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

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.

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Appendix A – Draft Terms of Reference

| Subject | CCTV |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Purpose of Review | 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. |
| What the Review will Consider | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Performance• Impact• Community Perception• Best Practice |
| Methodology | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Information gathering• Officer expertise• Performance Information• Site visit |
| Desired Outcome | To gain a greater understanding of the impact that CCTV has in; <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reducing crime;• investigation and successful prosecution of criminal activity;• increasing community perceptions and confidence in Ashfield in relation to safety. |
| Timescale | October – December 2017 |