



**Resources & Public Realm Scrutiny
Committee**
13 July 2021

**Report from the Strategic Director
of Regeneration and Environment**

Provision and Deployment of CCTV Cameras in Brent

Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	N/A
Open or Part/Fully Exempt: <small>(If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)</small>	Open
No. of Appendices:	One: Appendix 1 - Map of CCTV Assets in Brent
Background Papers:	CCTV Locations
Contact Officer(s): <small>(Name, Title, Contact Details)</small>	Colin Wilderspin Head of Community Protection Tel: 0208 9375367 Colin.wilderspin@brent.gov.uk

1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To provide the Resources & Public Realm Scrutiny Committee with information regarding the provision and deployment of CCTV within the Borough of Brent.

2.0 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 That Committee be assured of the robustness of the process of deploying CCTV cameras in Brent
- 2.2 That Committee recognises the work in progress to expand the available use of CCTV in Brent in future
- 2.3 The further views of Committee in relation to the provision and deployment of CCTV in Brent are sought

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 The Borough of Brent operates both public place CCTV (Static) and deployable CCTV units which can be moved around the Borough to target specific hot spots of Anti-Social Behaviour, Fly –tipping and address other community safety issues.
- 3.2 Committee has requested that information be provided in respect of specific elements of the provision of CCTV within the borough, namely;
- The location of static CCTV cameras borough wide
 - The process for reviewing locations where cameras should be located
 - The impact (if any) of the savings that have been required within Council budgets since 2010
 - How does the Council work in partnership with others in terms of use of CCTV and is there any potential to link up with systems / control arrangements with others
 - The potential use of Strategic CIL or other resources to fund further infrastructure

The Location of Static CCTV Cameras within Brent

- 3.3 A map of our public place CCTV (static units) is publicly available (see link): <https://www.brent.gov.uk/media/16402556/cctv-maps.pdf>. The map is attached as appendix 1 to this report.
- 3.4 In terms of how locations are determined, the process was agreed during 2015. Each of Brent's 183 active cameras were reviewed in order to establish their relative "importance". A five-point scale was used to quantify this importance against a set of standard metrics. For each metric, cameras were assigned a score of 1 or 0—1 if the camera "passed" the metric and 0 if it did not. The sum of the scores for each camera provides an indication of its importance. Cameras with the highest scores are those that were deemed the most important to the borough and those with the lowest scores were those deemed as candidates for decommissioning.
- 3.5 The following points explain the metrics used to rank each of the borough's cameras:
- **Control Room Usage:** Control room officers were asked to assign each camera a rating of red (high priority—used by the CCTV team on a daily basis), amber (medium priority—used on an infrequent basis by the CCTV team, but sited in a strategic location), or green (low priority—used by the CCTV team on an ad hoc basis or used mainly by Wembley stadium). Cameras rated red or amber were given a score of 1; cameras rated green were given a score of 0.
 - **Enforcement Usage:** Cameras that are actively used by the Parking and Traffic Enforcement team were given a score of 1, while all others were given a score of 0. It should be noted that this represents usage as of November 2014. Laws governing the usage of CCTV for enforcement purposes are changing in the near term; the number of cameras used for enforcement may shrink substantially as a result.

- Equality: The Equality Act, 2010 requires authorities to consider the impact of their services on the protected characteristics of age, race, ability, gender, marriage /civil partnership, sexual orientation and religion/belief. To comply with this guideline, cameras were assigned a score of 1 if they served a purpose specific to one or more of these protected groups and 0 if they did not.
 - Legitimate Aim and Pressing Need: The Surveillance Camera Code of Practice requires that each operational camera have a demonstrable “legitimate aim and pressing need”. With the assistance of the control room manager, cameras were assigned a score of 1 if they demonstrated a legitimate aim and pressing need and 0 if they did not.
 - Contribution to Community Safety: Cameras were allocated a score of 1 if they were viewed as having a positive contribution to community safety on the basis of conversations with control room staff and analysis of crime patterns over the last three years.
- 3.6 Locations were also based on the intensity of criminal activity in the borough (as reported by the Metropolitan Police Service). Generally speaking, the most important cameras are those in high-crime neighbourhoods; this suggests that these cameras contribute more significantly to community safety by monitoring criminal activities in these areas.
- 3.7 When new development planning applications are proposed, these will be looked at by the police Designing Out Crime Officer, and they will assess if CCTV is necessary and how best this should be implemented through either private or whether public space CCTV should be considered. This can often come under Section 106 agreements.
- 3.8 Brent’s investment in deployable cameras gives the council greater flexibility in moving cameras to other areas where there is an evidential threshold. Requests from both Council Officers and the Metropolitan Police are considered on a monthly basis through an operational managers’ panel where requests are considered. The Panel consider whether requests meet both need and legislation requirements. An annual review of camera deployments in the borough is also conducted to ensure compliance. CCTV Mobile camera applications are made to Community Protection. Crime analysis will also have to support these applications to approve deployments. The panel members consist of the Brent Police Neighbourhood Inspector, ASB Nuisance and Crime Manager, Environmental Enforcement Manager and the Senior Control Room Officer. 2 moves a month are absorbed within the existing CCTV contract at no extra cost.
- 3.9 Any Council officer, police or partner agency including housing providers can submit a referral form to the Community Protection ASB Team for the panel to assess the referral based on a number of factors including crime and ASB data, ensure it meets the legislative threshold and any other intelligence or information. It is also assessed next to current placements and risk assessment to ensure the deployable CCTV units are positioned to where they are most in need. There is no maximum length as to how long a deployable can be up providing that the risk remains in place and other thresholds remain. However often the longer a CCTV unit is in one location

the less effective they can become so regular movement of deployable CCTV is recommended and is best practice. All locations are considered at the monthly panel meetings.

Impact of Council Savings

- 3.10 Since the commencement of the period of austerity from 2010 onwards, like most services, the CCTV function has not been immune from the requirement to make savings. The CCTV Control Room went from 8 operators down to 6 in 2017. The CCTV Control Room went from 24 hours a day 7 days a week to 20 hours a day seven days a week. The hours of operation were determined in partnership with the Metropolitan Police based on crime figures for the borough and are agreed with Police colleagues. As a result, while relatively modest savings have been incurred from the service, the impact has been mitigated by provision of a more targeted CCTV service, based on statistical data relating to crime that ensures that the service continues to operate effectively.

Partnership Working

- 3.11 Partnership working is at the core of ensuring that the provision of CCTV within Brent is effective. The CCTV control room has a direct link with the Police control room and can respond and communicate with police on the ground. The system is regularly accessed by police for investigations. Internally the CCTV is used to monitor staff when working in volatile situations to provide some support and safeguard them.
- 3.12 Some Local Authorities have worked with neighbours in order to maximise the effectiveness of CCTV while avoiding duplication (for instance multiple Control Room provision). Conversations have taken place with other London Boroughs previously but these have not developed further for various reasons with the main issue being that Councils want to retain the control and oversight of their own CCTV systems. Opportunities to integrate CCTV owned by Housing Associations into the borough control room have been explored over the years. Incompatible systems have largely been the barrier. This is currently being revisited and a meeting was held in May 2021 with large Housing Associations in Brent to explore integration of WCCTV cameras into the Borough Control Room. These are high quality mobile cameras with ANPR capability.
- 3.13 Quintain and Wembley Stadium have linked systems which are primarily used during event days in Wembley Park. On event days the CCTV Control room provides a central point of coordination.
- 3.14 Community Protection are currently exploring wider uses for the control room and an options paper is being developed for Autumn/Winter 2021 for consideration as part of a business case and revised Strategy.

Funding for Expanded Provision

- 3.15 Strategic CIL is available for the provision of essential infrastructure and theoretically, the potential exists to fund further CCTV infrastructure. However, year on year maintenance will be outside of the scope of CIL funding and will have to be absorbed within the existing maintenance contract and revenue

budget. It should also be noted that using CCTV in isolation to prevent crime is often expensive and ineffective. CCTV should form part of a wider plan around crime prevention. CCTV is best used to identify offenders and support investigations than an effective tool for crime prevention.

3.16 Future crime prevention approaches should also include working alongside local business networks and the growth of technology such as residential door cameras which are being used more and more to support police criminal investigations alongside public space CCTV.

3.17 However, it is recognised that CCTV has a part to play, along with other tools, in identifying and solving both violent and environmental crime, As a result, the Council is in the process of considering the purchase a further 10 deployable CCTV units and 6 ANPR attachments to be used alongside these to support the demand and growth of tackling community safety issues and enforcement operations.

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 The overall 2021-22 budget for CCTV cost centre is £0.508m and within this is the CCTV maintenance contract of £0.133m for 2021-22. There are no financial implications for this report.

5.0 Legal Implications

5.1 Any CCTV Scheme owned and operated by Brent Council must comply with the following legislation:

- General Data Protection Regulation 2018
- Human Rights Act 1998;
- Protection of Freedoms Act 2012;
- Freedom of Information Act 2000;
- Regulatory and Investigatory Powers Act 2000.

5.2 The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) issued its first code of practice under the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA) covering the use of CCTV in 2000. The code has been developed to explain the legal requirements operators of surveillance cameras were required to meet under the Act and promote best practice.

5.3 The Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 introduced legislation governing the use of surveillance camera systems that monitor public space. This included:

- The Surveillance Camera Code of Practice (2013) and The Surveillance Camera
- Implemented a Commissioner whose role it is to encourage compliance, review operations and provide advice about the code.
- Section 33(5) places Local Authorities on a list of 'relevant authorities' who MUST pay due regard to the code.

5.4 GDPR also applies because CCTV cameras capture personal information that could identify someone

5.5 The Secretary of State has issued a Surveillance Camera Code of Practice under section 30 of the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012, which provides guidance on the use of CCTV cameras. It explains how the government is supportive of the use of overt CCTV provided that certain conditions are met. Compliance is achieved by fulfilling twelve guiding principles that we have adopted, as shown below:

- 1) 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.
- 2) The use of a surveillance camera system must take into account its effect on individuals and their privacy, with regular reviews to ensure its use remains justified.
- 3) There must be as much transparency in the use of a surveillance camera system as possible, including a published contact point for access to information and complaints.
- 4) There must be clear responsibility and accountability for all surveillance camera system activities including images and information collected, held and used.
- 5) Clear rules, policies and procedures must be in place before a surveillance camera system is used, and these must be communicated to all who need to comply with them.
- 6) No more images and information should be stored than that which is strictly required for the stated purpose of a surveillance camera system, and such images and information should be securely deleted once their purposes have been discharged.
- 7) Access to retained images and information should be restricted and there must be clearly defined rules on who can gain access and for what purpose such access is granted; the disclosure of images and information should only take place when it is necessary for such a purpose or for law enforcement purposes.
- 8) Surveillance camera system operators should consider any approved operational, technical and competency standards relevant to a system and its purpose and work to meet and maintain those standards.
- 9) Surveillance camera system images and information should be subject to appropriate security measures to safeguard against unauthorised access and use.
- 10) There should be effective review and audit mechanisms to ensure legal requirements, policies and standards are complied with in practice, and regular reports should be published.
- 11) When the use of a surveillance camera system is in pursuit of a legitimate aim, and there is a pressing need for its use, it should then be used in the most effective way to support public safety and law

enforcement with the aim of processing images and information of evidential value.

- 12) Any information used to support a surveillance camera system which compares against a reference database for matching purposes should be accurate and kept up to date.

5.6 The Surveillance Camera Commissioner is a statutory appointment by the Home Secretary to promote compliance with the Surveillance Camera Code of Practice and to provide advice on compliance. A Surveillance Camera Commissioner CCTV Guide, a Passport to Compliance document, Self-Assessment Tools and Data Protection Impact Assessments templates for Surveillance Cameras have also been created by the Secretary of State to assist organisations with compliance. The Commissioner has no enforcement or inspection powers.

6.0 Equality Implications

- 6.1 There are no known equality implications for this report. When placing Public Place CCTV each proposal will include an Equality Impact Assessment.

Report sign off:

ALAN LUNT

Strategic Director of Regeneration & Environment.