

Camberley and Old Dean CCTV Review

Summary

The Executive is asked to consider the options relating to reviewing and the existing Camberley Town Centre CCTV service.

Portfolio - Support & Safeguarding

Date consulted: 1st April 2021

Wards Affected – Town and Old Dean

Recommendation

The Executive is advised to RESOLVE that a review of the existing CCTV service be undertaken by an independent specialist consultant who will be commissioned, with the outcomes and options presented at a future Executive meeting.

1. Background Information

- 1.1 The Council introduced CCTV in Camberley in 1997 with further additions in 2002 and 2010. The existing specification includes 30 CCTV cameras located in Camberley town centre, and two monitoring the shops in the Old Dean. Surrey Heath entered into an agreement with Woking BC around 20 years ago providing a 24/7 control room service originally located originally at the Police station, and as from December 2020 it relocated to The Peacocks shopping centre, Woking. See Annex C for the cost break down, which totals £66,742 per year to retain.
- 1.2 In 2018, Surrey Police introduced a new CCTV Strategy, which seeks to maintain access to CCTV's across the whole of the County. This has seen a slow introduction of a funding formula, for which the template is attached as Annex B, this is based upon a type of sliding scale i.e. if there is a 24/7 control room or remote access, and the number of cameras used. Initial discussions are progressing, but at present Surrey Police advise that that the policy would direct any payments to the district where the control room is located i.e. Woking for Surrey Heath.
- 1.3 As a note for the Executive, Reigate and Banstead Borough Council agreed in December 2020 that the CCTV cameras in the town centres are to be removed from 2023. As from information provided data showed that public CCTV cameras in the borough are seldom used as a “detecting factor” in crime. Instead, footage from mobile phones and private CCTV is more often used – technology which has proliferated since the council's first cameras were installed in 1995 see background papers for further detail.

- 1.4 The Council has a statutory responsibility as part of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 where Section 17 requires that has a duty to consider crime and disorder implications and places a responsibility upon the Council in conjunction with partners to mitigate risk and actuality of crime by utilising various options. Historically CCTV is a useful tool in discouraging and detecting crime and disorder and in satisfying that statutory responsibility.
- 1.5 Annex A provides a table of monthly ASB reports from the CCTV service over the past year.
- 1.6 Significant changes to the existing CCTV service may require consultation with Montague Evans and the Camberley BID.
- 1.7 All possible funding streams will be explored to ascertain if the Council would fit any Safer Streets funding announcements made recently.
- 1.8 An example of CCTV system aims:
 - To help reduce the fear of crime and offer re-assurance to the public
 - To help prevent detect and deter crime
 - To help identify, apprehend, and prosecute offenders.
 - To provide the Police, the Council and where relevant third parties with evidence to take civil and criminal proceedings in the courts.
 - To provide a safer environment for those who live, work and trade in the area and those who visit the area.
 - To boost the Town Centre economy and encourage greater use of the town centre facilities, shopping, entertainment, and leisure, etc.
 - To help in maintaining public order

2. Key Issues

The Risks

- 2.1 The existing CCTV equipment is outdated and it is recognised that the improvement in the development of technology has resulted in other options to deliver the same service that maybe with an improved efficiency and lesser cost. The main risk to the Council at present is the age of the equipment used, specifically the servers which transmit the information to Woking. We are advised that if there is a major failure it may not be possible to repair as parts are no longer available. Should a replacement be required an indicative cost is estimated at £40,000. The cameras are equally as out of date but can be replaced on an individual basis if or when they stop working at an estimated cost of £5,000 per unit. This is combined with the analogue platform, where the new generation of equipment is digital, which can provide improved functionality and cost efficiencies.
- 2.2 With the suggested changes to the existing CCTV system particularly when a new data processing technology will be introduced, the Council will be required

to undertake a Data Protection Impact Assessment, as part of GDPR legislation.

- 2.3 Existing Council staff resources are not experts in being able to provide an Independent technical CCTV review of what is required, this can be provided by specialist in this area. A recommendation from Surrey Police suggested, CCTV In Focus Ltd, who can offer an independent auditing and testing service of the existing CCTV system. An indicative cost has been provided of up to £10,000 which will ascertain if the existing system is fit for purpose, and if not then suggestions made as to the options to be considered.
- 2.4 CCTV is designed to help prevent and detect crime. It can reassure the public about community safety. It is located in public places to provide evidence to relevant enforcement agencies. During the past year with the lockdown status, many shops have been closed in the Square, and many shoppers have stayed safe by staying away. If the town centre is not perceived to be a safe place then shoppers will go elsewhere. It is crucial that the confidence exists to ensure they return to Camberley town centre, and the council can contribute to this by ensuring all reasonable community safety measures are taken.
- 2.5 Initial enquiries have taken place with Runnymede Borough Council Control Centre to investigate if the capacity exists should the Council wish to withdraw from the existing arrangement with Woking BC. Runnymede advise they have the necessary capacity. They also provide this 24/7 control room service for Spelthorne BC, with new agreements in progress with Rushmoor and Hart District Councils.

3. Options

- 3.1 The Executive has the option to;
 - i) Review the existing CCTV service is to be undertaken by an independent specialist consultant who will be commissioned, with the outcomes and options presented at a future Executive meeting.
 - ii) Retain the existing CCTV service agreements in Camberley and the Old Dean Shopping Area without change, and when equipment is no longer operational replace as needed e.g. the server at a cost of approximately £40,000 and the individual cameras at £5,000 each.
 - iii) Consider a replacement system on a 'like for like' basis, without any form of assessment, indicative costs have been given to replace the cameras and server, which are estimated at an approximate cost of £200,000. Part of the town centre redevelopment includes new ducting has already been installed in the High Street and Princess Way. This investment will negate the need to dig up these areas with any future upgrade of technology that is required.
 - iv) Not to renew any of the CCTV service agreements and to withdraw this local service provision.

4. Proposals

- 4.1 It is suggested for the Council to approve as the review as outlined in 3.i as above, which will enable an informed decision to be taken by the Executive.

5. Corporate Objectives and Key Priorities

- 5.1 The Council has adopted the regeneration of Camberley Town Centre as a key priority and Officers consider that the installation of new CCTV cameras would help encourage investment in the town centre by creating a safer retail experience for the public.

6. Equalities Impact and Data Protection Impact Assessment

- 6.1 Both assessments to be completed in good time for any new or system revision decision agreed by the Council Executive.

7. Finance Implications

- 7.1 Estimated costs indicate that the external consultation from In Focus Ltd is indicated at a maximum of £10,000 which will be funded from existing budgets. The commissioned report will identify any resource implications from the recommended options.

8. Environmental Impact

- 8.1 To support residents by retaining the CCTV system within Camberley town centre and the shopping precinct in the Old Dean.

Annexes	Annex A - ASB and Arrest report from CCTV August 20 –Jan 21 Annex B – Surrey Police Funding Formula to access D&B CCTV systems Annex C – Annual Maintenance costs for the CCTV service Annex D – Background information
Background Papers	Reigate and Banstead Committee agenda item December 2020
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ASB and Arrest report from CCTV August 20 –Jan 21

CCTV - Monitoring 2020/21	ASB Summary	Camberley	Woking
August		16	68
September		28	84
October		30	87
November		7	16
December		27	43
January		2	31

CCTV	Arrest Summary	Camberley	Woking
August		2	11
September		3	9
October		5	7
November		2	3
December		3	8
January		2	4

Surrey Police Funding Formula to access D&B CCTV systems

Total Potential Budget			Percentage of Budget	Police Funding Contribution
2020/21 Spend				
Proposed 2021/22 Budget				
Service Provision	Yes/No	Police Funding Contribution per year		
Number of Public Space CCTV Camera's		•0-10 Cameras	7%	
		•11-25 Cameras	14%	
		•25-50 Cameras	21%	
		•50+ Cameras	30%	
Signed up to NICE Investigates			15%	
Not signed up for NICE Investigates providing downloaded data on discs			4%	
Dedicated 24hr Monitoring of area			26%	
Peak time Monitoring			15%	
Limited Monitoring			8%	
Facility for Direct Contact with FCR ie phone line/airwaves			8%	
Camera Feeds to Control Room			8%	
Remote access to Camera Feeds in Police Stations			8%	
Partnership Forum Established			5%	

Annual Cost Breakdown for CCTV

Supplier	Cost	VAT	Total
Woking BC	36,032.00	7206.41	43,236.41
Emcor	10,336.92	2067.38	12,404.30
Virgin	9,249.70	1849.95	11,099.65
Total	55,618.62	11,123.74	66,742.36

Background Information

Council CCTV cameras in Reigate & Banstead town centres are to be removed, but others in parks and multi-storey car parks will be upgraded.

The move by Reigate & Banstead Borough Council follows a decision by Surrey Police to cease monitoring the cameras from Reigate police station from 2023.

A report in December to the council's executive committee said police data showed that public CCTV cameras in the borough are seldom used as a "detecting factor" in crime.

Instead, footage from mobile phones and private CCTV is more often used – technology which has proliferated since the council's first cameras were installed in 1995.

The 121 cameras owned or powered by Reigate & Banstead are also in need of upgrades, and some may no longer meet a "pressing need" under data protection laws.

The council will decommission the cameras and infrastructure, except for those in Bancroft Road and Clarendon Road car parks, and in Priory Park, Memorial Park and Neville Park, which will all be upgraded.

The upgrades will include a switch from analogue to digital systems, the introduction of modern fibre or wi-fi connections, and a move to recording images locally with the council.

After initial costs in 2021-22, the changes will eventually save the council around £80,000 a year.

The council will tender for the work, after which it will be able to draw up a timetable.

Surrey Police have said that they are taking part in discussions with the council and others about how CCTV in the borough should look in the future.

Statement from the borough council

Reigate & Banstead Borough Council said on 15 February:

“The council reviewed the role of its CCTV system in supporting community safety in response to the Surrey Police ‘Surrey Open Space CCTV Strategy 2017-2022’, which requests local authorities take over responsibility for provision and monitoring of CCTV in the borough.

“In December, the council’s executive agreed proposals to modernise the CCTV system, which include upgrading out of date technology in key locations in parks and multi-storey car parks and decommissioning the remaining cameras and infrastructure.

“With the proliferation of privately owned CCTV and mobile phones providing alternative public realm surveillance, the council wants to make sure it’s investing resources where they are needed most.

“Preparations to tender for the work are underway and we’ll be able to confirm a timescale once the procurement process is complete.”

Statement from Surrey Police

Surrey Police said on 15 February:

“We are aware of Reigate and Banstead’s plans to review the role of CCTV in supporting community safety across the borough and upgrade cameras to a new digital system.

“This is in response to the Surrey Open Space CCTV strategy 2017-2022, in which local authorities are expected to take over provision and monitoring of CCTV; as well as upgrading to digital systems which meet the Surveillance Camera Commissioner’s code of practice.

“We have provided Reigate and Banstead with data to help inform their proposals, and will continue to support the provision of CCTV by our local authority partners.

“We are taking part in discussions with the council, and other interested parties, about what the CCTV estate in the borough should look like in the future.”

How effective are the cameras?

The report to the council’s executive in December said:

“Surrey Police has provided the Council with feedback on the limitations of public realm CCTV in terms of the detection and prosecution of crime.

“Surrey Police provided data highlighting that only 1.4% (981) of all the 68,227 recorded incidents between Jan – June 2019 showed CCTV as a detecting factor. 100 of the 981 were dip checked and this showed that only 16 were attributed to public realm CCTV.

“Surrey Police has however recognised that there may be a benefit of public realm CCTV in certain night time economy town centres but are not saying this is essential.

“It is worth noting that a significant number of privately-owned town centre premises have their own CCTV which cover the public realm.

“In practice, nowadays, most images used by Police are from mobile phones and private companies’ CCTV. These cameras did not exist when the Council originally introduced public realm CCTV in 1995.”

More about the meeting

The council’s executive meeting was on 17 December 2020: