

THIS ITEM IS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

(Please note that "Information Only" reports do not require Integrated Impact Assessments, Legal or Finance Comments as no decision is being taken)

Title of meeting: Community Safety Decision Meeting

Subject: Safeguarding Camera Update

Date of meeting: 16 February 2021

Report by: Director of Housing, Neighbourhood and Building Services

Report Author: Roy Goulding, Community Safety Manager

Wards affected: All

1. Requested by:

1.1 Cabinet Member for Community Safety

2. Purpose

2.1 To update the Cabinet Member for Community Safety of the work undertaken by the Safeguarding camera team

3. Information Requested

3.1 Portsmouth City Council (PCC) currently has 133 fixed public space surveillance (PSS) CCTV cameras covering the city. In addition, there are 18 redeployable cameras that are able to be utilised across the city to meet demand at locations that are not covered by a fixed camera. The redeployable suite are of a design that enables a safeguarding camera to be fixed to a lamppost that has a permanent power supply. These cameras are used to assist with preventing and tackling anti-social behaviour across the city. Fourteen of the redeployable units are a triple camera type enabling multiple views to be captured at the same time, whilst the four remaining units are of a single camera type.

3.2 Examples of positive outcomes for the redeployable cameras include identification of individuals being responsible for fly tips at Tangier Road and Kirby Road. Following an investigation, these individuals received fines as they were able to be identified by reviewing the camera footage. Hampshire Constabulary place a large demand on the team for footage for a variety of their investigations and the team provide relevant footage to assist and provide evidence at court as appropriate. This has contributed towards successful criminal prosecutions.

- 3.3 The CCTV system is managed by the CCTV Manager who is also registered as the Single Point of Contact (SPOC) for the authority as required by the Surveillance Camera Commissioner. In addition to the PSS and redeployable cameras the CCTV manager is able to design and install bespoke systems to buildings managed by PCC and partner agencies. Recent installations have included College Park (animal sanctuary), City Museum and Fratton Community Centre. PCC has also been working with Gosport Borough Council and its housing department and installed to date 6 bespoke CCTV systems. This also includes ensuring legislative requirements are met. The CCTV Manager is responsible for ensuring each camera has a data protection impact assessment and the PSS camera positions are publicly available on PCC's website.
- 3.4 The CCTV Manager has responsibility for the entire network of cameras and manages ten officers within the CCTV team. This includes a team of operators who work within the CCTV Control Room. This is a team of 8 staff working in pairs on a rolling shift pattern 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. This team will monitor, review and download footage as required ensuring that they are adhering to all relevant codes of practice and other privacy legislation. The operators managed 7298 incidents in 2020 and produced 1071 copy discs for partners and undertook an additional 235 viewings of recorded material for partners. This is in addition to responding to incidents in 'live' time and they will work with the police often whilst an on going incident is occurring. They will also participate in providing footage to partner agencies during events that require support from the citywide cameras.
- 3.5 In addition to the CCTV operators PCC employ two Security Equipment Engineers. These engineers have responsibility to maintain, repair, replace and install new camera systems as directed by the CCTV manager. The engineers are trained to look after multiple types of equipment and to use multiple types of vehicle when required. In addition to maintain and repairing the Public space and redeployable safeguarding cameras, the engineers are responsible for the maintenance and repair of all PCC housing stock cameras and recording hardware (approximately 1800 cameras). They also currently have responsibility for Gosport's housing stock of 36 cameras.
- 3.6 The safeguarding camera team and infrastructure is wholly funded by Portsmouth City Council aside from the additional income received from Gosport Borough Council for installation work. In 2021 the team will explore the potential to generate additional income to enable continuous improvement towards the infrastructure of the control room and camera system. This will also include consideration of funding towards additional redeployable cameras to continue to contribute towards safeguarding the city.

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Signed by James Hill - Director of Housing, Neighbourhood and Building Services

Appendices: None

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location