

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Neighbourhoods and Community Services Scrutiny Panel

DATE: 7th September 2017

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WARD(S): All

PART I **FOR COMMENT & CONSIDERATION**

CCTV IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

1. **Purpose of Report**

To update the Panel on the questions raised by Members at the meeting on 4th April 2017.

2. **Recommendation**

The Panel is requested to note the report.

3. **The Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy, the JSNA and the Five Year Plan**

3a. **Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy Priorities**

The provision of CCTV in Slough increases security for local residents. Given this, it meets the following priorities:

- Protecting vulnerable children
- Housing

3b. **Five Year Plan Outcomes**

By ensuring that the local area receives increased surveillance and that housing estates are frequently places of CCTV deployment, the following outcomes are bolstered by our provision:

- Slough will be an attractive place where people choose to live, work and visit.
- Our residents will have access to good quality homes.

4. **Other Implications**

(a) **Financial**

There are no financial implications to the information contained in this report.

(b) **Risk Management**

The allocation of CCTV units is subject to analysis of the needs of potential locations and the risks and benefits involved prior to their installation.

(c) **Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications**

There are no Human Rights Act implications to this report.

(d) **Equalities Impact Assessment**

There are no equalities implications to the content of this report.

5. **Supporting Information**

- 5.1 The first part of this report will deal with the questions raised at the meeting of the Neighbourhoods and Community Services Scrutiny Panel on 4th April 2017. Some general information on the provision of CCTV camera units across Slough will then be provided for context.

Why is there currently no waiting list for the deployment of CCTV units?

- 5.2 There are two prime reasons for the absence of a waiting list. Firstly, requests for deployment of cameras are considered and a site survey takes place very quickly (normally the next day). If the site is suitable, the deployment takes place within a day or so in most cases. Secondly, all other requests are deemed unsuitable and therefore they are declined.

Are the units at Wentworth Flats (which had been demolished) capable of being redeployed, or are they obsolete?

- 5.3 The demolition of the high rise flats at Wentworth Avenue resulted in the loss a valuable, North Sector camera receiver site. The sector was the first to be created in 2006 and was used the most; its loss was severely felt. In the years since the demolition, we have had multiple requests for the deployment of CCTV; however, it simply was not possible. This led to the creation of the Lattice Mast project which was completed earlier in 2017. The jointly funded site is a far more strategic infrastructure asset than the flats site had been. The joint work with Thames Valley Police at this site has seen strategic police systems installed alongside those of Slough Borough Council (SBC).

What are the precise locations of the 3 minicams listed in the response?

- 5.4 Appendix A shows the current locations. A web link is also available for the public and partner organisations - [Slough CCTV Camera Locations](#).

CCTV in Slough – General Information

- 5.5 When deploying CCTV in the community, SBC is legally obliged to be compliant with the Home Office Surveillance Camera Commissioner's Code of Practice. This ensures that CCTV is deployed appropriately, proportionately and in such a manner as to maximise the benefit from the use of such surveillance assets.
- 5.6 Before installing permanent CCTV cameras in the community, we need to satisfy a number of requirements. One key factor to consider is the number of recorded crimes in and around the area over a period of 2 to 3 years. This allows SBC to understand the nature of any pattern of criminal activity and associated trends. In addition, SBC is required to carry out a Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) under the Code of Practice and also consult with the local community to obtain their views before proceeding. Finally, the use of the CCTV has to be prioritised to cover the most seriously affected areas or prevalent crimes.
- 5.7 SBC currently possesses redeployable CCTV assets. These are centrally funded and available for deployment once a 'bid' has been submitted. Bids are generally created by the Community Safety Project Officers in collaboration with other teams (e.g. Neighbourhood Enforcement, Anti Social Behaviour Teams) and TVP at their fortnightly 'Sector Tasking' group meetings.
- 5.8 Should the bid be successful when assessed (the most serious community issues are given priority), it should be possible to deploy a camera subject to a site survey. It is ensured that there is an available source for 240 volt power 24 hours a day to which to connect the camera, and a suitable mounting height from which to capture images whilst protecting the camera from theft and vandalism.
- 5.9 When considering CCTV in the community, SBC's CCTV Policy and the associated documentation (available on the SBC website) offer information and guidance on SBC's use of CCTV. As well as prioritising the need to capture clear images of offenders, the privacy of those within the local community is respected (as is compliance with the SCC Code of Practice mentioned in section 5.5).

Redeployable CCTV assets

- 5.10 Since 2006, SBC has established 3 sector based CCTV receiver sites:
- **North** – Wentworth Flats, Britwell (now demolished). The receiver site has recently been replaced using a 100 foot high communications tower; this was a joint SBC and TVP project. The old 'Stryker' systems are incompatible with this site as they are now 11 years old and obsolete; a replacement camera system is currently being developed.
 - **South** – Old Town Hall Rooftop. The two CCTV systems available for the South are at Three Tuns and Oatlands Drive. This receiver site is limited due to the lack of any real height at the old Town Hall site. This is being addressed by using the additional height available on the new Claycots school extension rooftop. This is nearing completion and should extend the range of the systems connected to this receiver site.
 - **East** – High Rise rooftop. The two CCTV systems available for the East area are currently deployed and have been constantly for the past 4 years.

- 5.11 These remote receiver sites are securely connected into the CCTV Centre networks using high speed fibre optic image transmission systems.
- 5.12 SBC used Community Improvement Funding (CIF) in 2016 and purchased 3 BT Digital Barriers MiniCams. These cameras are available for use across the whole borough as they are not tied to a particular area like the sector cameras due to the image transmission system installed within unit. They will operate anywhere there is a BT Wi-Fi hotspot or mobile phone signal; again, this is subject to a site survey being undertaken. One of these cameras is currently deployed; the other two are currently being repaired and upgraded to improve their image quality by the manufacturer. They had been previously deployed at Salt Hill Park following a serious sexual assault there. In the past, when requested by TVP who were pursuing a male murder suspect, SBC were able to deploy one of these cameras outside his home in under 10 minutes.
- 5.13 Whilst CCTV cameras are a very useful tool in the Safer Slough Partnership's crime and disorder reduction strategy, they do not in themselves stop crime; and indeed, they are not designed to do so. There is some anecdotal evidence to suggest that they displace some types of criminality (e.g. anti-social behaviour, prostitution) however, they have great value in recording all the events that take place and replay them in support of a prosecution. Another factor to take into consideration is the effect CCTV has on reducing the fear of crime. In a survey carried out in 2013, 88% of over 350 respondents agreed that CCTV helps to create safer communities.
- 5.14 Members should be aware that CCTV cameras under the control of the CCTV Control Centre also provide security for council and partners buildings and assets
- 5.15 There are other factors that have to be taken into consideration with redeployable cameras, for example they take a considerable amount of effort to manage, maintain and deploy (e.g. installation requires a cherry picker). They are not the same as a permanent camera as some record to internal memory rather than transmitting their image data. There are also on-going costs to keep them operational (e.g. 3 / 4G Airtime agreements which cost over £500 p.a. for a data SIM card and all-inclusive repair and maintenance agreement).
- 5.16 All Councillors are welcome to visit the CCTV Centre to see the work undertaken by SBC at first hand. In addition, the head of service, Ginny de Haan (Head of Consumer Protection & Business Compliance) or Peter Webster (CCTV and Careline Centre Manager) are available for any discussions on the matter.

6. **Comments of Other Committees**

No other Committees have taken this report.

7. **Conclusion**

The report seeks to ensure that Members are provided with comprehensive and satisfactory responses to the issues it has raised previously. Any matters arising will be addressed in the discussion at the meeting.

8. **Appendices Attached**

'A' - Information on redeployable cameras

'B' - Stryker camera types

'C' - COFDM CCTV Transmission System

9. **Background Papers**

'1' - Minutes of NCS Scrutiny Panel, 4th April 2017