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Report of The Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods Directorate

Meeting: North East (Outer) Area Committee

Date: 6th July 2010

Subject: CCTV Report – for Leeds City Council Community Safety CCTV Service in North East (Outer) Area Committee

Electoral Wards Affected:

☐ Ward Members consulted
(referred to in report)

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity ☐

Community Cohesion ☐

Narrowing the Gap ☐

Council
Function

☐

Delegated Executive
Function available for Call
In

☒

Delegated Executive
Function not available for
Call In Details set out in the
report

☐

Executive Summary

This is a six monthly report prepared by Leeds City Council's Community Safety CCTV service that provides a monitoring service of public space surveillance cameras (i.e. fixed CCTV cameras in open spaces across Leeds), 24 hour per day, 365 day per year. The service also provides two mobile CCTV vans for deployment within communities across Leeds.

The purpose of public space CCTV is to reduce crime and the fear of crime by facilitating in the apprehension and prosecution of offenders and assisting in the prevention and detection of crime committed in public areas in Leeds.

1.0 Introduction & purpose of report

- 1.1 This report sets out to highlight the services provided by Leeds City Council Community Safety CCTV to demonstrate the effectiveness of the service in

reducing the fear of crime and facilitating the apprehension and detection of offenders in areas covered by both mobile and fixed CCTV cameras.

- 1.2 The service has two mobile CCTV vans which are deployed using appropriate intelligence gathering information in conjunction with the police and other council enforcement services in identified locations throughout Leeds area.

2.0 Background

2.1 Service Description

- 2.1.1 Leeds City Council Community Safety CCTV is currently in a transition period of moving into new premises and upgrading the current analogue video recording system to a new digital recording system.
- 2.1.2 A suitable site has been procured and work is currently being undertaken in building a new control room and procuring a digital CCTV recording system.
- 2.1.3 Leeds City Council Community Safety CCTV work in partnership with other council enforcement departments, emergency planning, Urban Traffic Control (UTC) and the police.
- 2.1.4 Community Safety CCTV complies with a strict Code of Practice which is compliant with the following legislation:
- The 'Data Protection Act'
 - Human Rights legislation
 - Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA)
 - The Private Security Industry Act 2001.
- 2.1.5 The Private Security Industry Act ensures that all CCTV staff are security vetted, trained and licensed by the Security Industry Authority (SIA) to operate the public space surveillance cameras.
- 2.1.6 Community Safety CCTV received accreditation to monitor the police national digital communication system (radio) known as Airwave, which has proven to be an effective tool. It enables CCTV operators to record valuable evidence at incidents prior to police arrival and the images being recorded are relayed to the police control room.
- 2.1.7 Community Safety CCTV are security accredited to monitor the police national digital communication system (radio) known as Airwave, which has proven to be an effective tool. It enables CCTV operators to record valuable evidence at incidents prior to police arrival and the images being recorded are relayed to the police control room for their information.
- 2.1.8 The department works closely with other council enforcement, emergency planning departments and the police in relation to dealing with crime and anti social behaviour in the Leeds area.

- 2.1.9 The department also monitors the Business Against Crime In Leeds (BACIL) radio. This is a licensed radio system that is utilised by many of the city centre shops and the licensed trade to inform other businesses of incidents of interest to other businesses. Monitoring this radio system has also proved to be an effective tool in dealing with crime.

2.2 Description of Delegated Function / Enhanced role

- 2.2.1 CCTV provides reassurance to the public and helps reduce crime, the fear of crime and assists in detecting crime in areas covered by CCTV.
- 2.2.2 The service works in partnership with the police and other council services to target crime and anti social behaviour. They also work closely with Area Management, Divisional Community Safety Partnerships (DCSPs) and Neighbourhood Policing Teams (NPT's) on multi-agency operations.
- 2.2.3 There are 25 CCTV operators who monitor over 300 cameras across Leeds with a further 4 mobile CCTV operators to carry out the 24/7 operations every day of the year.
- 2.2.4 The police provide dedicated CCTV liaison officers to support each of the three police divisions and other law enforcement agencies in Leeds. The liaison officers have the responsibility for viewing and seizing images of crime and public disorder for evidential purposes.
- 2.2.5 Other relevant council departments also have dedicated CCTV liaison officers who also have a responsibility for viewing and seizing images of CCTV evidence to support council prosecutions.
- 2.2.6 Leeds City Council Community Safety CCTV contributes in partnership initiatives e.g. Neighbourhood Policing Team's (NPT) activity, Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) operations and Anti Social Behaviour Unit (ASBU) activity. Community Safety CCTV contributes to the overall crime reduction and reassurance agenda at area level through Divisional Community Safety Partnerships (DCSP).
- 2.2.7 The service produces a weekly CCTV report which is sent to Ward Members, Enforcement, ASBU, Area Management and West Yorkshire Police.

2.3 Role and Responsibilities of the Area Committee

- 2.3.1 Area Committees, where appropriate, have approved capital fund spending regarding the installation of public space surveillance CCTV cameras. The installation of such cameras can never be considered a stand alone option in the fight against crime and they must be considered as part of a local strategy to address crime and disorder and allaying the fear of crime. The installation of CCTV systems is a long term investment which requires continued financial support in relation to the annual revenue costs..
- 2.3.2 Area Committees may wish to consider developing or enhancing CCTV coverage in specific areas to tackle crime and disorder, the service will

provide details of the full cost of funding such projects when requested to do so and offer appropriate advice concerning such installation projects.

- 2.3.3 Area Committees via the Area Community Safety Co-Ordinator and Neighbourhood Policing Team Inspector, can request that the mobile vans be deployed in specific areas for crime prevention, crime detection, allaying the fear of crime and to combat anti-social behaviour or to take part in partnership initiatives.

2.4 Contributing to Delivery of the Leeds Strategic Plan Targets and Outcomes

- 2.4.1 The service is contributing to the delivery of Leeds Strategic Plan via
- Council Business Plan 2008-2011
 - Area Delivery Plans
 - Safer Leeds Annual Plan
 - Divisional Community Safety Partnership Plans
 - Safer Leeds Service Plan
 - Crime & Disorder Act 1998
- 2.4.2 The service contributes to the delivery of other council departmental strategic plans such as ASBU, Enforcement, Peace and Emergency Planning, Land Drainage, Licensing, Security Services, Planning Department, Highways, ALMO's and Area Management.
- 2.4.3 Leeds City Council Community Safety CCTV have CCTV links to METRO, Bradford, Wakefield, Huddersfield and Calderdale local authorities and share images with the police, Urban Traffic Control, Land Drainage and Peace & Emergency Planning.

3.0 The Service at Area Committee level

3.1 Area Profile of the Service

- 3.1.1 All Departmental members of staff have been security vetted and the Department has been security accredited to utilise the police digital communication system known as Airwave. The ability to listen and react to police radio transmissions has proved to be effective in the fight against crime and anti-social behaviour.
- 3.1.2 Within the CCTV control room additional police equipment has been installed as part of the working partnership in crime prevention, detection and allaying the fear of crime such as Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR).
- 3.1.3 The Department also has two mobile CCTV vans which are also fitted with ANPR equipment which are used in partnership working in conjunction with the police and other council enforcement services in identified locations throughout Leeds area.

3.2 Area based Service Priorities and contributions to the Area Committee's Area Delivery Plan for 2010 / 2011

- 3.2.1 Leeds City Council Community Safety CCTV camera operators have the ability to respond to record evidence at any incidents that the police have been informed about or where they are attending in areas where there are public space surveillance CCTV cameras as a result of monitoring the police digital communications system (Airwave). This allows evidence to be obtained as the incident is ongoing and images of the incident are also relayed to the police control room.
- 3.2.2 Using intelligence information there is also the ability to monitor identified areas via various formats;
- Crime Reduction Partnerships
 - Residents Groups
 - Community Groups
 - Tasking meetings
 - Vehicle Crime Sub Group
 - Drugs and Robbery Sub Group
 - Robbery Analysis Group
 - Transit Robberies Group
 - Acquisitive Serious Crime Group

3.3 Customer and community engagement

- 3.3.1 Strong partnership working underpins the activity of the Safer Leeds Partnership in making Leeds a safer place to live and work. Leeds City Council Community Safety CCTV is actively involved with all partners (internal and external) in 'Operation Champion'.
- 3.3.2 Leeds City Council Community Safety CCTV control room is situated in a secure environment and cannot actively engage directly with the community at its workplace; however the mobile CCTV vans are deployed at partnership community events (including the annual 'Face the People' event).
- 3.3.3 Communities place an active role in influencing the installation of CCTV cameras and the deployment of the mobile CCTV vans through partnership meetings, residents groups, Neighbourhood Policing Team meetings or by speaking directly to Councillors.
- 3.3.4 When seeking to fund a new CCTV installation or additional cameras, community consultation is undertaken to support the process. CCTV must be regarded as part of an overall strategy in the prevention and detection of crime and allaying the fear of. It cannot be used as a stand alone tool, but one that complements activity of other agencies and the police.
- 3.3.5 Leeds City Council Community Safety CCTV Codes of Practice have been approved by the council Legal Services and are reviewed annually.

4.0 Performance Management and Reporting

4.1 Baseline Position and key targets for the Service

- 4.1.1 Leeds City Council Community Safety CCTV supports the aim of the 'Safer Leeds' Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership which is 'To secure sustainable reductions in crime and disorder and address the fear of crime in Leeds.'
- 4.1.2 As a department we are committed in working within the national framework to deliver improvements and change at a local level via:
- Effective Leadership
 - Visible and constructive accountability
 - Intelligence-led business processes
 - Effective and response delivery structure
 - Engagement with the communities and
 - Staff having appropriate skills and knowledge
- 4.1.3 'Safer Leeds' has a statutory duty to produce a partnership plan which is aligned with other planning cycles such as the Leeds Area Agreement which supports the delivery of Public Service Agreements (PSA's) relating to crime reduction, community safety and substance misuse.
- 4.1.4 The Leeds Strategic Plan (LSP) 08 – 11 / Council Business Plan highlight the need for 'reduced crime and fear of crime through prevention, detection, offender management and changed behaviour.
- 4.1.5 Leeds City Council Community Safety CCTV is a front line service which supports partners and contributes to these plans by providing evidenced based information to partners about the scale and nature of crime and disorder.

4.2 Other Outcomes for the Area Committee area

- 4.2.1 CCTV is used on a daily basis to reduce crime and the fear of crime by facilitating in the apprehension and prosecution of offenders and assisting in the prevention and detection of crime committed in public areas in Leeds. CCTV Operators receive daily intelligence briefings about highlighted areas of concern.
- 4.2.2 Mobile CCTV vans are deployed throughout the city on a daily basis working alongside Neighbourhood Policing Teams and staff are also given intelligence briefings about the areas of interest they are to patrol in the Leeds areas.

4.3 Reporting Arrangements

- 4.3.1 The service provides weekly reports to all relevant partners and every six months a report is now to be provided to all Area Committees.

5.0 Programme of Activities 2010 / 2011

- 5.1 The service provides a daily monitoring service of the public space surveillance cameras and the mobile vans are deployed within areas identified but the details of that deployment are dependent upon the intelligence information received on a daily basis.

6.0 Implications for Council Policy and Governance

- 6.1 The proposals outlined within this report have no implications on Council Policy as the proposals are in accordance with agreements and existing policies.

7.0 Legal and Resource Implications

- 7.1 As previously mentioned within the report, Leeds City Council Community Safety CCTV is strictly controlled by a Code of Practice outlining the operating procedures in accordance with relevant legislation as previously outlined within this report.

8.0 Equality Considerations

- 8.1 Access to members of the public into the CCTV control room is not allowed for security reasons.
- 8.2 The Service Plan plays a key role in contributing to the delivery of the Equality and Diversity Strategy.

9.0 Any Other Considerations

- 9.1 Leeds City Council Community Safety CCTV services are strictly controlled under the Data Protection Act for the purpose of crime prevention, detection and allaying the fear of crime including environmental crime and cannot be used for any other purpose. The service presently acts as the council CCTV single point of contact for all matters pertaining to CCTV and all enquiries are directed to the CCTV Co-ordinator.
- 9.2 CCTV is an emotive issue; however the public of Leeds, on the whole, are supportive of the Council's use of this technology to reduce crime and the fear of crime. The cameras have a proven track record as a key strategy in crime prevention and detection and allaying the fear of crime.
- 9.3 The average cost for the installation of a single CCTV camera system costs in the region of £22,500 (Capital) and on average continuous annual revenue costs are £4,500 per year. Annual revenue costs cover the cost of the BT line rental, electrics, monitoring and maintenance of the system, but do not include any insurance for damage to the system e.g. motor vehicle collision or vandalism.

10. Conclusions

- 10.1 Community CCTV is a vital component of any crime prevention or reduction strategy. During 2006/2007 CCTV recorded images provided vital evidence which led to over 3,000 arrests, from April 2008 to March 2009 it provided evidence leading to 3,033 arrests and during the last year April 2009 to March 2010 there has been a total of 3,388 known arrests ranging from serious criminal offences such as murder, robbery and burglary to anti- social behaviour incidents.
- 10.2 Leeds City Council Community Safety CCTV provides very high quality images that are of excellent evidential quality.
- 10.3 The mobile vans have been involved in various joint multi agency operations and initiatives with the police and other enforcement agencies.
- 10.4 People have different views on the issue of the use of CCTV, but overall CCTV is popular with the public and its removal would be likely to cause a public and political backlash. In areas where public space surveillance cameras have been removed there is clear evidence to show that crime rates increase and often substantially.

11.0 Recommendations

- 11.1 Committee members can influence the installation of additional CCTV cameras in appropriate identified areas, subject to funds being available.
- 11.2 Area Committees may wish to ensure that appropriate reporting mechanisms are in place to highlight areas of concern within the community to local NPTs. The NPTs also need to ensure that there is a reciprocal line of communication back to the Area Committees and other council departments such as ASBU and enforcement services to ensure that CCTV both fixed and mobile, are effectively used.

Appendix 1

12. Financial Cost breakdown for North East (Outer) Area Committee

- 12.1. There are no charges levied to the North East (Outer) Area Committee regarding public space surveillance cameras.

Appendix 2

13. Summary of incidents reported in the North East (Outer) Area Committee

- 13.1. There have been a total of 12 arrests in the North East (Outer) Area Committee Area in relation to offences of burglary, criminal damage, assaults, and public disorder.
- 13.2 CCTV footage has been used in a further 975 arrests within the North East Leeds Policing area for a various number of other offences. Additionally within the North East (Outer) 12 additional incidents has been seized where evidence has been recorded in relation to crime..

Background Papers

There are no background papers

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