

# CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD



Report subject	<b>Mobile CCTV deployment and policy</b>
Meeting date	12 December 2022
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	<p>This report outlines the Council's approach to the deployment of mobile/deployable CCTV cameras which must adhere to legislative guidelines.</p> <p>The report outlines the legislative requirements, evidence and infrastructure requirements as well as providing advice on how Members and members of the public can make a request.</p>
Recommendations	<p><b>It is RECOMMENDED that:</b></p> <p><b>Members note and comment on the content of the report</b></p>
Reason for recommendations	<p>The decision on where and when to deploy mobile CCTV cameras is taken in accordance with recognised guidance which ensures adherence to legislative requirements. This report is provided, as requested by the Board, for information.</p>

Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Bobbie Dove Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Regulatory Services
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Wards	Council-wide
Classification	For Information

## Background

1. There is a robust governance framework for the deployment of new or deployable CCTV cameras, with the requirement to demonstrate a pressing need for surveillance which must be lawful, proportionate, necessary, transparent and accountable. The deployment of any cameras adheres to this code of practice [Amended Surveillance Camera Code of Practice \(accessible version\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/612222/Amended_Surveillance_Camera_Code_of_Practice_accessible_version.pdf)
2. BCP Council has 570 cameras monitoring key high footfall public areas throughout the conurbation. In addition there are 14 deployable CCTV cameras which can be temporarily positioned throughout the conurbation, subject to meeting the Code of Practice and suitable infrastructure being in place.
3. The key objectives for the deployment of these cameras are;
  - prevent, detect and reduce crime, disorder, public nuisance, and anti-social behaviour (ASB) in public areas
  - enhance community safety
  - reduce the fear of crime.
4. The CCTV Manager or other authorised officer determines when and where CCTV cameras will be deployed based on evidence supplied in the application form which should accompany each request for deployment. (Appendix 1).
5. An application form for deployment should be completed by either Dorset Police or the Antisocial Behaviour Team. This must include:-
  - supporting evidence of crime and disorder and/or ASB statistics,
  - supporting statements from the local community and/or an Elected Member,
  - details of other supporting measures to be undertaken to reduce crime and disorder or ASB.
  - an assessment of the impacts of crime and ASB on the local community
  - clear measurable outcomes to be achieved.

6. If individuals, community groups or Members feel that CCTV is required they should in the first instance report the issues to either Dorset Police [101@dorset.pnn.police.uk](mailto:101@dorset.pnn.police.uk) or the BCP Council Anti-social Behaviour (ASB) Team [asbteam@bpcounil.govuk](mailto:asbteam@bpcounil.govuk). Reports of antisocial behaviour or issues within an area create a record and then appear as a hot spot area which is more likely to then have the necessary evidence to support the deployment of cameras. Dorset Police or the ASB team will be able to collate the necessary supporting evidence included reported issues before any deployment will be considered
7. On receipt of an application the following requirements, as set out in the Surveillance Camera Code of Practice will be taken into consideration: -
  - **Justifiable** - there must be adequate evidence to show that the cameras are an appropriate response. This will usually be shown by evidence of repeated complaints of past incidents, or intelligence on future incidents or events;
  - **General** - the target of the surveillance must be in a public area or against unknown offenders. If a known individual(s) is the target this becomes 'Direct Surveillance' and the deployment will additionally have to be authorised under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000.
  - **Reviewable** - there must be a clear time limit for the duration of the deployment and an identified process of ongoing evaluation of the need for the cameras' continued use in a specific location. Normal deployments will last approximately 3 months; this may be extended but only in exceptional circumstances.
  - **Objective** - there must be specified objectives to be achieved by the camera deployment and the achievement of these objectives should be monitored.
8. There are no specific, quantifiable, or defined thresholds for the deployment of CCTV cameras. ICO Guidance for organisations using CCTV states, "You should initially consider achieving your outcome using alternative, less privacy intrusive methods. You may consider that new technology is an attractive or affordable solution. The use of surveillance systems should be a necessary and proportionate response to the problem you are addressing. You should therefore carefully consider whether or not to use a surveillance system if other options are available." Each request is therefore considered on its own merits.
9. When determining an application based on the guidance, the CCTV Manager will make a decision based on the evidence provided on a case-by-case basis. No two applications will be the same and the criteria for deployment cannot be compared across applications. Some applications may have lower evidential basis; however, they may be necessary due to the seriousness of the issues. Other lower-level antisocial behaviours may require more incidents to support deployment.
10. In addition to the application form and supporting evidence in determining deployment of camera the CCTV manager will undertake a feasibility site visit. This is to assess the necessary infrastructure requirements including power which may be within lighting columns which should be of modern construction and at least 5 metres in height

11. The presence of cameras can act as a deterrent and provide a feeling of security for those within the area of coverage. However, with so many cameras in use they are not all monitored, when incidents are reported, the footage is reviewed to identify what happened and where possible who was involved.

### **Summary of financial implications**

12. Installation costs currently sit with the CCTV budget within the Communities Directorate. The cost to deploy a camera on a lamp column is approximately £400 which includes external power supply, 2 engineers, a lifting platform and signage.

### **Summary of legal implications**

13. Local authorities establish their CCTV systems under Section 17 Crime and Disorder Act 1998 which places an obligation on local authorities and the police to work in partnership to develop and implement a strategy for tackling crime and disorder.
14. Furthermore, Section 163 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 creates the power for local authorities to provide closed circuit television coverage of any land within their area for the purposes of crime prevention or victim welfare.
15. To retain the respect and support of the general public, CCTV must be used fairly, in accordance with current laws and with the utmost integrity at all times. CCTV operations must stand up to scrutiny and be accountable to the communities and people they are aiming to protect.
16. The Data Protection Act/General Data Protection Regulations 2018 sets out seven key principles which must be adhered to at all times, these are:-
  - Lawfulness, fairness and transparency
  - Purpose limitation
  - Data minimisation
  - Accuracy
  - Storage limitation
  - Integrity and confidentiality (security)
  - Accountability
17. The Protection of Freedoms Act 2012. Biometric & Surveillance Camera Commissioners Code of Practice of which the BCP CCTV system is audited and certified against its guiding principles.
18. The Biometric & Surveillance Camera Commissioners Code of Practice states "Use of a surveillance camera system must always be for a specified purpose which is in pursuit of a legitimate aim and necessary to meet an identified pressing need".

### **Summary of human resources implications**

19. None.

## **Summary of sustainability impact**

20. None.

## **Summary of public health implications**

21. The fear of crime and disorder can significantly affect peoples enjoyment and use of public open spaces and even the high street.

Access to safe environments, including parks, beaches and our streets has the potential to improve the quality of life for residents and visitors alike.

## **Summary of equality implications**

22. This report is for information only and the deployment of CCTV is covered by a separate EIA.

## **Summary of risk assessment**

23. Not applicable

## **Background papers**

Data Protection Act/GDPR 2018

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2018/12/contents/enacted>

Human Rights Act 1998

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1998/42/contents>

Protection of Freedoms Act 2012

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2012/9/part/2/enacted>

Crime and Disorder Act 1998

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1998/37/section/17>

Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1994/33/part/XII/crossheading/closedcircuit-television-by-local-authorities>

ICO Guidance for organisations using CCTV

<https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-data-protection/key-dp-themes/guidance-on-video-surveillance-including-cctv/how-can-we-comply-with-the-data-protection-principles-when-using-surveillance-systems/>

Biometric & Surveillance Commissioners Code of Practice.

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1035067/Surveillance\\_Camera\\_CoP\\_Accessible\\_PDF.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1035067/Surveillance_Camera_CoP_Accessible_PDF.pdf)

## **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Application form for deployment of CCTV camera