity per camera (incidents), added value of the location and any further locations that are not currently covered.

Members are aware from the work already carried out that relocation of any current camera would incur a cost and this should be considered in any future discussion relating to location.

Performance Management

The purpose of the community safety CCTV cameras is to reduce crime and the fear of crime. The Panel have already discussed the need to ensure that performance information is available and transparent to both Elected Members and the community on a regular basis.

Regular information on CCTV and incidents recorded would be beneficial to Elected Members in their communities, allowing changes in numbers and nature of incidents to be identified quickly and discussed with appropriate officers / Committees.

Action Point

Further discussions with the Service Manager, Community Protection regarding the best way to report information, frequency and appropriate forums.

Communications and Public Perceptions

In considering this topic, Members of the Panel have discussed public perceptions of CCTV and ways in which Ashfield District Council can improve communications on the use of CCTV.

Members agreed that if CCTV cameras are to reduce fear of crime then the public must be aware of the cameras' presence. National research on the impact that CCTV has on public perceptions has highlighted the important role that the media play in forming public opinions and their support for CCTV in the context of crime. This can assist in the positive public perception of cameras, particularly in their use in identifying perpetrators of crime, prevention and the feeling of safety.

In addition, Members of the Panel were also informed that CCTV had also been used to try to locate missing people.

Action Point

Members may wish to consider how the districts use of CCTV is communicated and whether there are any improvements that could be made to develop greater public awareness of the various CCTV systems in place and their purposes through the use of;

- The Press
- Social Media
- Website

Other Considerations

Further areas for consideration by the Panel could include:

- Widening the Scope from Public Space CCTV to include other areas including Body Worn Video and partners use of CCTV;
- Future changes and requirements from the Information Commissioner;
- Further discussions with the Portfolio Holder
- Timeline for completing the review

Implications

Corporate Plan:

Communities and Environment;

- Ensure the foundations for a good quality of life are in place; reducing crime and antisocial 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	None
General Fund – Capital Programme	None
Housing Revenue Account – Revenue Budget	None
Housing Revenue Account – Capital Programme	None

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.

Reason(s) for Urgency

None

Reason(s) for Exemption

None

Report Author and Contact Officer

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