

Report of Chief Officer Property and Contracts, Housing Leeds
Report to Housing Advisory Board
Date: 3rd June 2014
Subject: Housing Leeds multi-storey flats CCTV network

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of main issues

1. The Housing Leeds CCTV system currently covers blocks in East Leeds and, following last years programme completion blocks in South Leeds and a small number in West Leeds
2. Plans have been developed to expand the CCTV network in 2014/15 to cover all remaining blocks in West Leeds.
3. Potential to link the expansion into Superconnected Cities is being explored.

Recommendations

4. Housing Advisory Board is asked to support the proposed expansion of the Housing Leeds CCTV network.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To update Housing Advisory Board on Housing Leeds plans to work with the Council's Leeds Watch service to extend the existing multi-storey flat monitored CCTV system to all cover blocks within the West of the City. This will result in all of the City's blocks having monitored CCTV services in place.

2 Background information

- 2.1 In 2005 Leeds East Homes (LEH) completed installation of a monitored CCTV system at all of the multi-storey blocks that it managed in east Leeds. The system provided a remote concierge service with 24/7 monitoring of internal and external cameras via a mixed microwave and fibre optic network at a self-contained control room located in one of the multi-storey blocks. Around 300 cameras at 50 blocks were connected into the system in the initial installation phase along with cameras at LEH offices and depot.
- 2.2 From 2007 when East North East Homes Leeds (ENEHL) was created the system was expanded to take on blocks that had previously been managed by Leeds South East Homes and Leeds North East Homes to provide area wide coverage. In 2011 a decision was taken to transfer the monitoring function to Leeds Watch to reduce operating costs and better reflect the current demands of the service.
- 2.3 In 2013/14 funding was made available to install CCTV at 5 multi-storey blocks and a Sheltered Housing Scheme in South Leeds (former AVHL area) and 6 multi-storey blocks in West Leeds.
- 2.4 The system, combined with more intensive housing management, has contributed to improved resident satisfaction and security at the blocks. Many anti-social behaviour cases have been resolved with the use of CCTV and West Yorkshire Police have used images in a number of high profile cases. All blocks on the system now have lift cameras in addition to common area cameras and have cabling to the roof which enables a camera to be mounted externally to view surrounding areas.

3 Main issues

- 3.1 The creation of Housing Leeds now means that residents in some multi-storey blocks in parts of the City benefit from a lower level of service in respect of monitored CCTV than those in other areas, with 33 blocks currently not connected to the CCTV network. Monitored CCTV is considered to be integral to effective management of multi-storey blocks, particularly those that are occupied by more challenging residents.
- 3.2 Whilst Leeds Watch are able to monitor images from the Housing Leeds CCTV network, full integration of the system has proved a challenge as a result of the different software operating protocols. Additional work has therefore been commissioned with the software providers to resolve those software integration issues. At the moment connection of the Housing system to Leeds Watch is reliant on a single microwave link and work is underway to improve that resilience

through an increased number of connections potentially including fibre optic. In addition the relocation of the Control Room operating systems from their original base into the Middleton Control Room will help to improve both the resilience and the full integration of the system.

- 3.3 A capital funding allocation has been agreed for 2014/15 to enable the remainder of the City's multi-storey blocks to be provided with monitored CCTV. An allocation of £700k has been made to undertake the installation work at the blocks, with a further £250k allocated for equipment upgrades and replacement within the existing network. This will ensure greater resilience in connectivity of the network to Middleton and server capacity to manage the additional traffic. In addition Housing Leeds will work closely with Leeds Watch to maximise the potential of the cameras to be located on blocks. With careful planning of the siting of cameras it will be possible to maximise their field of view to cover public realm areas surrounding the blocks as well as the proximity of the block. Appendix A shows the proposed CCTV network expansion within West and South Leeds.
- 3.4 When the East system was originally designed it was structured in such a way that network bandwidth could be used to carry broadband for internet access. The intention was that blocks would be connected via a Council internet portal and broadband offered to residents at a discounted rate. In the event broadband bandwidth development out-stripped the system capabilities and this element has never been exploited. With the expansion into West Leeds there is potential to design in additional bandwidth and revisit provision of broadband internet connectivity for residents. Discussions are taking place with Officers in City Development who are working on Superconnected Cities.

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

- 4.1.1 Consultation will take place with all residents in multi-storey blocks as part of the installation programme. Local Ward Members will also be consulted on the programme. Leeds Watch have played a full part in development of the programme. City Development Directorate and IM&T are involved in discussions about how the programme could link to Superconnected Cities.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

- 4.2.1 There are no known equality and diversity issues.

4.3 Council policies and City Priorities

- 4.3.1 The programme will help to improve the quality of life for our residents, particularly for those who are vulnerable or in poverty.

4.4 Resources and value for money

- 4.4.1 The installation work will be done using existing internal workforce using equipment procured through the Virgin PSN.

4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

4.5.1 There are no known legal implications. This Report will move to an Executive Board Report which will be subject to call in.

4.6 Risk Management

4.6.1 There are no identifiable risks with the programme.

5 Conclusions

5.1 Expansion of the multi-storey block CCTV system will assist with the better management of the blocks and provide a consistent service across the City. If

6 Recommendations

6.1 Housing Advisory Board are asked to support the proposed expansion of the multi-storey block CCTV system into West Leeds.

7 Background documents¹

7.1 Appendix A shows the proposed network expansion schematic.

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.