

AGENDA 7, Enc vi) DRAFT REPORT of CCTV meeting held on Wednesday 20th May 2026

Present

Cllr Lynne Grimshaw (Chair), Cllr Marjorie Chambers, Cllr Karl Green, Cllr Caroline Ball, Inspector Wayne Daniels (Northumbria Police), Kennedy Clark (NP PCSO), Lindley (NP PC 145), David Knox (AW), Chris Duncan (AW), Neil Pacey (PS), Steven Lynas (AW), Joel Plumley (AW)

1. Agreement of Chair

It was AGREED that Cllr Lynne Grimshaw would be appointed Chair of the meeting.

The Executive Officer noted that, whilst the practice to date had been to appoint a chair at each separate meeting throughout the year, the Council's Annual Meeting on 26th May 2026 was being asked to agree revised Terms of Reference under which a Chair would be appointed for the year, alongside a Vice-Chair. This would allow continuity and provide the Executive Officer with a named liaison contact for agenda preparation. The first meeting of the CCTV committee following adoption of the revised Terms of Reference would formally agree the Chair and Vice-Chair for the year.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Kerry Davison, Cllr Steven Roberts and Cllr Scott Amery.

3. Disclosure of Interests

There were no disclosures of interest.

4. Report of the Previous Meeting

The Executive Officer apologised that the action from the previous meeting regarding letters to businesses in North Seaton, exploring whether a contribution towards a CCTV camera in that area might be secured, had not yet been actioned. This would be completed prior to the next meeting.

In response to a query regarding People's Park and whether any incidents had occurred following the previous request for greater surveillance of that area, it was noted that there was nothing to report. A note remains on file to ensure that the area is monitored with additional vigilance.

It was AGREED that the report of the meeting held on 25th February 2026 was received as a fair reflection of that meeting.

5. Monitoring and Evaluation

a) System Performance and Reliability

Bus Station — A significant and long-standing outage at the Bus Station was reported, arising from a fault with the Northern Powergrid supply. The matter was followed up by all parties, including the Town Council, Asset Watch, NCC, Advance Northumberland, the MP's Office and Northumbria Police, and every avenue for expediting resolution was pursued. Despite these efforts, the delay was considerable, extending to over seven weeks. In response to a question from Asset Watch as to whether a speedier resolution had been possible, the Executive Officer confirmed that every available avenue, including

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representations from the police, had been exhausted without success. If there were other suggestions to those pursued, they would gladly be tried.

Paddock Wood Play Area — An outage affecting the Paddock Wood camera was noted. This had not been accessible for repair due to the presence of traffic lights in the area. The meeting agreed that all outages should be reported to the Town Council office at the time they are identified, so that they can be shared and acted upon promptly, rather than being noted only in follow-up.

The same principle was applied to the obstruction of a camera sign near Bubbles, which had been reported approximately ten months after the obstruction first arose. It was noted that, had the matter been reported promptly, resolution could have been sought immediately.

People's Park — An outage at the People's Park camera was noted. The SIM card has since been replaced and the camera is now running satisfactorily.

It was AGREED that outages and obstructions should be reported to the Town Council office at the time of identification, this would allow information to be shared with Cllrs if needed.

6. CCTV Referrals: From Incident to Outcome

The meeting received the incident referral data for the period. The spreadsheet of incidents is imported below.

Discussion highlighted a range of incidents in which the CCTV system had directly facilitated police action and supported positive outcomes, including:

- Two e-bikes involved in ASB in Hirst Park picked up in surrounding avenues, identified through CCTV.
- Joint operations utilising drones and CCTV have allowed routes to be followed and traced to home addresses.
- Fires started by youths in Hirst Park have been referred to the Extinguish project.
- An assault in Hirst Park is progressing through the Youth Justice system.
- Newly installed CCTV has captured a drug deal which is being actively pursued.
- A potential drink driver was identified and stopped as a result of CCTV coverage.
- A high-risk missing person was identified via the CCTV system.
- Theft from two businesses on Station Road: whilst the perpetrators entering the premises were not captured, CCTV was able to track their movements and assist with identification.

The meeting also received information regarding a report of a child abduction on Station Road. The CCTV system was used to conduct a thorough and detailed investigation of the incident. Following that investigation, it was confirmed that no abduction or attempted abduction had taken place.

A question was raised regarding community tension arising from the incident and whether, in the interests of correcting misinformation that had appeared on social media, the facts of the matter could be placed in the public domain. Inspector Daniels confirmed that on this

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occasion it had been assessed that a formal correction was not in the public interest, as the story did not appear to have generated significant local traction or widespread misinformation. Inspector Daniels noted that decisions of this nature are made on a case-by-case basis. The meeting noted the outcome: there was no abduction or attempted abduction.

Incident data for the period:

08/02/20 26	Station Road	Youths kicking at the door of a shop on Station Road.		Requested	Enquiries ongoing	Ungraded - Intelligence only
15/02/20 26	Station Road	Footage sent over of a vehicle chasing someone on a pedal bike.		Requested	Enquiries ongoing	Ungraded- Intelligence only
13/02/20 26	Station Road	Footage shows a potential drug deal between two males		Reported	Footage circulated between the NPT teams for identification and intelligence.	Ungraded- Intelligence only
17/02/20 26	Station Road	Male youths on a scooters, bikes and electric bikes causing ASB		Requested	This has been ongoing over the half term, dispersal notice issues over the weekend 20-21st	Ungraded - Intelligence only
18/02/20 26	Woodhorn Road	Surron bike driving dangerously and attempts to over take a vehicle whilst they are turning on to Alexandra Road		Requested	Very clear footage and the cameras do capture part of the collision however due to there	Ungraded- Intelligence only.

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					being no coverage on Alexandra Road, the view is obscured.	
18/02/2026	Hirst park	Small fire set in Hirst Park	Reported to the fire service	Reported	The fire appears to have been set by a male sleeping rough, Carla from NCC has spoken to this male and made the appropriate signposting.	Ungraded - Intelligence only
20/02/2026	North Seaton Road	Female assaulted by her partner		Requested	The cameras captured the assault however due to the distance from the cameras, exact details were difficult to make out.	Grade 1
21/02/2026	Station Road	Fight between a group of males		Reported	Asset watch operators reported the assault which resulted in an arrest	Grade 1

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					for assault. No other parties made calls to police. Male transported to hospital with a head injury.	
22/02/2026	Woodhorn Road	Asset watch patrol came across a female in an emotional state at 4am on Woodhorn Road. The patrol team remained with the female until officers arrived.	0156220226	Reported	Vulnerabilities identified. The female was escorted to her home address and safeguarding carried out.	Grade 2
24/02/2026	Woodhorn Road	Asset watch patrol came across the same female as the above log, lying on the floor at the side of the road.	0075240226	Reported	Patrol team remained with the female until ambulance and police arrived on scene.	Grade 1
03/03/2026	Home bargains	Footage requested of youths causing ASB		Requested	Footage received, youths masked. Unable to identify the offenders	

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08/03/20 26	Woodhorn Road	Vehicle travelling at speed and proceeds to hit a parked vehicle.		Requested	Footage sent to the OIC	Grade 1
09/03/20 26	Hirst Park	Male acting suspiciously in the park		Requested	Footage sent to the OIC. The camera closest is on an automatic pan so parts of the incident were captured.	Grade 1
11/03/20 26	Alexandra Park	Youths smashing us a 'for sale' sign in the park.		Reported	No reports of 'for sale' signs stolen or damaged in the nearby area.	Ungraded
12/03/20 26	Woodhorn Road	Officer requested footage of a vehicle which had failed to stop.		Requested	Footage sent to the OIC.	Ungraded
16/03/20 26	Station Road	Road legal quad on station road		Reported	No reports received in relation to its manner or driving. Submitted for intel purposes only.	Ungraded-intelligence only.

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<p>20/03/2026</p>	<p>Hirst Park/ Station Road</p>	<p>NPT, fire services, community safety and asset watch carried out a joint operation in order to tackle youth ASB and off road bikes/surrans. Drones were used alongside town council CCTV to direct officers to the right locations. 9673 was based at Asset Watch HQ with direct communication with officers on the ground whilst the asset watch drone was deployed from different locations in the Ashington area.</p>	<p>Operation</p>	<p>Reported/r equested</p>	<p>As a result of the operation and the use of CCTV officers in plain clothes were directed into Hirst Park where they were able to seize and uplift 2x 'revvi' bikes. Two prolific ASB offenders were identified and home visits will be conducted as a result. A large group congregat ed in the park, were hostile with officers and very anti police. Police believe this bikes have also been involved in ASB in the</p>	<p>Operation</p>
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					town centre. Following on from the uplift, there was no ASB reported or witnessed in the town centre that evening.	
22/03/2026	Hirst park	Youths pulling flowers out in the park		Reported	Asset watch patrol team attended and the youths scattered.	
25/03/2026	Riverside park	Male suspected to be drink driving	NP-20260325-0913	Reported	Asset watch guided officers to the vehicle and the male (who was also outstanding wanted) was over the limit	Grade 1

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					and arrested.	
27/03/2026	Riverside park	Asset watch CCTV operators noticed a vehicle in the car park, both occupants were drinking alcohol and both drove the vehicle in the car seat.	86-27/03/2026	Reported	Both occupants were arrested for drinking above the limit	Grade 1
27/03/2026	Peoples park	Asset watch were contacted in relation to footage of a stolen vehicle in Peoples park.		Requested	Footage sent to the OIC	Ungraded - Intelligence only
28/03/2026	Hirst Park	Males engaging in sexual activity in the park.	0111 280326	Reported	This occurred at 3am and the park was empty. The images have been circulated forcewide. The males left the park prior to the 101 call ending.	Grade 5
27/03/2026	Hirst Park	Youths fire setting	Reported to the fire service	Reported	Small fire was put out prior to fire service attending. Due to the time of	Ungraded-intelligence only.

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					night, the images were not clear enough for identification.	
27/03/2026	Riverside park	Footage requested for a vehicle which failed to stop for officers.		Requested	Footage obtained and sent to the OIC	Ungraded - Intelligence only
10/04/2026	Bubbles	Intoxicated male causing issues at Bubbles and Toscanas.	NP-20260403-1174	Reported	Enquiries are ongoing. Asset watch were the only callers for the incident, the footage is of evidential value and it is likely that an arrest will be made as a result.	Grade 1
05/04/2026	North Seaton Road	Vehicle travelling at speed and appears to accelerate towards pedestrians crossing.	NP-20260405-102	Reported	The vehicle was stopped by officers, the driver was not intoxicated. Appropriate action taken.	Grade 1

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06/04/2026	Hirst Park	Youths on the roof of the pavillion.	NP-20260406-0874	Reported	Footage sent to NPT, plain clothes operations carried out in Hirst Park.	Grade 2
07/04/2026	North Seaton Road	Motorcycle disorder on North Seaton Road		Requested	Footage sent to the OIC	
13/04/2026	Station Road	Potential drug deal on Station Road between a male on a push bike and a surron.		Reported	The rider is completed covered, no identificati on made. Footage sent after the incident occurred.	Ungraded-intelligence only
17/04/2026	Asset watch / NPT joint op	Joint operation held today with both asset watch and NPT. The operation focused on ASB in Hirst Park and ran from 1400-2000 Hours.			Drone and CCTV footage used to direct plain clothes officers on the ground. 1 x e bike seized who appeared to be the ring leader. 1 x home visit and ASB letter issued. Intelligenc e gathered in relation to	

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					potential drug deals and surron activity.	
17/04/2026	Woodhorn Road	Footage requested in relation to a residential burglary on Woodhorn Road.		Requested	The allotment camera captures the offending vehicle and occupants but not the VRM due to the speed of the vehicle. Footage sent to the OIC	Ungraded-Intelligence only
29/04/2026	Asset watch	Police attended asset watch HQ in relation to an unknown male with a head injury in the vicinity of Lidl.		Requested	The male was located and identified by asset watch staff straight away. As a result, the male was visited at his home address and a high risk misper avoided.	Ungraded-Intelligence only

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28/04/2026	Asset watch	Road sign obstruction removed from outside of toscanas			The sign was moved higher up the post by NCC roads team and is no longer blocking the view of the corner.	Ungraded-Intelligence only
29/04/2026	Hirst park	Youths throwing a lock around the bowling green		Reported	Unable to view footage on link received	Ungraded - Intelligence only
01/05/2026	Hirst Park	Youths setting fire to a bin		Reported	Unable to identify the offenders	Ungraded - Intelligence only
03/05/2026	Bubbles	Asset watch report of male having a medical episode after potentially being assaulted.	133-03/05/2026	Reported	Male was not assaulted. Taken to hospital by paramedics	Grade 1
26/04/2026	Hirst Park	Footage request for youths firing a nurf gun at people.		Requested	Enquiries ongoing	
26/04/2026	Toscana s	Fight between 3 males.		Reported	Males had left prior to police arrival. No further reports of assault.	Grade 1
26/04/2026	Toscana s	Male assaulted outside of toscanas.	79-26/04/2026	Reported	Enquiries ongoing	Grade 1

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25/04/2026	Toscana s/ Bubbles	Male drinking a can of stella whilst sitting behind the wheel of a vehicle. The footage then shows the male driving the vehicle out of the car park.	0115-25/04/2026	Reported	The driver left the area prior to police arrival, the area was search with a negative result.	Grade 1
23/04/2026	Hirst Park	Fire set in the park by homeless people sleeping rough.		Reported	The fire was put out by NCC staff in the park. Due to the location of the fire, cameras did not identify who was responsible. Enquiries have been made with the homeless team who were aware of two males who frequent this area- they have been contacted and asked to stop lighting fires in this area.	Ungraded - Intelligence only

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22/04/2026	Hirst Park	Youths throwing eggs		Reported	One offender identified, home visit and ASB letter served.	Ungraded-Intelligence only
03/05/2026	Hirst Park	Youths with an off road bike		Reported	Footage has been circulated for potential identification.	Ungraded - Intelligence only
04/05/2026	Bubbles	Drug deal taking place	NP-20260504-0033	Reported	Excellent footage which has been sent to our intel unit	Grade 5
04/05/2026	Hirst Park	Youths 'play with' fire/ aerosol can		Reported	The main youth has been identified - home visit to be conducted with both police and fire service 12/05/2026	Ungraded - Intelligence only
04/05/2026	Toscana s	Vehicle parked outside of Toscanas with no MOT, no insurance and no tax.		Reported	Intelligence submitted	Ungraded - Intelligence only

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04/05/2026	Toscana s	Males fighting outside of toscanas.			Following on from the fight, the males are then seen to be hugging each other. Police attended but no one was willing to disclose what had happened. No victim confirmation.	Grade 1
05/05/2026	Behind the cree	Male using drugs in a vehicle behind Woodhorn Road			Due to the way the vehicle was parked, no VRM was obtained. Police attended the scene and began an area search - negative result.	Grade 1
06/05/2026	North Seaton Road	Enquiries carried out in relation to an assault that took place near North Seaton Road.			Asset watch provided footage which shows the victims route.	

7. Qualitative Information and Positive Impact

It was AGREED the recent story on e-bikes that appeared in the Northumberland Gazette could be shared with the positive impact from Ashington CCTV.

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The Executive Officer asked if it was possible to receive advance warning of stories likely to be shared in the press or public domain via NP so we could use them positively.

Chair, Cllr Lynne Grimshaw asked for other business.

Inspector Daniels raised the question of whether CCTV footage could be used in schools as part of a new joint approach to tackling anti-social behaviour (ASB) among young people. The meeting was advised that the existing approach had involved police attending schools and asking staff to identify individuals, with police subsequently following up with parents. The proposed new approach would involve working collaboratively with schools and parents, with CCTV footage used to help parents understand the specific behaviour in question. This would also allow the matter to be joined up with wider turnaround and support services.

The meeting acknowledged that those involved are often only engaged at the point of crisis, and that a more preventative approach — involving youth groups and organisations working with and attracting young people — is needed at an earlier stage. A question was raised about incidents occurring during school hours and whether police have access to attendance data; it was noted that many of the individuals involved are in alternative provision.

The Back on Track project and Crucial Crew were cited as examples of the kind of early intervention work that already exists and which could form part of a more joined-up approach.

The meeting agreed that the use of CCTV footage in an educational and preventative context, as described, was a positive and proportionate approach that the CCTV partnership would support.

It was AGREED that Asset Watch and Northumbria Police would progress the proposal to use CCTV footage in schools in support of the joint approach to tackling ASB, and that details would be reported back to the next meeting. Cllr Wayne Daniels thanked the meeting and noted that this was in the early stages.

8. Future Meetings and Reports

The meeting agreed the following date for the next quarterly meeting:

- 19th August 2026
- 18th November 2026