

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLANNING and TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD

4 June 2014

Report of the Director of Planning, Housing and Environmental Health

Part 1- Public

Matters for Recommendation to Cabinet - Non-Key Decision (Decision may be taken by the Cabinet Member)

1 CCTV ANNUAL REPORT

This report presents and seeks endorsement of the draft CCTV Annual Report for 2013/14.

1.1 Context

- 1.1.1 The current CCTV service is provided in partnership with Tunbridge Well Borough Council (TWBC). Members will be aware that, with a few exceptions, our town centre and car park CCTV cameras are monitored in the Joint CCTV Control Room in the Town Hall in Tunbridge Wells.
- 1.1.2 All cameras from our town centre systems are fed through fibre optic cables to a collection hub in Tonbridge where the signals are sent through a 'trunk fibre' cable to the Control Room in Tunbridge Wells.
- 1.1.3 This time last year I was able to report that the new technical equipment and furniture in the CCTV Control Room was in place and I am pleased to report that this new state-of-the-art digital system has provided everything we were looking for in providing a technically sound and useful system.
- 1.1.4 Eight Borough Councillors have visited the CCTV Control Room in the last 12 months and if any other Member who has not been there recently would like to see how the operation works I would be happy to arrange a visit.
- 1.1.5 **[Annex 1]** contains a copy of the draft Annual Report covering the CCTV service during 2013/14 and includes a report prepared by an independent auditor. It outlines the CCTV operation and includes some statistics relating to the number and type of incidents that have been monitored by our CCTV operators. It also includes a number of reasonable recommendations that I intend to take on board.
- 1.1.6 It is important to say that the use of the CCTV system is under fairly constant review. I believe the value of the system demonstrated by the annual report is significant but it is always important to consider on an ongoing basis how we use

CCTV and how it contributes to our objectives, particularly around community safety. It is also worth noting here that within the proper constraints on its use the system can be used in a versatile way to prepare for and respond to particular events. Working with partners, especially the Police, this can be a helpful deterrent and source of intelligence. The forthcoming activity around the World Cup might be a good example of such an approach.

1.2 Legal Implications

1.2.1 The CCTV scheme operates fairly, within applicable law and with proper regard for the privacy of the individual. We and our partner TWBC subscribe closely to the CCTV Code of Practice

1.3 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

1.3.1 These are covered within existing established budgets.

1.4 Risk Assessment

1.4.1 CCTV continues to be an effective tool in reducing crime, anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime and plays a key role in managing our urban areas.

1.5 Equality Impact Assessment

1.5.1 See 'Screening for equality impacts' table at end of report

1.6 Policy Considerations

1.6.1 Reduction of crime, anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime.

1.7 Recommendations

1.7.1 That the CCTV Report for 2013/14 **BE ENDORSED** for publication.

The Director of Planning, Housing and Environmental Health confirms that the proposals contained in the recommendation(s), if approved, will fall within the Council's Budget and Policy Framework.

Background papers:

contact: Andy Edwards

Nil

Steve Humphrey

Director of Planning, Housing and Environmental Health

Screening for equality impacts:		
Question	Answer	Explanation of impacts
a. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper have potential to cause adverse impact or discriminate against different groups in the community?	No	CCTV makes a positive contribution to ensuring the safety of all people in the public realm by providing professional, well managed systems to provide high levels of public reassurance.
b. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper make a positive contribution to promoting equality?	N/A	
c. What steps are you taking to mitigate, reduce, avoid or minimise the impacts identified above?		N/A

In submitting this report, the Chief Officer doing so is confirming that they have given due regard to the equality impacts of the decision being considered, as noted in the table above.