

19 November 2013

INTERIM REPORT - PUBLIC SPACE CCTV REVIEW

Report by Environment and Neighbourhood Quality Scrutiny Panel

Councillor David Keast (Scrutiny Lead)

Councillors Hilary Farrow, Ralph Cousins, Colin Mackey, Olwyn Kennedy, David Smith

1.0 OBJECTIVES OF THE REVIEW

1.1 The Environment and Neighbourhood Panel has undertaken work to:

- review the current objectives for the provision of Public Space CCTV and propose revisions where appropriate
- gain an understanding of residents views on the provision of Public Space CCTV
- establish fellow Councillors current levels awareness of Public Space CCTV provision in Havant.
- scope the views of key partners both statutory and non statutory with regards to reducing the net costs to the Council.

2.0 INTERIM RECOMENDATIONS

2.1 That the existing priorities for the provision of public space CCTV should be amended to read as follows; to -

- tackle crime and anti-social behaviour
- increase public reassurance by reducing the fear of crime
- support the emergency planning process and
- inform the emergency services response to major incidents
- assist in the security and management of the councils assets

2.2 That appropriate signage be displayed in the vicinity of CCTV columns to reinforce the priorities and raise public awareness that the service is provided by HBC.

2.3 That a brief guide to Public Space CCTV be produced to inform key stakeholders and Councillors

2.4 That CCTV performance monitoring include the nature of incidents captured for example Anti Social Behaviour, Shoplifting, Violence.

2.5 That further work be undertaken to identify opportunities to reduce the net cost to the Council.

3.0 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS TO DATE

- 3.1 In conducting this work the panel noted that there had last been a comprehensive review in consultation of Public Space CCTV undertaken in 2008/09 resulting in an annual saving of £80K per annum.
- 3.2 In 2010 the Havant Borough Council's public space CCTV system including cameras, and control room equipment was the subject to a comprehensive refurbishment, including an upgrade to digital recording. The panel noted that this upgrade had received contributions of £50K from both the Police and £50K from LABGI, a business improvement grant.
- 3.3 The panel noted that there had been further service efficiencies made since 2010 and felt that there was a level of coverage (i.e. number of cameras and hours of monitoring) below which the Public Space CCTV system would cease to be effective.
- 3.4 The panel conducted initial interviews of officers responsible for the delivery of the public space CCTV and undertook a paper review of the relevant existing policies and performance reports. They welcomed the provision of monthly performance reports but felt that more detail of the types of incidents would be beneficial in assessing the value of the service
- 3.5 The views of officers responsible for economic development, HBC assets and emergency planning were also sought. It was felt that businesses and other organisations would value the services role in providing a safe environment though they were unlikely to contribute to the costs. The potential role of CCTV in the event of a major incident and its role in supporting emergency planning was recognised. It was also noted that the current CCTV system provides coverage for a number of HBC assets.
- 3.6 The panel identified that the key to the review of the provision of such a service was to gauge public opinion regarding their support for the service and commissioned a survey of residents.
- 3.7 The Panel noted that the results from the public survey on the CCTV review had been collated and analysed and a total of 350 on street interviews had been conducted with the public in different locations throughout the borough in order to gain a broad overview.
- 3.8 The interviews had taken place at weekends and week days, at different times and took into account age/sex/disability. It was confirmed that the survey had been conducted by professional market researchers.
- 3.9 The Consultation and Market Research Adviser provided an overview of the results and members were interested to note that the public considered CCTV to be a high priority, with the majority agreeing that taxpayers money should be spent on providing it.

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3.10 The panel also sought to gauge fellow councillors levels of knowledge and understanding of the service and a survey of Councillors was also undertaken. There was a good response to the survey which showed a degree of interest in the subject.

3.11 The Panel also sought to establish that the Public Space CCTV was in line with current HBC priority areas and found that supporting a Safer Havant to tackle crime and anti social behaviour through the effective use of public space CCTV was supportive of key HBC aims namely:

Financial sustainability

- CCTV will be affordable and sustainable providing value for money for the public.
- Balance our finances each year, and direct resources appropriately to deliver quality services in a targeted way.
- Assist Emergency services and other agencies with the efficient deployment of their resources.
- Provide security for council assets.

Economic growth

- To work with partners to make the area as safe an environment as possible to support businesses.
- To support businesses through the shop watch scheme.

Public service excellence

- To support the multi agency emergency planning process.
- Reassure the public.
- Support local vulnerable people, in line with our Customer Access Strategy, so that our services are responsive, predictive and Proportionate.

3.13 The subject of funding of CCTV was raised with the Safer Havant Partnership and the office of the Police and Crime Commissioner but it is right to say that there appears little appetite amongst partners to contribute to the costs of providing the service at this stage.

4.0 ANTICIPATED COMPLETION DATE FOR THE REVIEW

4.1 The Panel anticipates completing the review by April 2014.