



Report of: Executive Member for Housing and Development

| Meeting of: | Date | Ward(s) |
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| Executive | 19 January 2017 | All |

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SUBJECT: CCTV Scrutiny Review – Executive member response to recommendations

1 Synopsis

- 1.1 In July 2016 the Executive received a report from the Environment & Regeneration Scrutiny Committee regarding the CCTV scrutiny review. The report provided recommendations to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of CCTV coverage.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 To agree the Executive responses to the six recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee as set out in section 4 of this report.

3 Background

- 3.1 The scrutiny review ran from September 2015 until February 2016 and evidence was received from a variety of sources:

- Presentations from council officers
- Visit to the CCTV Control Room, 222 Upper Street.

4 Response to Recommendations

- 4.1 The committee set out six recommendations. Detailed responses to these recommendations are set out below.

1. That as part of the process to identify appropriate crime prevention measures (particularly in high risk congregation areas) CCTV be considered in conjunction with other security measures such as door

entry, estate lighting, landscaping, tree and bush pruning and that these works also be considered in future CCTV capital projects to ensure a more holistic approach was adopted to CCTV security.

The measures to implement crime reduction where possible should look to adopt a more holistic approach. This will allow the issue of security to be considered in a wider context. Better final outcomes will be achieved where a wider scope of security measures are addressed as part of a proposed scheme.

The principal driver for undertaking work is the condition and age of the equipment. Equipment that is old and in poor condition is a higher priority to replace. It is possible that in some circumstances CCTV cameras are life expired but the estate lighting is not. This could generate difficulties where the council is looking to recover costs from leaseholders for work outside of our asset replacement strategy.

An increased brief will result in a more complex scheme which may take longer to procure and deliver. It will also generate an additional funding requirement to this programme of work if additional works such as estate lighting door entry and landscaping are added to the project brief.

However, the advantages of the recommended approach are clear so the Council will consider a holistic approach whenever possible.

2. That following CCTV repair and maintenance works, a plan would be put in place to address other issues such as sightline interference, tree overgrowth and poor lighting in order to improve the CCTV footage. Consideration would be given to tree pruning or camera repositioning before any consideration was given to tree removal.

The long-term success of a CCTV scheme will depend on the longer term maintenance of the scheme. Issues such as tree overgrowth and lighting are a key part of this longer term maintenance requirement following the implementation of CCTV. Outcomes from the scheme can be improved if robust post project maintenance measures are put in place.

The Concierge Team who manage the CCTV equipment already address this requirement to some degree where isolated post installation improvements are required to improve the performance of CCTV coverage. This team also pick up the requirement to address isolated instances of poor lighting on the estates subject to funding availability. It is however anticipated that major works such as estate wide or lighting replacement will still follow the usual capital improvement programme.

3. That the Mechanical and Engineering Service (in consultation with officers in Housing Operations, including the Public Protection Team, Housing Investment Team and the Housing Anti-Social Behaviour Team) should continue to work closely with partners, to share information and to take appropriate action depending on funding availability where anti-social behaviour/criminal acts were taking place.

The team responsible for the delivery of CCTV Projects will continue to work closely with partners and stakeholders on proposed CCTV works. The team will continue to share information and to take appropriate action where possible subject to funding availability where anti-social behaviour/criminal acts were taking place.

4. That the Resident Consultation team in Housing and Property Services and the Service Development Team in the Housing Needs and Strategy Team should work more closely to engage residents and be responsive to residents' comments.

Recent schemes have adopted the use of a resident consultation ballot process to identify resident interest. These events have highlighted that the process of communicating with residents has significant benefits but may be better undertaken by area Estate Offices as opposed to the Capital Improvement delivery team. The consultation team however will continue to contribute to this process to ensure the best outcome is achieved.

5. That officers monitor technological advances in the area of CCTV and related equipment to ensure this technology was considered when there was a requirement to upgrade existing equipment.

Considerable technological advancements in CCTV have taken place in the past few years. These advancements are already monitored by the team responsible for CCTV. As these advancements however continue to become more technical and specialised so too will the requirement to engage engineers who specialise in this area of work.

6. That consideration is given to the greater use of mobile CCTV equipment to target problem areas for a specific period of time with the cameras then being removed when the problem had been addressed.

Agreed. It is generally accepted that crime and anti-social behaviour can move around an estate particularly if there are monitored cameras. The team responsible for the concierge service already give consideration to the use of mobile CCTV equipment. The increasing transient nature of crime highlights a requirement for a more responsive approach such as mobile CCTV.

5 Implications

5.1 Financial implications

Recommendations 1&2 and 5&6 are all very likely to generate increased expenditure.

It is not possible at this stage to quantify the value of this additional cost.

Nevertheless these recommendations should be considered against the backdrop of the HRA needing to deliver a package of savings totalling £18m over the next 4 yrs in order to mitigate against the loss of income arising from the mandatory introduction of the 1% rent reduction.

Members agreed the detailed schedule of HRA savings during the 2016-17 budget setting process which included a reduction to the capital programme budget of £5m per year of which £1.2m related to environmental and security works.

Therefore a decision to proceed with these recommendations will mean diverting capital resources that have been allocated to other projects.

5.2 Legal Implications

The council has power to provide CCTV on its housing estates for the prevention of crime or the welfare of the victims of crime subject to prior consultation to the Chief Officer of Police for the area (section 163 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994). Public space CCTV systems must be operated in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 and the principles as set out in the Human Rights Act 1998.

The Surveillance Camera Code of Practice issued by the Home Office under section 30 of the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 provides guidance on the use of surveillance cameras by local authorities which must have regard to the provisions of the code when exercising any functions to which it relates. The code applies to the use of surveillance camera systems operating on local authority housing estate regardless of whether there is any live viewing or recording of images, information or data. It should be noted that in civil or criminal proceedings, a court or tribunal may take into account any failure by the council to have regard to the code in determining a question in those proceedings.

The ICO has issued a Code of Practice for the use of CCTV under the data Protection Act setting out these requirements and principles must be complied with. The council is required to notify the Office of the Information Commissioner of the operation of the CCTV system. Covert 'Directed' surveillance may only be conducted if formal authorisation is provided in accordance with the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (as amended by the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012).

An appropriate proportion of the cost of replacing obsolete / life expired CCTV systems on estates will be recoverable from leaseholder provided that the consultation requirements are complied with (section

20 of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1985 and the Service Charges (Consultation requirements) (England) Regulations 2003.

Any procurement of existing or new CCTV systems on housing estates will need to be undertaken in accordance with the council's Procurement Rules and the public Contract Regulations 2015.

5.3 Environmental Implications

There are no environmental implications of significance.

5.4 Resident Impact Assessment

The council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and to advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations, between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it (section 149 Equality Act 2010). The council has a duty to have due regard to the need to remove or minimise disadvantages, take steps to meet needs, in particular steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities, and encourage people to participate in public life. The council must have due regard to the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding.

A Resident Impact Assessment was completed on the 27 May 2016 and no adverse impacts were identified. The added security provided by CCTV benefits all residents on housing estates with CCTV. Where the service is monitored there will be a cost implication to residents covered by the scheme. Leasehold residents may also be required to contra tribute towards the capital cost of the work.

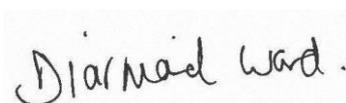
It was noted that service users of Housing CCTV are broadly similar in most cases to the demographic of the borough however there is a greater representation of BME groups and significantly higher Muslim and Disabled population on estates with CCTV.

6 Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

- 6.1 This report details the Executive's response to the recommendations of the Housing Scrutiny Committee.

Final report clearance:

Signed by:



Executive Member for Housing and Development

Date: 20 December 2016

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