

Report to:	CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Relevant Officer:	John Greenbank, Senior Democratic Governance Adviser
Date of meeting:	15 November 2023

CCTV SCRUTINY BRIEFING AND CONTROL CENTRE TOUR

1.0 Purpose of the report

1.1 To consider an update on the CCCTV Briefing and tour of the control centre on 12 October 2023.

2.0 Recommendation(s)

2.1 To consider the update, the recommendations made and identify any further work to be undertaken on CCTV.

3.0 Reason for recommendation(s)

3.1 To ensure the Committee has an overview of ongoing work.

3.2 Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy approved by the Council? No

3.3 Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

4.0 Other alternative options to be considered

4.1 None.

5.0 Council priority

5.1 The relevant Council priority is:

- 'Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience'

6.0 Background and key information

6.1 On 27 July 2021 the Tourism, Economy and Communities Scrutiny Committee held a briefing where it heard details of the plans for the first phase of the upgrade to CCTV infrastructure in Blackpool's Central Area. At this meeting it was agreed by members that further scrutiny work should be undertaken on the proposals for the second phase of CCTV infrastructure work outside of the Central Area. Following the changes to

scrutiny committee remits in May 2023 the Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee had been designated the Council's statutory Crime and Disorder Panel.

- 6.2 At its work-planning meeting held in June 2023 the Committee agreed that a briefing should be held on the second stage of CCTV infrastructure. Following this it was also arranged that the briefing would include a tour of the new CCTV Control Centre.
- 6.3 The briefing and tour were held on Thursday, 12 October 2023 at the CCTV Control Centre. The meeting was chaired by Councillor Simon Cartmell and the following members were present.

Councillor Emma Ellison
Councillor Adrian Hoyle
Councillor Julie Jones
Councillor Portia Webb

Councillor Mel Fenlon
Councillor Alistair Humphreys
Councillor Diane Mitchell

- 6.4 Also in attendance were Mr John Blackledge, Director of Community and Environmental Services, Ms Lisa Arnold, Assistant Director Community and Environmental Services (Community and Wellbeing), Ms Jennifer Clayton, Head of Public Protection, Mr Neil Williams, Emergency Planning Officer, Mr Peter Brown, Security, CCTV and Civil Enforcement Manager, Ms Donna Jenkins, CCTV Control Room Manager and Chief Inspector Chris Barton, Lancashire Constabulary.
- 6.5 It was explained that the CCTV Control Centre formed an important part of the Council's role as a Category One responder under the proposed "Martyn's Law", with responsibility for co-ordinating the response to major incidents.
- 6.6 Members also viewed the new Incident Management Room, which was located with the control centre and were told that the new facility would allow key partners to operate from a dedicated joint location during major events and in response to any critical incidents that could occur. This would form an important part of joint working to ensure events were managed effectively and partners' inoperability during them. It also allowed a location where partners would come together during any major incidents that occurred so that a joint response could be co-ordinated.
- 6.7 In addition to operational support it was also noted that the room would allow for greater opportunity to conduct joint training for partners on how to react to different events and incidents.
- 6.8 Chief Inspector Chris Barton addressed the meeting and highlighted that the new control centre would be linked to the Police control room to allow timely provision of CCTV to Officers investigating crime in their day to day role. This would include the ability to provide real-time observation of crimes in progress. The new CCTV infrastructure would further assist in the prevention of crime by providing a deterrent in

the areas in which it was placed. He also added that improved CCTV coverage would also assist in areas of investigation relating to missing persons, the monitoring of vulnerable people and supporting work with children and young people.

- 6.9 Members also discussed the use of drone cameras to support partners' work, with it being explained that the Council could request use of equipment operated by the Police and Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service. It was advised that these had been used by the Public Protection Team in connection to Trading Standards investigations. Further to which it was stated that drones would be instantly available and could be deployed in the response to any major incident.
- 6.10 As part of Phase Two of the upgrade to CCTV Infrastructure members also heard that all existing CCTV sites outside of the town centre would be reviewed and risk assessed to determine if cameras should be replaced or removed. In addition to this a pro-forma was being developed to assist with the identification of new sites for the installation of cameras. Mr Blackledge explained that this document would be made available to Councillors and Community Groups to highlight where they believed CCTV would be needed.
- 6.11 Once completed the proposed site could be risk assessed by partners and a determination made on which areas should be prioritised for new infrastructure. It was emphasised that although not all areas highlighted by those submitting the pro-forma would receive CCTV as part of Phase Two, the documents would provide the Council and partners with a list of areas where cameras could be installed in the future, dependent on risk and funding levels available. In order to ensure ongoing community engagement it was also confirmed that each pro-forma submitted would be responded to by the Council, ensuring a transparent process and the reasons for or against CCTV installation being made clear.
- 6.12 Members welcomed the use of a pro-forma document to ensure that communities were involved in identifying locations for CCTV and asked that the draft document be shared with members of the Committee when completed for information.
- 6.13 The use of greater CCTV around schools was discussed, with members highlighting issues with vehicles during the start and end of the school day. This had been identified as an ongoing issues and it was advised that partners and schools would be working together to understand the need at each individual site, and determine the best approach to resolving the issues experienced, noting that other options for addressing crime and disorder could also be utilised. It was added the pro-forma document would also help in prioritising which schools had the greatest need for CCTV.

7.0 **Recommendations**

- 7.1 That the pro-forma document to support Phase Two of the upgrade to CCTV

Infrastructure be shared with members of the Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee for information.

7.2 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? Yes / No

8.0 List of appendices

8.1 None.

9.0 Financial considerations

9.1 None.

10.0 Legal considerations

10.1 None.

11.0 Risk management considerations

11.1 None.

12.0 Equalities considerations and the impact of this decision for our children and young people

12.1 None.

13.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations

13.1 None.

14.0 Internal/external consultation undertaken

14.1 None.

15.0 Background papers

15.1 None.