

RESIDENTS' AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES POLICY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE REVIEW OF CCTV STRATEGY 2008/9

Cabinet Member	Councillor Douglas Mills and Councillor Sandra Jenkins
Cabinet Portfolio	Improvement, Partnerships and Community Safety / Environment
Officer Contact	Natasha Dogra, Deputy Chief Executive's Office.
Papers with report	Residents' and Environmental Services Policy Overview Committee (RESPOC) review of CCTV Strategy

HEADLINE INFORMATION

Purpose of report	To receive the Residents' & Environmental Services Policy Overview Committee's report providing recommendations which seek to build upon the Borough's approach and strategy to CCTV.
Contribution to our plans and strategies	This report contributes to the Council's priorities for a safe and secure Borough for all.
Financial Cost	<p>There are no direct financial implications associated with the majority of the recommendations.</p> <p>However, recommendation 2 (g & h) would have significant resource implications beyond that which can be accommodated in the existing CCTV budget.</p> <p>However, it should be noted that additional funding requirements for expanding the existing CCTV control room has been included as part of the 2009/10 MTFF process.</p>
Relevant Policy Overview Committee	Residents' and Environmental Services Policy Overview Committee
Ward(s) affected	All.

RECOMMENDATION

That Cabinet:

1. Welcome the report from the Residents' and Environmental Services Policy Overview Committee and note the general consensus it found in favour of using Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) to improve public safety; and
2. Accepts the recommendations of the Policy Overview Committee report as reflected in a) to f) below:

- a) To re-launch the CCTV Steering Group with a clear Member lead, with the aim of bringing the Council and local private and public sector agencies together, to renew its terms of reference and to set out the CCTV Strategy and policy for the borough as a whole.
 - b) To endorse the work of the Joint Council / Police Prioritisation Panel, which decides the detailed location of new cameras with local agencies using demographic crime statistics;
 - c) To improve communication and consultation between the partners to ensure the best use of the CCTV system;
 - d) To develop a co-ordinated approach to ensure that all new installations of CCTV cameras around the borough are compatible with the council CCTV control room;
 - e) To explore the extent to which the CCTV cameras could be used to detect 'enviro-crimes' including parking offences, moving traffic contraventions, fly tipping, littering, and other environmental issues;
 - f) To ask Officers to produce a CCTV Strategy for 2009/10 for consideration by the Executive, to be reviewed annually.
3. Clarifies the recommendations of the Policy Overview Committee report by agreeing that:
- g) The Cabinet Member for Improvement, Partnerships and Community Safety will be responsible for the strategic development, the implementation of CCTV policy and the budget for development of CCTV in the borough. The Cabinet Member for Environment should retain responsibility for the operation of the CCTV Service and for the use of CCTV for parking, traffic and environmental issues.
 - h) With regard to recommendations to expand and modernise a multi-function CCTV control room in the Civic Centre to create additional capacity for adding more cameras; and to investigate and develop wireless technology in relation to CCTV; Cabinet should delegate Officers to investigate the feasibility of these proposals, report back to the Cabinet member(s) and prepare any further capital bids as may be required beyond what has already been included in the 2009/10 budget.
 - i) With regard to introducing a Lay Panel in order to monitor compliance with the Council's CCTV code of practice, Cabinet should defer a decision on this recommendation and Officers be delegated to investigate the practical applications of Lay Panels in other boroughs and report back to the Cabinet member(s) as to whether an existing consultative process can meet this objective.

INFORMATION

Reasons for recommendation

The recommendations are aimed at building upon Hillingdon's approach to the delivery of a comprehensive CCTV strategy. Improved CCTV services will contribute to residents' satisfaction and the aim of making Hillingdon a safer borough for all. These will also benefit from improved Control Room infrastructure and technology.

Alternative options considered / risk management

The Cabinet could decide to reject or amend the Committee's recommendations.

Supporting Information

1. The Committee chose 'CCTV strategy' as a review topic in 2008/9 to enable the Council to build on its successes so far.
2. The aim of this review was to look at ways to improve the Council's CCTV strategy and the arrangements for implementing that strategy. The reasons behind why the Council uses CCTV were identified, including the potential benefits and drawbacks. Opportunities to improve the Council's CCTV services were investigated and were considered when producing the recommendations.
3. The review took place between July 2008 and January 2009. The Committee took evidence from the Crown Prosecution Service, Uxbridge Town Centre managers, Age Concern, Street Champions, Youth Council, and officers from Westminster & Hillingdon Councils. The Committee also visited Westminster City Council's CCTV control centre in the Trocadero Centre, London, and Hillingdon's CCTV control room in the Civic Centre to see the work done by CCTV operators first hand.
4. In determining whether or not to accept RESPOC's recommendations, Cabinet should note the following:
 - With regard to Recommendation a), Cabinet Member lead for the CCTV Steering Group, the current portfolio responsibilities in relation to CCTV are split between Cllr Jenkins (operational) and Cllr Mills (strategy and community safety). A change to the Cabinet Scheme of Delegations and approval from the Leader of the Council would be required if there were to be any amendment to Cabinet Member portfolios. It is proposed that the Cabinet Member for Improvement, Partnerships and Community Safety should be responsible for the strategic development, the implementation of CCTV policy and the budget for development of CCTV in the borough. The Cabinet Member for Environment should retain responsibility for the operation of the CCTV Service and for the use of CCTV for parking, traffic and environmental issues. This proposal would not require any changes to Cabinet Member portfolios.
 - Recommendation d), about ensuring cameras around the borough are compatible with the Council's CCTV control room, relates to new cameras that may be placed by external organisations or other bodies and not those procured by the Council.

- Recommendation h) relates to both the expansion *and* modernisation of the CCTV control room. Cabinet is already proposing to expand and invest in the control room. However, any further modernisation into a ‘multifunctional room’ and the implementation of wireless technology as also recommended by RESPOC would require an additional capital bid(s), subject to further Member approval.
- With regard to recommendations i), Cabinet should note that the purpose of a Lay Panel (or similar consultative process) would be to promote public confidence in the use of CCTV and make it more accountable to the people it aims to protect. The Lay Panel would not be involved in prioritising the use or location of cameras, as that would be the role of the Joint Police / Council Prioritisation Panel.

5. The Committee’s report (attached) gives full details of the review.

Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications associated with recommendations other than recommendation h). This recommendation, to modernise the CCTV control room into a ‘multi-functional’ facility and to develop wireless CCTV technology, would have significant resource implications beyond what can be accommodated in the existing service budget for CCTV and would require further capital bid(s).

However, Cabinet should note that additional £250k funding for the development and expansion of the CCTV service has been included in the 2009/10 budget. This will provide for modernisation of the service over a four-year period, enable additional cameras and monitors to be added and the investigation of the potential for wireless CCTV functionality.

EFFECT ON RESIDENTS, SERVICE USERS & COMMUNITIES

What will be the effect of the recommendation?

The Committee’s recommendations will provide a springboard for the Council to take those steps necessary to improve community safety further.

Residents will benefit from reduced levels of crime and disorder stemming from anti-social behaviour, as a result of better deployment of CCTV cameras.

Consultation Carried Out or Required

The Committee took evidence from residents, officers and experts as described in the attached report (see page 17).

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Corporate Finance

The recommendation to create a ‘multi-functional’ CCTV control room and use wireless technology is dependant on the approval of additional funding. However, £250k has been included within the 2009/10 budget to expand the current CCTV control room and provide for more cameras.

Legal

CCTV recordings have been used to great effect in combating crime and disorder within the London Borough of Hillingdon. Footage generated is used as evidence in the prosecution of many offences. Whilst the use of CCTV images in enforcement work is lawful, it is also subject to many stringent control and monitoring measures designed to provide procedural safeguards to help protect the rights of the individual.

In order to ensure that the use of CCTV by the Council remains lawful, the service will have to comply with the Criminal Procedures and Investigations Act 1996, the Data Protection Act 1998, the Human Rights Act 1998, The Crime and Disorder Act 1998, the Public Order Act 1986, the Police and Criminal Evidence Act Codes of Practice, the Freedom of Information Act 2000, The Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000, the Information Commission Codes of Practice for CCTV and the National CCTV Strategy (issued by the Home Office in 2007).

In view of the vast body of legislation to be considered, consultation with legal services, Metropolitan Police and other stakeholders with regard to the lawful use, strategy and Code of Practice for CCTV is necessary.

The benefits of accepting these recommendations are that they create internal monitoring and control mechanisms that will ensure compliance with the legislation listed above.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL