

The Muslim Community Centre, Cowley Mill Road, Uxbridge

Cabinet Member

Councillor Douglas Mills

Cabinet Portfolio

Community, Commerce and Regeneration

Officer Contact

Ed Shaylor, Community Safety and Anti-Social Behaviour Service Manager, Residents Services

Papers with report

Plan

HEADLINE INFORMATION

Purpose of report

This report seeks to respond to a petition received by the Council with regard to measures to be put in place, including CCTV, to reduce the potential for another attack on an individual and to restore the confidence of residents in the Cowley Mill Road and Chiltern View Road area of South Uxbridge.

The petition was received in Democratic Services on 24th September 2013.

Financial Cost

Nil

Relevant Policy Overview Committee

Corporate Services & Partnerships

Ward affected

Uxbridge South

RECOMMENDATION

That the Cabinet Member:

- a) **Notes the views and concerns of the petitioners.**
- b) **Discusses with petitioners whether the measures taken to date have been effective in addressing the reported concerns.**
- c) **Instructs officers to investigate the feasibility and desirability of implementing additional CCTV in the area and to report back to the Cabinet Member with any recommendations, including possible sources of funding**
- d) **Requests Hillingdon Police's Intelligence Unit to undertake research into crimes in the Chiltern View Road and Cowley Mill Road area over the past 12 months to see if it is a crime hotspot which needs CCTV to increase security in the area.**
- e) **Requests Hillingdon's Strong and Active Communities Partnership to make contact with community groups, schools, Councillors, students, residents and other agencies working in the area and make enquiries about people's views about living in the Uxbridge South and Brunel wards.**

INFORMATION

Background information

The background to the petition was an unprovoked assault on a Muslim man on 6th July 2013 in Chiltern View Road, Uxbridge as a consequence of which he was hospitalised for several days. A large scale police operation led to the arrest and charge of three men, whose cases are currently going through the courts. Reassurance measures were put in place, with police patrols, use of the CCTV van in the area and the placement of a temporary portable CCTV camera overlooking the victim's house.

Uxbridge South has an active Ward Panel with a very active Chairman. The Ward Police Team comprises Sergeant Hazel McLintock, PC Shahbaz Nooruddin, a Muslim officer who has attended the mosque and consequently has good links with the Muslim community and PCSO Steve Proud, who is regularly out and about on the streets of the Ward.

Due to concerns about the racially aggravated nature of the assault, Hillingdon's Strong and Active Communities Partnership set up a sub-group to investigate community matters with a view to understanding people's views of living in the Uxbridge South and Brunel wards as part of the Partnership's work to build strong and active communities and promote community cohesion across the Borough. This continuing work will inform any measure that may improve community confidence.

The area includes a mixed community of students, Council housing and other tenanted properties. The religious and ethnic diversity has changed significantly between the 2001 census and that of 2011 and unemployment levels have increased. The Strong and Active Communities Partnership has heard that numbers attending the Muslim centre reduced since the assault, with many feeling unsafe.

Anecdotal feedback has also been heard in relation to a female member of the Hindu temple in Cowley Road who had stopped attending regularly, preferring to travel to Southall, because she didn't feel comfortable travelling on public transport in the area, dressed for Temple.

There are few community spaces in the two wards and the Hillingdon Association of Voluntary Services database of community and voluntary groups shows that there are none registered as being based within the two wards.

Reasons for recommendation

Further inquiry is needed to understand the needs of residents and visitors in the Cowley, Uxbridge South and Brunel area, in order to consider any long term improvements. In the short term, Hillingdon Police keep in close touch with the Muslim centre and faith groups in the area, and will respond quickly to any incidents which might occur.

If it is assessed that CCTV would aid the security of the area, subject to police advice, then a technical feasibility study can be undertaken.

Hillingdon Council and the Police are committed to improving the lives of all those that live and work in Hillingdon and engage with communities to build stronger and safer communities for all. Recent events around the Cowley Mill Road Area have led to two high profile police investigations. The assault on the 6th July led to a large scale police investigation that would

have been assisted by Local Authority controlled CCTV in the area. Due to the nature of the incident, Hillingdon Police would support the expansion of the town centre CCTV to this area as long as there was community and Council support for this programme.

Hillingdon Inter Faith Network are part of the Strong and Active Communities Partnership and the sub group and are working together with faith groups in the area to ensure they are fully involved in the process and in any activities that take place as a result.

Alternative options considered

None at this stage.

Financial Implications

The recommendations of the report seek actions to be taken by the Council and its partners to further investigate the subject matter of the petition. Within this, the actions to be taken by the Council can be managed within existing resources. However, if it was subsequently determined that investment in CCTV is necessary, resources would need to be identified from a suitable funding source.

Corporate Finance comments

Corporate Finance has reviewed this report and concurs that there are no additional financial implications connected with investigating the subject matter of the petition. However, if it is concluded that investment in additional CCTV be deemed necessary, it is noted that there are currently no funds earmarked specifically for this purpose and a suitable funding source will need to be identified.

EFFECT ON RESIDENTS, SERVICE USERS & COMMUNITIES

What will be the effect of the recommendation?

The measures discussed, should reduce the impact of fear of crime on residents and visitors.

Consultation Carried Out or Required

Consultation has been carried out with the Local Police Team.

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Legal

There are no immediate legal implications. At this stage it is recommended that the Cabinet Member meets with petitioners to discuss the action taken to date. Subject to the outcome of the meeting, it is recommended that officers investigate the feasibility of CCTV having first engaged with the police and other stakeholders as to the merits of such a course of action. The Council does have powers to set up CCTV systems within its area pursuant to section 163 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994. However, the Council must consult with the Chief Police Officer before proceeding to operate such surveillance. In deciding whether to proceed with additional CCTV, the Council should ensure that all relevant codes of practice and

statutory requirements are observed. In particular, the Home Office Surveillance Camera Code of Practice in June 2013, states that any new camera installation must be consistent with a legitimate aim and a pressing need. These must be articulated clearly and documented as the stated purpose for any deployment and any deployment should not continue for longer than necessary.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL