

FAIRFIELD ROAD AND COLHAM ROAD, YIEWSLEY

Cabinet Member(s)	Councillor Douglas Mills
Cabinet Portfolio(s)	Community, Commerce and Regeneration
Officer Contact(s)	Ed Shaylor, Residents Services
Papers with report	Appendix A - location map

1. HEADLINE INFORMATION

Summary	This report seeks to respond to a petition received by the Council regarding a request for CCTV to be installed at two locations; on Fairfield Road and Colham Avenue due to concerns about retail crime, thefts and robberies, anti-social behaviour and dangerous drivers.
Contribution to our plans and strategies	This report contributes to the Safer Hillingdon Partnership Plan.
Financial Cost	None
Relevant Policy Overview Committee	Residents' and Environmental Services
Ward(s) affected	Yiewsley

2. RECOMMENDATION

That the Cabinet Member notes the views of the petitioners and advises that:

- 1) That permanent CCTV at the two locations is not a practical solution to the problem;**
- 2) Considers the installation of temporary CCTV from time to time to detect or deter crime and disorderly behaviour as it occurs.**

Reasons for recommendations

The lead petitioner has asked for CCTV cameras to be installed in Fairfield Road and Colham Avenue to deter and detect people causing anti-social behaviour and committing crimes.

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. Not only can these cameras collect evidence to support the Police and/or local authority to carry out enforcement and prosecution work, they can 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

There is an existing permanent CCTV camera at the junction of Fairfield Road and Yiewsley High Street and this camera's default position is to look down Fairfield Road. Its field of view includes (at its furthest point) the parade of shops next to the car park close to the Methodist Church on Fairfield Road.

The alternative of providing additional permanent CCTV cameras that would be monitored at the Civic Centre was considered. Evidence does not suggest that incidents of crime 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 CCTV

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.

Private provision of CCTV

In addition to any temporary local authority CCTV cameras, businesses along Fairfield Road could consider installing their own private CCTV to cover the interior of their shops plus the pavement immediately outside. Information about suppliers of this type of CCTV can be supplied to individual businesses on request.

Policy Overview Committee comments

None at this stage.

3. INFORMATION

Supporting Information

The petition asks for CCTV cameras to be installed along Fairfield Road and Colham Avenue because residents are concerned about crime, anti social behaviour and dangerous driving in this area. Residents believe that installing CCTV will prevent crime and anti-social behaviour and also assist with prosecuting offenders.

When using the Metropolitan Police crime mapping website (www.maps.met.police.uk) this area (at ward and sub ward level) is shown to have:

- an average number of ASB reports made to the police.
- a low (in Fairfield Road) or average (in Colham Avenue) number of residential burglary reports.
- a low (in Fairfield Road) or average (in Colham Avenue) number of personal robbery reports.
- a low number of business robbery reports.
- an above average (Fairfield Road) or average (in Colham Avenue) number of violence reports.

Information received from the Yiewsley Local Policing Team (LPT) supports this assessment of crime levels. They are currently working on a number of enquiries relating to low level violence and drug use on the eastern portion of Fairfield Road. The LPT suggest that Fairfield Road is more of a priority location for temporary CCTV than Colham Avenue.

When reviewing the Council's database on anti-social behaviour reports this shows:

- 10 reports during 2014 about flytipping on Colham Avenue and 3 on Fairfield Avenue.
- 3 reports during 2014 about graffiti on Fairfield Road and 1 on Colham Avenue.

There have been no reports received by the Council about drug dealing or drug use or harassment of people living in or using these streets.

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 low numbers of reports around anti-social behaviour and crime 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 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 the financial implications noting that the costs of employing temporary CCTV equipment on an ad-hoc basis would be contained within existing revenue budgets.

Legal

The delegation to oversee initiatives in relation to CCTV and community safety rests with the Cabinet Member for Community, Commerce and Regeneration as set out in Article 7.08 paragraph (e) 1 of the Council Constitution. Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 provides local authorities with the power to do anything an individual can do provided it is not prohibited by other legislation and the works recommended under this report would fall within the range of activities permitted by Section 1.

Any installation of CCTV cameras (whether permanent or temporary) must be in accordance with the Information Commissioner's Office CCTV Code of Practice. In particular this will require a balancing exercise in respect of the intrusion into the privacy of large numbers of law abiding people by placing them under surveillance and recording their movements as they go about their day-to-day activities against the nature of the problem sought to be addressed i.e. in this case retail crime, thefts and robberies, anti-social behaviour and dangerous drivers. This will include consideration of whether a better or more proportionate solution to the problem exists. The Council's CCTV Code of Practice and the Home Office Guidance on Covert Surveillance should also be considered when implementing any CCTV schemes.

If CCTV is to be installed appropriate signage must be placed in accordance with the above mentioned guidance and codes of practice. Any recorded material should be stored in a way that maintains the integrity of the information. This is to ensure that the rights of individuals recorded by surveillance systems are protected and that the information can be used effectively for its intended purpose.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil.