

**TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL**

**CABINET – 27 May 2021**

**BUILDING SAFER AND STRONGER COMMUNITIES THROUGH CCTV**







**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR: NEIGHBOURHOOD & ENFORCEMENT SERVICES**

**LEAD CABINET MEMBER: CLLR RICHARD OVERTON**

**PART A) – SUMMARY REPORT**

**1. SUMMARY OF MAIN PROPOSALS**

- 1.1 Results from the 2020 Telford & Wrekin residents survey illustrate that 77% of respondents stated that they either ‘Strongly agree’ or ‘Tend to agree’ that their neighbourhood is a safe place to live.
- 1.2 The Council working with West Mercia Police has an effective partnership that is focused on tackling all forms of crime to ensure our neighbourhoods are great places to live, work and visit. Enforcement is a key priority for the Council as part of our work to Protect, Care and Invest to create a better borough; the Council fulfils a variety of enforcement duties and works closely with West Mercia Police to tackle crime and disorder.
- 1.3 Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) is recognised for being one key component to enhance community safety while providing an evidence base across both the Council and West Mercia Police. CCTV also provides a visible presence while providing reassurance to communities.
- 1.4 Key aspects of the investment include:

<p><b>NEW viewing suite at Oakengates</b></p>  <p>enabling live monitoring by Police and Street Pastor volunteers is going live May</p>	<p><b>Over 400 CCTV camera's installed and networked</b></p> 	<p><b>Over £830,000 partnership funding invested in the CCTV project and counting!</b></p> 
<p><b>12 standalone CCTV systems upgraded and integrated into the borough wide system</b></p> 	<p><b>15 new mobile camera's purchased and already deployed to hot spot areas</b></p> 	<p><b>14 Community Action Team CCTV cameras purchased and ready for deployment</b></p> 

1.5 This report provides an update on the investment into CCTV development across the Borough; this investment has been delivered through:

- Council investment through the borough wide project;
- Working in partnership with Town and Parish Council's through the Community Action Team offer;
- The Police and Crime Commissioner as part of the borough wide project;
- The Home Office through Brookside Safer Streets;

1.6 In addition, this report outlines the next steps and development in CCTV infrastructure for the coming year and beyond.

## 2. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

**It is recommended that Cabinet:-**

2.1 Notes the content of this report and progress made to date.

2.2 Endorses the next steps of CCTV infrastructure across the borough as part of enhancing community safety to ensure our neighbourhoods are great places to live, work and visit.

### 3. SUMMARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

<b>COMMUNITY IMPACT</b>	Do these proposals contribute to specific Co-Operative Council priority objective(s)?	
	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All neighbourhoods are a great place to live</li> <li>• A community – focussed innovative council providing efficient, effective and quality services</li> <li>• Our natural environment is protected, and the Council has a leading role in addressing the climate emergency</li> </ul>
	Will the proposals impact on specific groups of people?	
	No	
<b>TARGET COMPLETION/ DELIVERY DATE</b>	The borough wide CCTV project has been largely completed with a few installations left to complete by the end of June. On-going investment will continue as set out by community safety initiatives and associated timelines.	
<b>FINANCIAL/ VALUE FOR MONEY IMPACT</b>	Yes	<p>£450k has been invested in the Borough wide CCTV project which was jointly funded between Telford and Wrekin Council and the Police and Crime Commissioner. Additional funding of £47k was also secured through the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Home Office via Brookside Safer Streets.</p> <p>There is an ongoing revenue budget for CCTV of £30k per year which will support the annual maintenance, servicing and repair costs of the CCTV system.</p> <p>The Community Action Teams also provide additional funding to CCTV over the next 3 years. The CAT's are being funded by Parish and Town Council's with match funding being provided from the Council.</p> <p>There is also funding available through the £2.5million allocation for the Safer &amp; Stronger Communities programme to further develop the CCTV infrastructure across the Borough. MLB 15.04.21</p>
<b>LEGAL ISSUES</b>	Yes	The use of CCTV is, at law, considered to be surveillance. In order to ensure that the fundamental freedoms and protections that members of the public expect are protected, it is necessary for the Council to operate its CCTV network in accordance with the Information Commissioner's Office guidance and also guidance from the Office Surveillance Commissioner. Staff and volunteers are trained in the legislative provisions that

		cover CCTV operation to ensure that they are aware of when and how surveillance can take place. This provides assurance that the Council's CCTV network is operated in accordance with the relevant legal provisions. AL 23/04/2021
<b>OTHER IMPACTS, RISKS &amp; OPPORTUNITIES</b>	Yes	Local communities may have concerns regarding the expansion of CCTV infrastructure; assurance is provided through compliance with the CCTV Code of Practice and working within the guidance set by the Information Commissioners Office and Surveillance Camera Commissioner. Having a high quality CCTV system has provided (and will continue to) opportunities to explore the use of social media in progressing ongoing investigations through engaging the community. To date there have been a number of publicised investigations where CCTV has supported in a positive outcome.
<b>IMPACT ON SPECIFIC WARDS</b>	No	Borough-wide impact

## **PART B) – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

### **4. Background**

- 4.1 In 2018 the Council, working in partnership through the Community Safety Partnership and the Police and Crime Commissioner, grasped the opportunity to rethink and evaluate the existing CCTV infrastructure across the borough.
- 4.2 In response to ageing assets and developments in technology, the Council together with West Mercia Police, supported directly by the Leader of the Council and the Police and Crime Commissioner, agreed to jointly fund £450,000 investment into a borough wide project to upgrade and replace the local CCTV system.
- 4.3 In addition, as part of the success of Brookside Safer Streets project, a further £47,000 has been invested into upgrading and installing new infrastructure as part of a project to enhance community safety and reduce acquisitive crime.
- 4.4 The all-new CCTV infrastructure provides live imagery and recording into the purpose built control room in Oakengates. This control room is operated by volunteers approved and managed by West Mercia Police.
- 4.5 The control room provides direct support and response when needed but also the ability to collate evidence/intelligence as part of our commitment to tackle crime and disorder. This investment also includes 15 deployable cameras that can be utilised in hot spot locations to tackle anti-social behaviour and environmental crime.

- 4.6 The borough wide project originally incorporated 12 sites to be upgraded however, with additional funding opportunities the Council has been able to upgrade a further 8 sites taking the total to 20 locations that includes Wellington, Oakengates, Dawley, Madeley, Brookside, Sutton Hill, Hadley, Leegomery, Arleston, Malinslee, Hollinswood, Randlay, Newport, Telford Ice Rink, Dark Lane Car park, Town Park Visitor Centre, Southwater 1, Southwater, Multi storey car park, Donnington Parade shops.
- 4.7 Technology has enabled the ability to connect to a number of existing council standalone systems into the new network; this has included the Silver Swallow Bridge and the Ice Rink. Within the first week of the infrastructure being connected at Silver Swallow Bridge, footage provided evidence to secure an arrest for an individual captured causing criminal damage. Since installation, there has been no repeat and criminal damage to the bridge has stopped.
- 4.8 Working with Town and Parish Council's, the Council has been able to integrate standalone systems into the network and control room at Oakengates. Going forward, this integration will continue where other standalone systems exist to enhance community safety while creating operational efficiencies. The borough wide system has so far integrated eight systems including the Parade in Donnington that was previously operated and managed by West Mercia Police.

## **5. Governance**

- 5.1 The CCTV network is recognised as adopting 'best practice' guidance and remains fully compliant by the Camera Surveillance Commissioner and Information Commissioners Office guidance.
- 5.2 On installation, a review at each site is undertaken to identify locations for CCTV signage to be installed. The presence of signage informs the public that they are entering into an area covered by CCTV and is a requirement as per guidance issued by the Information Commissioners Office (ICO).
- 5.3 Only trained staff and vetted volunteers are permitted to access the CCTV control room. Vetted volunteers undertake a comprehensive training package that includes the following:
- Freedom of Protection Act 2012 – Referring to ICO CCTV code of practice
  - Data Protection Act 2018 – To support and understand sharing of key information principles.
  - Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 – To support understanding of Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights regarding overt and directed surveillance.

## **6. Next Steps**

- 6.1 As outlined in the report, the CCTV infrastructure incorporates over 400 cameras across 20 sites with all images being viewed from one control room at Oakengates; in the coming year there is opportunity to provide direct links into Malinslee Police Station.
- 6.2 In addition, there are opportunities through the £2.5m Safer & Stronger Communities programme to deliver further CCTV infrastructure improvements in priority areas such as Sutton Hill and Donnington.
- 6.3 Due to the evolving pace of technology development and the advanced nature of the system installed across the borough, there is opportunity to provide support across Council service areas to enhance service delivery and insight. This includes highways for effective network management and leisure/tourism for visitor insight and data capture.
- 6.4 The new Community Action Team's (CAT), working in partnership with Town and Parish Council's, also benefit from the new system as each partnering Town/Parish Council has an opportunity to purchase a mobile camera which will be deployed within their ward boundary in local priority areas. To date, 14 cameras have been purchased through the CAT package with opportunity to deliver more if required. These mobile cameras are deployed to suitable lighting columns with locations supported by local information provided by the Town/Parish Clerks, police intelligence and information provided through our own intelligence.

## **7 IMPACT ASSESSMENT – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

None

## **8 PREVIOUS MINUTES**

None

## **9 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Telford & Wrekin Safer Communities Programme Cabinet Report – 18 February 2021.

Safer and Cleaner Neighbourhoods through the appropriate use of our Civil Enforcement Powers – 18 February 2021.

### **Report prepared by:**

Paul Fenn, Group Manager Neighbourhood Enforcement - 01952 382107