

PETITION REQUESTING CCTV FOR PINKWELL ESTATE

Cabinet Member(s)	Councillor Douglas Mills
Cabinet Portfolio(s)	Community, Commerce and Regeneration
Officer Contact(s)	Liz Jones, Residents Services.
Papers with report	None

1. HEADLINE INFORMATION

Summary	This report seeks to respond to a petition received by the Council to request CCTV in the area known as Pinkwell estate (Pinkwell Avenue and surrounding roads), Hayes.
Contribution to our plans and strategies	This report contributes to Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and Safer Hillingdon Partnership Plan.
Financial Cost	Nil based on officer recommendations.
Relevant Policy Overview Committee	Residents' and Environmental Services Policy Overview Committee
Ward(s) affected	Pinkwell

2. RECOMMENDATION

That the Cabinet Member

- 1) Notes the views of the petitioners.
- 2) Notes that permanent CCTV around Pinkwell estate is not a practical solution to the problem.
- 3) Considers the installation of temporary CCTV from time to time to detect or deter crime and disorderly behaviour as it occurs.

Reasons for recommendation

The lead petitioner has asked for permanent CCTV cameras to be installed in Pinkwell Avenue and the surrounding roads (specifically Dawley Road and Pinkwell Lane) to deter and detect people causing anti-social behaviour and committing burglaries.

The Council has a number of mobile CCTV cameras that can be deployed for up to 12 weeks at a time in response to resident concerns about crime and disorder. These cameras collect evidence to support the police and/or local authority carry out enforcement and prosecution

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work. They can also provide useful information about levels of crime in an area if any future applications are made for permanent CCTV or other crime prevention measures.

Alternative options considered / risk management

Permanent CCTV system: The alternative of providing a number of permanent CCTV cameras that would be monitored at the Civic Centre was considered. Evidence does not suggest that incidents of burglary and ASB are high enough to establish a "pressing need" as required under the Home Office guidance. The capital cost for each permanent CCTV camera is in the region of £20,000.

Dummy cameras: The Council discourages the use of dummy cameras as they give an impression of safety without the ability to provide any evidence if an incident were to occur.

Policy Overview Committee comments

None at this stage

3. INFORMATION

Supporting Information

Although signatures to the petition come from other roads in other parts of Pinkwell and there may be other parts of the wider area known as the "Pinkwell Estate" where there are higher volumes of crime or ASB, it is not practicable or lawful to install CCTV across a wide area if there is insufficient data to support the need for CCTV to impact on crime and disorder. Installations need to be considered in specific locations for specific purposes and for this reason for the purposes of researching this request officers have confined their inquiries to the area immediately surrounding the lead petitioners address, guided by a letter from the constituent's MP dated 17/12/12 in which the Council was informed that the lead petitioner's neighbours and residents in Pinkwell Lane and Dawley Road had expressed concerns.

Officers have searched the Council's database of service requests to identify how many complaints about anti-social behaviour have been received from residents on Pinkwell Avenue, Dawley Road and Pinkwell Lane. Over the past 12 months (February 2013 to February 2014) there have been fewer than 5 reports of nuisance, rowdy or inconsiderate behaviour received by the Anti Social Behaviour Investigations team.

The local policing team for the south of the Borough does not perceive these three roads or the surrounding roads as a hotspot for either anti-social behaviour or burglary. Over the last 3 months there has been one report of anti-social behaviour made to the police from residents in these roads. The most recent crime mapping information from the Metropolitan Police shows that the roads around Pinkwell Avenue, Pinkwell Lane and Dawley Road have no, or average levels of residential burglary (see appendix A). Over the last 12-months the area of Pinkwell ward from A308 to Dawley Road there have been 3 residential burglaries.

In June 2013 the Home Office published revised guidance around the use of surveillance cameras ("Surveillance camera code of practice" June 2013 - Home Office). Paragraph 2.4 of the new code of practice states:

"The decision to use any surveillance camera technology must, therefore, be consistent with a legitimate aim and a pressing need...The technical design solution for such deployment should be proportionate to the stated purpose rather than driven by the availability of funding or technological innovation...Furthermore, any deployment should not continue for longer than necessary."

In light of the small numbers of reports around anti-social behaviour and burglary and the Home Office guidance, using temporary cameras for a defined period of time is the most suitable and cost effective way of addressing resident's desire for CCTV.

Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications for the Council resulting from the recommendations noted by this report as portable CCTV equipment is already able to be deployed from within the existing budgets of the Community Safety and Anti-Social Behaviour Investigations service.

4. EFFECT ON RESIDENTS, SERVICE USERS & COMMUNITIES

What will be the effect of the recommendation?

The measures recommended will be able to provide reassurance to residents that the Council can respond to crime and disorder hotspots as they occur, without the expense or intrusion of permanent surveillance cameras.

Consultation Carried Out or Required

Consultation has been conducted with Hillingdon Police and will continue via the tasking forums.

5. CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Corporate Finance

Corporate finance has reviewed the report and concur with the financial implications above.

Legal

There are no special legal implications for the proposal to discuss with petitioners their views in relation to installing permanent CCTV in Pinkwell Avenue and the surrounding roads to deter and detect people causing anti-social behaviour and committing burglaries. A meeting with the petitioners is perfectly legitimate as part of a listening exercise, especially where consideration of the policy, factual and engineering issues are still at a formative stage. Fairness and natural justice requires that there must be no predetermination of a decision in advance of any wider non-statutory consultation. In considering any informal consultation responses, decision makers must ensure there is a full consideration of all representations arising including those which do not accord with the officer recommendation. The decision maker must be satisfied that responses from the public are conscientiously taken into account.

Section 33 of the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 places a duty on the Council to have regard to the Surveillance Camera Code of Practice (June 2013) ("the Code") in exercising any

functions to which the Code relates. In particular, the Council should be mindful of the guiding principles stipulated in the Code. Surveillance camera systems operating in public places must always have a clearly defined purpose in pursuing a legitimate aim and being necessary to address a pressing need. The Code recognises public safety and the prevention of disorder or crime as a legitimate aim and necessary to address a pressing need.

In taking any decisions to implement CCTV cameras in Pinkwell Estate, whether temporary or permanent, the Council will need to ensure that it complies with the data protection principles in the Data Protection Act 1998. It is recommended that if CCTV is installed, appropriate signs are in place making people aware that they are being monitored by a surveillance camera.

It does not appear (from the contents of this Cabinet Member report) that authorisation under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 ("RIPA") will be required.

Should there be a decision that further measures are to be considered then the relevant statutory provisions will have to be identified and considered.

Corporate Property and Construction

None

Relevant Service Groups

Not applicable

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil