



Report of the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods

To: Outer North West Area committee

Date: 16th February 2009

Subject: Public CCTV in the North West Outer area

Electoral Wards Affected:
Horsforth
Guiseley & Rawdon

Ward Members consulted
(Referred to in report)

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

Eligible for Call in

Not Eligible for Call In

(Details contained in the report)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report has been requested to identify:

- (a) To report on cameras sited in the areas of Horsforth, Otley and Yeadon.
- (b) The number of police or other enforcement officer requests for evidence from those cameras and their outcomes.
- (c) Any evaluation of Leeds City Council Community Safety Public CCTV
- (d) How effective the Leeds City Council Community Safety Public CCTV system is at reducing crime and providing evidence for criminal prosecutions.

1.0 Purpose of This Report

This report has been requested by the North West Outer Area Committee for the purpose of discussing the effectiveness of CCTV and its 'value for money'.

- 1.1 The report will give a brief historical overview of Leeds City Council Community Safety Public CCTV and its effectiveness over the past 6 years. It will identify when and where cameras were installed within Leeds North West Outer and how many incidents have been identified from either operator observation or police requests.

2.0 Background Information

- 2.1 Leeds City Council Community Safety Public CCTV (formerly known as LeedsWatch) is the public CCTV system for Leeds City Council. Since 1996 it has expanded from a 20

camera system monitoring the City Centre to the current 300 cameras system covering several town and district shopping centres across Leeds.

- 2.2 Monitoring had historically taken place at three control rooms at Merrion, Wetherby and Middleton, however following a review of the service in 2006 the operational monitoring is now from one location at Middleton, Leeds.
- 2.3 The service will soon to be moving into a purpose built monitoring centre within the South Leeds Family Learning Centre (at their current site) and will share the facility with West Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive (Metro) who also provide CCTV in bus stations throughout West Yorkshire.
- 2.4 This move will also incorporate a change from the current analogue image recording technology to a new bespoke digital recording and management information system. This will provide a vast improvement in the retrieval times of images; for example, it will enable evidence of criminal offences to be located quicker on the system and provide an opportunity for improved joined up partnership working with enforcement agencies with a more consistent response to incidents.
- 2.5 Leeds City Council Community Safety Public CCTV has long been recognised as a centre of best practice within the field of CCTV, and operates one of the largest networks in Europe. During 2006/2007 it provided vital evidence which led to over 3,000 arrests for offences ranging from anti social behavior to murder and during the period from April 2008 to 31st December 2008 it has provided evidence leading to 2,018 arrests.

3.0 The number and locations of cameras in Horsforth, Otley and Yeadon

3.1 There are a total of 14 CCTV cameras within these areas as listed below:

3.2 Otley

1. Kirkgate
2. Manor Square
3. Boroughgate
4. Cross Green
5. Market Place

3.4 Yeadon

1. High Street 1
2. High Street 2
3. High Street 3
4. Apperley Bridge ANPR

3.5 Horsforth

1. Town St - The Green
2. Town St - Morrisons
3. The Library
4. The Old Ball
5. New Road Side

4.0 The number of incidents

4.1 A weekly report is sent to all clients providing an overview of CCTV activity recorded by operators across Leeds. The below charts show the number of incident requests within the three areas. Please note Otley and Yeadon CCTV cameras have only been in operation for 5 months.

4.2 Where offences have occurred within areas where public CCTV cameras are located requests are made for evidential footage by the police and other enforcement agencies. The below chart shows the number of requests that Leeds City Council Community Safety Public CCTV has received .

4.3 HORSFORTH

Camera Location	No of CCTV Requests	Result
Town St - The Green	85	67
Town St - Morrisons	33	17
The Library	9	2
The Old Ball	67	27
New Road Side	31	7

4.4 OTLEY

Camera Location	No of CCTV Requests	Result
Kirkgate	7	3
Manor Square	6	1
Borough Gate	6	2
Cross Green	0	0
Market Street	0	0

4.5 YEADON

Camera Location	No of CCTV Requests	Result
High Street 1	16	2
High Street 2	1	0
High Street 3	0	0

4.6 Apperley Bridge ANPR.

4.6.1 The Area Committee provided funds in 2006 to install an ANPR camera at Apperley Bridge. The ANPR cameras are reading approximately 18,000 car registration plates each day. There are on average 86 “hits” on Police data bases each day.

4.6.2 The Police report that they have had real success in respect of burglary dwelling offences and stolen vehicles. The cameras have proved that the same individuals and their cars have been through the cameras within seconds of stolen vehicles on numerous occasions thereby proving that it was not a coincidence. This evidence and pattern has helped in gaining admissions from suspects. The Apperley Bridge camera is to provide a vital link to the Bradford ANPR system enabling both Leeds and Bradford Police to work together in identifying suspects.

5.0. Evaluation of Leeds City Council Community Safety Public CCTV

5.1. There has been no formal evaluation of the Leeds City Council Community Safety Public CCTV System; however an indication of how popular the system is can be measured by the number of compliments received each month during the past year. There were a total of 20 letter compliments recorded for the service during the past 12 months.

5.2 A recent ‘Face the People’ event conducted by the ‘Safer Leeds’ Crime & Disorder

Reduction Partnership involving a range of high school students aged between 11 and 16 years revealed that the three major factors that made them feel safe in their neighbourhood was:

- 1) *Uniform police patrols*
- 2) *CCTV*
- 3) *Neighbourhood Watch*

5.3 People have different views on public surveillance, but overall CCTV is popular with the public and there is an insatiable demand for CCTV in Leeds. The public have grown to accept CCTV as part of their daily lives and its removal would likely cause a public and political backlash because it provides them reassurance and makes them feel safe.

6.0. **The effects of removal of a public CCTV system**

6.1 During early 2008 it was decided to remove a private funded CCTV scheme from a business park in the Leeds 11 area because of the lack of financial contribution from the businesses.

6.2 Prior to the cameras being installed the area suffered high levels of Crime. After the CCTV system was installed crime reduced on the estate significantly. On removing the CCTV cameras crime statistics showed that crime had increased on the estate by a massive 65% within 3 months. This has led to the commissioning of a consultants report to look at replacing the CCTV on the estate.

- *Crime figures rose by 65%*
- *May & June 2008 significantly higher*
- *Burglary Other and Theft offences increased*
- *11 of the 16 streets experienced a rise in recorded crime.*

7.0 **How effective the Leeds City Council Community Safety Public CCTV system is at reducing crime and providing evidence for criminal prosecutions**

7.1 During 2006/2007 it provided vital evidence which led to over 3,000 arrests for offences ranging from anti social behavior to murder and during the period from April 2008 to 31st December 2008 it has provided evidence leading to 2,018 arrests.

7.2 Halton Moor experience

- ❖ During the eighteen month period (01.09.02 – 29.02.04) prior to installation of CCTV in Halton Moor there were **1555** recorded offences.
- ❖ During the eighteen-month period (01.03.04 – 31.08.05) following the installation of CCTV in the area there were **1092** recorded offences.
- ❖ This showed a reduction of **39.8%** in overall crime since the installation of the CCTV system.

8.0 **The effectiveness of CCTV Nationally**

8.1. A recent study by Scotland Yard (the first of its kind into the effectiveness of surveillance cameras) revealed that in 90 murder cases over a one year period, CCTV was used in 86 investigations and senior officers said it helped to solve 65 cases by capturing the murder itself on film, or tracking the movements of the suspects before or after an attack. This equates to 7 out of 10 murders being solved by CCTV.

8.2. Recent academic interviews with convicted burglars conducted by the Home Office revealed the three major factors that deterred them from burgling a property was:

- 1) House apparently occupied

- 2) Burglar Alarm
- 3) CCTV

9.0 Partnership support for CCTV

- 9.1 West Yorkshire Police have been fully supportive of the system and have provided dedicated officers to work within the CCTV control room to recover images for evidential purposes.
- 9.2 The police have expressed an interest in increasing resources to make better use of The new facility and technology.

10.0 Conclusions

- 10.1 Public CCTV is not a panacea to eradicate crime and disorder; it is merely a tool to complement other crime prevention and crime reduction measures within an area.
- 10.2 It is difficult to identify whether CCTV reduces crime in an area, indeed where crime is observed which would have otherwise gone undetected and may not have been reported. The actual witnessing of the crime increases the levels of reported crime in an area and this is particularly so in relation to acts of public disorder and assaults at or near for example licensed premises etc.
- 10.3 There is no doubt that when evidence is captured on CCTV it provides the police and other enforcement agencies irrefutable evidence of guilt, thus reducing the time and costs relating to court hearings.