

Report To:	SCRUTINY PANEL B	Date:	22 MARCH 2018
Heading:	SCRUTINY REVIEW OF CCTV		
Portfolio Holder:			
Ward/s:	ALL		
Key Decision:	NO		
Subject to Call-In:	NO		

Purpose of Report

This topic was added to the Scrutiny Workplan to gain an understanding of CCTV, how it contributes to the Council's Corporate Priorities and consider the impact they have within the Community.

The Panel held an introductory meeting on this topic in October 2017 to agree the terms of reference and discuss the topic with the interim Community Safety Manager. At that meeting Members expressed an interest in a site visit to view the control centre and see how it operates on a day to day basis. Whilst this visit was postponed due to a delay in the official launch, it has now been arranged for Wednesday 21 March. This report aims to focus Members on how to progress the review forward to address the objectives identified in the Terms of Reference.

Recommendation(s)

- Note the information contained in this report
- Discuss the outcomes of the site visit
- 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

At the last meeting of the Panel in consideration of this topic Members agreed that the terms of reference would be 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 doing so, Members are interested in;

- Performance – How many incidents are captured, and how many lead to prosecutions
- Impact – in choosing locations has there been any demonstrable reduction in crime where cameras are located
- Community Perception – what impact does CCTV have with the community and their perceptions of safety
- Best Practice – How do other authorities utilise CCTV to reduce crime and the perceptions of Crime

Ashfield District Council’s CCTV Coverage

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.

Performance Information

Newark and Sherwood Council provide monitoring reports on request on the number of incidents and how they were captured monthly. Appendix A gives a breakdown for Ashfield by category for 2017.

It demonstrates that over all crime categories reported, CCTV captured or reported 17.25% of reported crime in the area. This accounted for 64 out of 371 incidents. Crime reported through CCTV peaked during November and December 2017 (30.56% & 30.95%).

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.

A representative from Newark and Sherwood has confirmed that the specifics of performance information can be extracted to suit each authority. Members may wish to consider what type of information would be most useful for consideration of this topic and for future monitoring.

The Shared Service

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 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.

Why Does Ashfield Have a CCTV System

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.

CCTV – Legislation, Data Protection and Security

CCTV is provided for the benefit of the community - to deter and detect acts of crime and disorder. The Shared Service CCTV system is run in accordance with data protection and human rights legislation and never to the detriment of any individual. The CCTV system is also run in line with a code of practice.

All activities and incidents covered within the control room are logged. Access to the control room is restricted and regular visits and inspections of are made by an independent inspector.

To advertise and warn people of CCTV, all areas with cameras have signs with a contact number in case of complaint or query. To ensure that no camera can see into a private property, an automatic 'privacy zone' blanks out the images within the windows.

The Surveillance Camera Commissioner has issued a Surveillance Camera Code of Practice under the Freedoms Act 2012. It provides guidance on the appropriate and effective use of surveillance camera systems by relevant authorities. The Council is defined as a relevant authority by Section 33 of the Act, and as such must have regard to the code when exercising any functions to which the code relates.

The stated purpose of the Surveillance Camera Code of Practice is to ensure that individuals and wider communities have confidence that surveillance cameras are deployed to protect and support them, and ensure there is no misuse or abuse. That wherever overt surveillance cameras are in a public place, the cameras are placed in pursuit of a legitimate aim, necessary to meet a pressing need, and compliant with legislation.

The code of practice sets out 12 guiding principles, creating a framework to ensure operators and users of surveillance camera systems do so in a proportionate and transparent manner, and systems are, whilst capable of providing good quality images and other information which is fit for purpose, consistent with a legitimate aim and pressing need. Any system should achieve the most appropriate balance between public protection and individual privacy.

Adherence to the code significantly supports legal obligations under the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012, to protect personal data under the Data Protection Act 1998 and to adherence of Article 8 of the Human Rights Act 1998 – right to respect for private and family life.

Public Perceptions of CCTV

Members may wish to consider how best to gain public perceptions of CCTV of safety and crime issues and the impact that CCTV has in their area / Town. There are a number of different ways which can be explored to facilitate this including;

- Internet / social media questionnaire
- Utilising the Citizens Panel
- Questionnaire to local businesses etc

Next Steps

Unfortunately due to schedules, a representative from Newark and Sherwood District Council is unavailable to attend the Panel meeting but has offered to attend at a later date. The Panel may wish to consider holding a working group meeting with all identified attendees on a date to be discussed.

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

- Site Visit – Scheduled for Wednesday 21 March, Members of the Panel have been contacted accordingly
- Identify any required further information, including statistics, research & benchmarking;
- Specify any further expert witnesses;
- 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 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	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.

Reason(s) for Urgency

None

Reason(s) for Exemption

None

Report Author and Contact Officer

Mike Joy Mike Manley
Scrutiny Manager Community Protection Manager
m.joy@ashfield.gov.uk m.manley@ashfield.gov.uk
01623 457232