

## CABINET

21 January 2014

<b>Title:</b> Public Space CCTV Strategy and Delivery Plan 2013-2018	
<b>Report of the Cabinet Member for Crime, Justice and Communities</b>	
<b>Open Report</b>	<b>For Decision</b>
<b>Wards Affected:</b>	<b>Key Decision:</b>
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<b>Accountable Divisional Director:</b> Glynis Rogers, Divisional Director of Community Safety and Public Protection	
<b>Accountable Director:</b> Anne Bristow, Corporate Director of Adult and Community Services	
<b>Summary</b>  This report introduces the final draft of the Council's Public Space CCTV Strategy.  The overarching aim of the Council's Public Space CCTV Strategy is to enhance community safety, assist in developing the economic well being of the Borough of Barking and Dagenham, and to encourage greater use of the town centres, estates, and car parks.  This Strategy has been developed following consultation with the Community Safety Partnership's constituent agencies.	
<b>Recommendation(s)</b>  The Cabinet is recommended to:  (i) adopt the Public Space CCTV Strategy and Delivery Plan 2013-2018 as attached to the report; and  (ii) request officers to explore other opportunities for utilising mobile technology (such as cameras on Council vehicles or supporting the use of web cams) to combat crime and disorder.	
<b>Reason(s)</b>  The Public Space CCTV Strategy supports Barking and Dagenham's Community Strategy priorities, with a particular focus on reducing crime and the fear of crime, and will continue to support our work with partners in the well-established Community Safety Partnership to maintain enforcement activity and improve the feeling of safety of those living, working and visiting the Borough.	

## **1. Introduction and Background**

- 1.1 Barking and Dagenham Council own and operate the vast majority of CCTV cameras in the Borough which are installed in public spaces, such as town centres and car parks. However, some agencies such as the Metropolitan Police Service and Transport for London also have some public space camera provision which is operated separately. There is also CCTV provision in some privately owned and managed spaces which have public access, including shopping centres such as Vicarage Fields and The Mall. This Public Space CCTV Strategy specifically relates to the Council's provision of public space CCTV cameras and the associated infrastructure.
- 1.2 Barking and Dagenham Council currently operate 117 public space cameras in strategic locations across the Borough. Images are transmitted to the CCTV Control Room at Barking Town Hall, where they are recorded 24 hours a day and monitored by skilled, vetted and licensed CCTV operators. The CCTV Team also provide other 24 hour services, including:
- monitoring and responding to Intruder, Fire and Panic alarms in corporate and civic buildings and schools;
  - monitoring and responding to lone worker alarms;
  - out of hours key holding;
  - managing the out of hours lift room and roof access to high rise Housing blocks; and
  - key support service to the Borough's major incidents and emergency response service.

## **2. Proposal and Issues**

- 2.1 CCTV has been the subject of national debate following the introduction of the Protection of Freedom Act 2012 which set out a number of recommendations in relation to CCTV. There have also been changes to existing legislation such as the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 which have changed the way CCTV is used by local authorities. The Strategy which Cabinet is now being invited to adopt responds to the Protection of Freedom Act 2012 and other recent legislation to ensure that the deployment of CCTV in the Borough is in line with current national legislation and best practice, and this has also provided an opportunity to develop guidelines which respond to the current funding situation, as outlined below.
- 2.2 There is no longer a defined funding stream for CCTV. However, in the last five years additional cameras have been funded from various sources, including Transport for London and regeneration projects. The cost of installing a single CCTV camera is usually of the order of £25,000, plus an additional £2,500 per annum in maintenance, electricity and transmission costs. As each request for CCTV is evaluated, funding opportunities which may support an installation and the annual operation costs is always sought, although this is not always successful. The cost of installing and maintaining a camera without a defined funding stream for CCTV means that it is vital to have a robust strategy for the effective deployment of cameras across the Borough, which will assist and inform future requests for funding.

- 2.3 Despite the difficult funding situation, the Council is striving to ensure that the CCTV Service delivers the most up to date services, taking account of best practice in an ever evolving technology. Whilst one of the aims of the Strategy is to continue to investigate the evolving technology for public space CCTV, the Strategy does not cover the opportunities for using CCTV technology for other areas as equipment progresses. It is suggested that a separate report should be brought to a future Cabinet which details the opportunities for using newly developed camera technology to address crime and disorder in other areas, such as Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR), vehicle fitted CCTV, body cameras and webcams.
- 2.4 For the Borough's current public space CCTV cameras, Barking and Dagenham already have a robust deployment and review processes in place to ensure that CCTV is used to the best effect for the community. However, CCTV alone is not a complete solution to any problem and is only one of the many measures used by the Community Safety Partnership to address issues being experienced by communities. The Council remains committed to ensuring that the limited CCTV resources available are used where appropriate to the best effect for the Borough's residents and visitors. With this in mind, this Strategy has developed a process for a potential CCTV installation in order to ensure the camera is appropriate, which involves the following four distinct areas of assessment:
- Evaluation – to establish if CCTV cameras are the appropriate response to the identified issues;
  - Environment – to establish if it is physically possible to install cameras and provide the necessary coverage;
  - Engagement – to establish support and reporting from the local community, such as Business Watch or Neighbourhood Watch or engagement with offenders to deter displacement and re-offending; and
  - Enforcement – to ensure appropriate enforcement activity continues following the installation of CCTV.

### **3. Aims**

- 3.1 The Strategy has been developed to incorporate the following strategic aims:
- to review the current provision of public space CCTV to ensure it continues to meet the requirements of the community, the Council and partner agencies;
  - to ensure that all fixed and mobile CCTV is being used cost effectively and to its full advantage by reviewing, monitoring and continuing to investigate new and developing technology solutions, including but not limited to vehicle mounted cameras, body cameras and Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras;
  - to work in partnership with retailers, licensees and businesses to improve the feelings of safety and reduce opportunities to commit crime in shopping areas across the Borough;
  - to ensure CCTV installed in council managed housing estates reduces opportunities for crime and anti-social behaviour and makes residents and their visitors feel safer; and
  - to support the development of Council Car Parks to achieve the Park Mark Secure Parking standard.

3.2 The Strategy has the following more specific objectives, which are incorporated into the Delivery Plan:

- to help reduce the fear of crime;
- to help deter crime;
- to help detect crime and provide evidential material for court proceedings;
- to assist in the overall management of Barking and Dagenham public spaces;
- to assist the Local Authority in its enforcement and regulatory functions within the Barking and Dagenham area;
- to enhance public transport services by deterring misuse of bus lanes and so reducing delays and increasing reliability of timetables;
- to reduce the cost of repairs as a result of vandalism, criminal damage or any other consequential indiscretions;
- to assist in supporting civil proceedings which will help detect crime;
- to provide effective protective surveillance of Council staff going about their lawful business;
- to ensure the safe and efficient operation of the road network through the detection of contraventions of traffic and parking regulations; and
- to detect any acts of anti-social behaviour.

#### **4. Consultation**

4.1 The Strategy has been developed with and in consultation with the CCTV Strategic Board.

4.2 The Strategy was viewed by the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Board on 3 September 2013. This started a consultation period with all CSP partners, which lasted until 15 October 2013.

4.3 The Strategy has received some comments from its draft form, and these changes have been incorporated into this final draft. The final Draft was presented to CSP Board on 10 December 2013 and was passed with no amendments.

#### **5. Financial Implications**

Implications completed by: Faysal Maruf, Group Accountant, ACS Finance

5.1 The report outlines the average cost of CCTV installation and maintenance of £25,000 and £2,500 respectively. There are no specific future cost implications that are quantifiable at this time from the Strategy; however external funding will be sought where future cameras are agreed. This will come from sources including developers and Transport for London, as has been the case for recent additional installations, and funding for maintaining or improving our housing-stock related cameras will be sought from the Housing Revenue Account.

#### **6. Legal Implications**

Implications completed by: Daniel Toohey, Principal Corporate Solicitor

6.1 The Council is a relevant authority under Section 33 (5) of the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012, and therefore must have regard to the Surveillance Camera Code of Practice when exercising any functions to which the code relates, which

includes the operation of CCTV. In addition the Information Commissioner has published a CCTV Code of Practice which provides good practice guidance, in relation to the Council meeting its statutory obligations under applicable legislation, which includes the Data Protection Act 1998, and the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000.

- 6.2 The adoption by the Council of the Public Space CCTV strategy will assist the Council to meet the requirements of the above codes and legislation.

## 7. Other Implications

- 7.1 **Risk Management** – There is no legal obligation upon the Council or its partners to have a CCTV Strategy. However, the work that the CCTV Team does reduces crime and the fear of crime, and helps gather evidence to hold perpetrators to account. Therefore, an ineffective or outdated use of CCTV would pose a significant reputational risk to the Council and the broader Community Safety Partnership that would reduce public confidence in the Council and wider CSP to manage community safety. This bespoke CCTV Strategy provides a focus for efficient operation of CCTV and allows the Council and its partners to monitor our performance against agreed indicators.
- 7.2 **Contractual Issues** - There are no contracts which are impacted by this Strategy.
- 7.3 **Staffing Issues** - The strategic aims contained within the Strategy are to be delivered within existing Council and Community Safety Partnership resources.
- 7.4 **Customer Impact** - Between 1 April 2012 and 31 March 2013, the LBBB CCTV Service logged 4,916 incidents. While it is not possible to assess directly the impact that CCTV has on crime, as it is a part of a wider holistic approach to crime reduction measures. However, the use of CCTV which is proposed in this Strategy aims to make the use of CCTV a more effective tool in the reduction of crime and the fear of crime in the Borough, which would have a positive influence on residents.
- 7.5 **Safeguarding Children** – Being a victim or witness of a crime causes a psychological impact upon a person, and this impact is greatly increased when the victim or witness is a child. This Public Space CCTV Strategy places CCTV within a wider range of crime prevention measures aimed at reducing crime across the Borough. Increased effective use of CCTV will reduce crime in general, which will help to reduce the amount of children who become victims or witnesses of crime.
- 7.6 **Health Issues** – The Health and Wellbeing Strategy, in its strategic theme of health protection, has a focus on the health benefits of reducing crime and increasing feelings of safety. In recent years there has been a tremendous growth in the use of CCTV to prevent crime in public space, making it one of the most heavily funded crime prevention measures. As well as direct impact on the detection of crime, the impact of CCTV has also been positively evaluated in terms of its contribution to increases in public feelings of safety. Furthermore, evidence from some studies suggest that CCTV systems are largely supported due to benefits unrelated to crime, such as management capabilities, emergency response, satisfaction of public demand, and positive effects on town centre economies. These are all issues which would improve community and individual wellbeing, and the continued

development of a sound, efficient and effective CCTV system can therefore be considered to support the aims of the Health & Wellbeing Strategy.

- 7.7 **Crime and Disorder Issues** – S17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires local authorities to integrate consideration of the impact on crime and disorder of any decision, policy, activity or strategy that it performs. The authority is required to ensure that there is no negative impact on crime and disorder of any such decisions. While a discrete Public Space CCTV Strategy is not a statutory requirement, it will improve community safety and increase confidence in the Community Safety Partnership. There are no negative impacts arising from this Strategy.

**Public Background Papers Used in the Preparation of the Report:**

- Protection of Freedom Act 2012
- Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000

**List of appendices:**

- **Appendix 1** – CCTV Strategy Plan on a Page
- **Appendix 2** – CCTV Strategy and Delivery Plan 2013-18