



**Cabinet**  
14 December 2015

**Report from Chief Operating Officer**

Wards:  
All

**CCTV Strategy**

**1. Summary**

- 1.1. This report summarises the Brent CCTV strategy 2015-18 and highlights the key elements within.
- 1.2. The strategy seeks to reduce the resource drain of an ageing camera stock by reducing the numbers of fixed cameras on a hard-wired network and replacing with a stock of mobile deployable 4G cameras which can be allocated in support of problem solving initiatives.
- 1.3. This move should help support the council in meeting its requirements under the Surveillance Commissioner's CCTV Code of Practice, which all public sector operators must have due regard to.
- 1.4. Additionally we will explore, over the period of the strategy, the opportunity to share CCTV with another borough, understanding the capital costs associated with this and developing a business case should this be a preferred option moving forward.

**2. Recommendations**

- 2.1. To agree the adoption of the strategy.

**3. Detail**

- 3.1. This strategy outlines the future plans for Brent's CCTV service for the period 2015-2018. The main features of this strategy are to:

- Supporting community safety priorities and working in partnership to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour
- Increase the number of operational mobile 4G CCTV cameras whilst removing redundant cameras from the network, hence increasing the efficiency of the network
- Ensure compliance with the Surveillance Commissioner's code of practice
- Explore opportunities for sharing CCTV with another borough to reduce costs, with a view to preparing the groundwork for this in 2016/17 for decision and implementation in 2017/18.

3.2. The London Borough of Brent operates 182 active CCTV cameras from its control room in the Brent Civic Centre. These cameras are used primarily for community safety, but are also used for the purposes of traffic and parking enforcement, housing estate monitoring, and environmental/fly tipping monitoring, amongst others. Brent also shares video feeds with external stakeholders such as Transport for London, the Metropolitan Police, and the borough of Camden to assist with their respective operations. During events at Wembley Stadium, Brent CCTV control room plays a key part in controlling access and egress for people and traffic.

3.3. There are eight key objectives for the strategy:

- We will reduce the number of fixed CCTV cameras, removing those that cannot justify their contribution to community safety
- We will increase the number of mobile deployable CCTV cameras, with a clear, transparent system in place for their deployment to areas of need.
- There will be no reduction in the total number of cameras available
- We will seek to gain efficiencies and advantages through better tendering and procurement arrangements, including the replacement of the oldest CCTV cameras
- We will develop opportunities to provide a monitoring service for the CCTV cameras of other organisations, including housing providers
- We will ensure compliance with the Surveillance Commissioner's CCTV Code of Practice
- We will explore opportunities for recruiting and training volunteer CCTV operators to complement existing staff
- We will explore the opportunities for sharing the CCTV service with another borough. By the end of 2016/17 we will have a clear business case including any capital costs required for this transformation.

3.4. In addition to the Community Safety CCTV cameras managed through the Control Room, the council also has a stock of vehicle-mounted CCTV cameras used for Waste Enforcement monitoring and a stock of Traffic Enforcement cameras managed by Serco.

- 3.5. A recent Scrutiny Review has greatly influenced the CCTV Strategy, in particular around communication with residents and key stakeholders, transparency, the involvement of residents' groups and income generation.

#### **4. Financial Implications**

- 4.1. This project is cost neutral to the council as only the savings to be realised from the decommissioning of the 30 CCTV cameras (c. £24,000) will be invested in the new CCTV mobile technology. Also the maintenance of the new CCTV cameras can be accommodated in the existing maintenance contract and will not impact the 2015-16 Community Safety budget. On Staffing, the planned recruitment and training of volunteer CCTV operators will be done in house at no extra cost.

#### **5. Legal Implications**

- 5.1. CCTV systems are subject to legislation that aims to protect the public's privacy from undue monitoring and surveillance. This includes the Data Protection Act (1998), the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (2000) and the Protection of Freedoms Act (2012). It is important for organizations operating CCTV to be compliant with the provisions of these laws to protect themselves from legal action and to uphold the privacy of the residents and businesses that they monitor. To this end, there are three major publications of best practices to guide regulatory compliance:

5.1.1. The Home Office **Surveillance Camera Code of Practice** (June 2013) provides guidance on the appropriate use of CCTV per the requirements of the Protection of Freedoms Act (2012). This legislation stipulates that local authorities must have regard to the code in the when operating their CCTV systems.

5.1.2. **In the picture: A data protection code of practice for surveillance cameras and personal information** is published by the Information Commissioner's Office (October 2014) pursuant to the Data Protection Act (1998) and updated to reflect later regulatory developments. This code is consistent with the Home Office code, but has a more significant focus on the protection of personal data. It also has a broader scope than the Home Office code: it must be adhered to by both private and public sector CCTV systems.

5.1.3. **British Standard 7958:2009** (CCTV Management and Operation Code of Practice) is a voluntary standard published by the British Standards Institute—a non-governmental body. It provides guidance based on the

provisions of the Data Protection Act (1998), Human Rights Act (1998), and Freedom of Information Act (2000).

## **6. Diversity Implications**

- 6.1. CCTV cameras are situated in the crime hotspot areas of Brent. Those most likely to be victims of crime in Brent are younger (15-24) and from BME communities.
- 6.2. Older people are less likely than younger people to feel safe outside after dark and are also over-represented in the % of people who report that their life is greatly affected by fear of crime. Reducing monitoring could have a negative impact on fear of crime and public confidence. Older people may experience difficulty in accessing services and information, and may therefore not be aware of CCTV provision– which could improve confidence.

## **7. Contact Officers**

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