

AGENDA 13, Enc viii) Station Road CCTV Provision, DRAFT REPORT of meeting held on Wednesday 22nd May 2024

Present

Cllr John Tully, Cllr Lynne Grimshaw, Cllr Louis Brown, Sarah Eden, Stephen Humphrey, Insp Wayne Daniels, Karl Thurm.

1. It was **AGREED** that Cllr John Tully would chair the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Caroline Ball, Sgt Kath Smith.

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

There were no disclosures of interest.

4. SYSTEM EXPECTATIONS

The following was included as part of the agenda to help all parties understand what can be expected from and delivered by the new CCTV system.

- ✓ To understand how the system will be monitored and what 24/7 refers to.
- ✓ To understand what will be responded to, in 'real time' and by whom.
- ✓ To outline the actions that will be taken in 'real time' when an incident has been seen on camera.
- ✓ To outline the actions that will be taken when incidents are reported after the event, to gather evidence.
- ✓ To highlight any other matters that Asset Watch and Northumbria Police wish to clarify to ensure expectations are understood.

Cllr John Tully emphasised the Council's large investment in the system and explained that being able to monitor its effectiveness is a key factor and significant to future commitment.

By way of an explanation of monitoring Karl outlined that during the day, there would be 2 operatives in the control room, but other administrative staff are also working at this time. On an evening, when incidents are more likely, there are 3 operatives.

Karl explained that CCTV cameras do not catch everything. In regards surveillance the camera would only zoom in on members of the public if there was reason to, this is covered by law. It is likely that CCTV recordings will be used after the fact, following an incident when they are contacted with dates/times and asked to look at footage. Public cameras are different to private CCTV cameras that are actioned by motion. As you would expect, if they were activated by motion sensors this would be continuous as it is a public space.

Having intelligence on events and things going on can highlight the need for greater surveillance of the cameras.

In real time if an incident is happening this would be logged with the police. Additionally, Asset watch would start pulling evidence together and this would be saved. Footage is stored for between 30-45 days.

Although quite new, Cllr Tully asked if there were any gaps in the system. The area of the Fire Station at the far side of town was highlighted. Karl did explain the technology on installation was better than included in the tender, due to advancement, so from a system perspective this was much improved.

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5. MONITORING AND EVALUATION FRAMEWORK

It was AGREED to receive the suggested monitoring framework to be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the CCTV contract over the next five years.

a) System Performance and Reliability

Karl highlighted that most power issues they can fix themselves, and cameras would be operational within 24hrs. If there are issues with 4G, this can cause dropouts, but it is unlikely on the Town Centre system.

Asset Watch receive a daily report which shows any downtime and health reports.

It was AGREED to share exceptions to operating as expected with Ashington Town Council.

b) Response Times (including Collaboration with Police)

Asset Watch create incident reports as these are shared with police.

It was AGREED Sarah, Karl and Wayne would look at how best to record this information with the aim of not overloading any party.

c) Incident Resolution

The limitations of the police system were discussed. There are several systems that must be accessed to allow the recording of outcomes following incidents created.

The goal is to show those incidents resolved due to CCTV footage, or in which CCTV footage contributed, including data on instances where CCTV response prevented a crime from occurring in real-time.

It was AGREED that Wayne would make efforts to provide the information required, but that this may need to be revisited depending on the administrative burden.

d) Crime Reduction

It was discussed that the figures for crimes recorded will likely increase as a result of improved CCTV. Whilst the Council may hope to show a reduction in crime figures due to CCTV being utilised as a deterrent, crimes that would not otherwise be recorded will also be factored in.

It was AGREED that the Council would like to be able to view and utilise the data that is recorded by Northumbria Police, as part of the evaluation and monitoring.

e) Collaboration with Police

It was AGREED that positive news stories should be shared with the public in order to raise the profile of CCTV in the town, of crime prevention and detection, and as part of the ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the system.

It was AGREED that a standing item on each quarterly meeting would be to choose those stories to share, which have had a positive outcome. This could include where CCTV footage was successfully shared with police and aided investigations or apprehensions, where a crime was prevented, or where CCTV footage was used as evidence.

It was AGREED NCC Environmental Enforcement may seek to view footage also.

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f) Public Perception

It was **AGREED** that all parties should make a conscious effort to speak to the public about how they feel about CCTV, in order to establish public perception. The sharing of good news stories will aim this objective.

6. REVIEW OF MONITORING AND EVALUATION DATA

It was **AGREED** to agree to include "Review of Monitoring and Evaluation Data" on future agendas, to discuss the collected data, identify any trends or areas for improvement, and make necessary adjustments to the monitoring and evaluation framework. This was especially important in view of the systems being used by Northumbria Police.

7. FUTURE MEETINGS AND REPORTS

It was **AGREED** to schedule quarterly meetings as below. Sarah asked if reports could be received in advance as per the dates below to allow them to be sent out with meeting agendas.

Meeting Date	Data received by	Report to Council
26th June 2024	17 th June	July FGS
25 th September 2024	16 th September	October FGS
27 th November 2024	18 th November	December FGS
29 th January 2025	20 th January 2025	February FGS