



Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Monday 22 July 2013

**Report from the Operational Director,
Environment and Protection**

Wards Affected:
ALL

Close Circuit Television (CCTV) Update

1.0 Summary

1.1 Brent Partnership and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee has invited Environment and Neighbourhood Service – CCTV to provide a short update on the CCTV service. This report provides that update.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 That the Scrutiny Panel note the content of the briefing report

3.0 Detail

3.1 Surveillance camera systems (CCTV) are deployed extensively in England and Wales and Brent has a significant number of CCTV cameras. Used appropriately these systems are valuable tools which contribute to public safety and security and in protecting both people and property.

3.2 The objectives of the CCTV camera system are;

- To deter crime
- To assist in the detection and investigation of crime

- To reduce the fear of crime
- To discourage anti-social behaviour
- Assist in traffic management
- Facilitate enforcement of decriminalised parking and traffic regulations
- Assist in town centre and event management
- Support the management of events at Wembley Arena and the national Stadium

3.3 The first four CCTV cameras were installed in Wembley High Road in time to monitor supporters and traffic in Wembley for the European Football Championships in 1996. In the ensuing years the number of cameras has grown to 175 with concentrations in the town centre areas of Wembley, Harlesden, Kilburn and Neasden, and in the vicinity of Wembley National Stadium.

A map showing the locations of fixed cameras is available on the Council's Internet site

<http://www.brent.gov.uk/your-community/crime-community-safety/cctv-in-brent/>

3.4 **Current Position**

As of March 2013 Brent Council owned and maintained 175 fixed CCTV cameras.

- Of those 175, about 30 are regularly used to assist in managing events at the National Stadium. Whilst the cameras are owned and maintained by Brent Council the cost of installation was externally funded from a combination of grants and WNSL
- 82 of the fixed cameras are approved for use regarding enforcement of parking and traffic regulations
- In addition, under a camera sharing agreement, Brent Council has access to 23 CCTV cameras owned and maintained by Transport for London. Access is limited to 3 cameras at any particular time.

3.5 The fixed CCTV cameras are supplemented by 7 deployable cameras which can be used to meet specific demands.

Links between the cameras and the Borough Control Room are a mixture of fibre optic cable, micro wave and BT lines. The fibre optic cable network is owned and maintained by Brent council.

- 3.6 Brent Council and the Metropolitan Police Service are the major stakeholders with interests in, and access to, all cameras in all areas of the system. Brent Council owns, administers and manages the town centre systems and cameras deployed for the enforcement of traffic regulations.
- 3.7 Other stakeholders are Brent Housing Partnership, Wembley National Stadium, Transport for London (TfL) and, internally, Parking Enforcement.
- 3.8 Partnership arrangements allow the Metropolitan Police to view images directly from the police control centres at Hendon/Bow/Lambeth/New Scotland Yard. Images are also made available to the police control room at Wembley Police Station.
- 3.9 Recent constraints on funding mean that the system is unlikely to be expanded in the foreseeable future, unless specific external funding is available including funding for any on going costs beyond purchase and installation e.g. maintenance.

4.0 CCTV Monitoring

- 4.1 Responsibility for the monitoring of CCTV cameras lies with Emergency Planning and Control. CCTV cameras are monitored 24 / 7 through the CCTV monitoring suite in the Borough Control Room (BCR). Borough Control staff are required to hold a minimum qualification of Level 2 BETEC in Public Surveillance or an equivalent.

In addition the Council's parking enforcement contractor, Serco, monitors approved cameras as part of their enforcement of parking regulations and moving traffic offences.

5.0 Camera Placement and Usage

- 5.1 A Code of Practice for surveillance cameras will be introduced shortly and, in line with principles underpinning that Code of Practice CCTV will only be used for a specific purpose which is in pursuit of a legitimate aim and necessary to meet an identified pressing need.
- 5.2 Requests for fixed CCTV in new locations must be judged against a set of evidence based assessment criteria. The decision for new camera locations will be based upon:
- Evidence, based on statistical information and techniques such as crime mapping, that the locality in question has a pressing need e.g. the area in question has become a *sustained* crime hot spot

- That the installation of fixed CCTV cameras is a proportionate response to the problem

6.0 Deployable Cameras

6.1 The council has 7 deployable cameras. 4 of the 7 cameras are recording devices only and cannot be actively monitored. Their use is also governed by the Codes of Practice. By their nature they are not intended to be installed for extended periods of time and their deployment will be subject to regular review. Their use must be proportionate and appropriate, and their deployment should only be made after all other solutions to an identified problem have been meaningfully considered. They should not be seen as a first option.

Deployable cameras are not deployed on property not owned by the council.

6.2. Budgetary constraints within the CCTV service now require that those requesting the deployment of deployable cameras fund the installation and removal costs.

7.0 Replacement

7.1 Funding constraints and the forthcoming Code of Practice necessitate that the automatic replacement of existing cameras cannot be assumed. Factors which have to be taken into consideration in deciding upon the viability of replacement include;

- Cost of replacement, including on-going maintenance costs
- Availability of external funding
- Likely social impact of decommissioning
- Review under the Code of Practice to ensure continuance of 'pressing need'
- Usage made of camera by stakeholders such as MPS and Wembley national Stadium

8.0 Performance Management

8.1 At present the CCTV service reports certain information to measure the usage and performance of the provision of CCTV. These are:

- Number of camera days CCTV cameras working
- Number of CCTV cameras in operation
- Number of hours that Police officers use the CCTV suite
- The number of tapes viewed in the Control Room by Police to assist with crime investigation
- The number of tapes copied for Police
- Surveillance by Police using the Control Room (hours)

- Surveillance for Police by the Control Room Officers(hours)
- The number of incidents recorded on camera in the South Kilburn area for Brent Housing Partnership

Although discussion has taken place through the London wide CCTV Users Group, as yet no benchmarking arrangements have been agreed.

9.0 Constraints

9.1 Budget

The major constraint upon the further development of CCTV is financial, particular in today's economic climate.

Any expansion of Brent's system or any potential for multi borough collaboration would involve considerable initial capital investment and such funding is unlikely to be available in the foreseeable future.

At a more local level regeneration projects may provide the opportunity for small scale expansion, as has been the case in Harlesden Town centre (See below).

Whilst there is potential for longer term financial savings on the operating costs by expanding our fibre optic or micro wave capability this would again require significant initial capital outlay.

9.2 Codes of Practice

As previously indicated new Codes of Practice will shortly be implemented. The Codes set out the parameters within which Brent's CCTV system will be required to operate and lay out constraints upon its usage. The Codes do not depart significantly from current practice but lay down a formal framework with which compliance is expected.

10.0 New projects

10.1 Harlesden Town Centre

The regeneration of Harlesden Town Centre has provided the opportunity for local expansion of the CCTV network. An additional 8 fixed cameras have been funded through the regeneration project and will provide further public area surveillance in a busy area and enhance traffic management in the area.

11.0 Short and long term plans for the service

11.1 Shared capability

Budgetary constraints place increasing pressure on the CCTV service of all local authorities. It is likely that the feasibility of shared CCTV services amongst West London boroughs may offer cost savings in the long term. Whilst this issue was explored some years ago, and not progressed, the current economic position may now render the proposal a more viable option.

11.2 Reduced operating hours

Dependant upon future budgets the option of reduced CCTV operating hours may need to be considered. This would be a significant move and consultation with partners would be required. The impact of reduced hours would not only impact on the CCTV service but also upon our emergency response capability as Control Room Officers also undertake the initial, out of hours, response to requests for council response to local emergencies such as fires and burst water mains.

11.3 CCTV Strategy

Officers will be undertaking a review of the Councils strategic approach to CCTV in the autumn, addressing the size and scale of the network, its management and maintenance, the use to which the network is put and the value which is derived from it. Initial consultation with key stakeholders will begin shortly.

12.00 Financial Implications

12.1 None specific to this report

13.0 Legal Implications

13.1 None

14.0 Diversity Implications

14.1 None

15.0 Staffing/Accommodation Implications (if appropriate)

15.1 None

Background Papers

None

Contact Officers

Alvin Wakeman – CCTV Manager

Martyn Horne – Head: Emergency Planning and Control