

**COMMUNITY SAFETY
AND COMMUNITY SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Thursday, 17th January, 2013 at 6.00 p.m.
in Committee Room 2, The Council House, Dudley

PRESENT:-

Councillor Kettle (Chair)
Councillor Branwood (Vice-Chair)
Councillors Burston, Caunt, Cowell, K Finch, Harley, J Martin, Ms Nicholls,
Perks and Russell.

OFFICERS

Assistant Director of Corporate Resources (Customer Services),
(Directorate of Corporate Resources), (Lead Officer to the Committee),
The Drugs and Alcohol Team Manager, (Chief Executive's Department),
The Head of Audit Services, Curatorial Services and Commercial
Operations Manager, Principal Information Security Officer, The CCTV
Security Projects Manager, Principal Solicitor and Miss K Fellows, (All
Directorate of Corporate Resources).

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Detective Chief Inspector Bramwell - West Midlands Police.

26. **APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence from the meeting was submitted on behalf of
Councillor Cotterill.

27. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Councillor Burston declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda item No. 6
– Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) in The Dudley Borough in so far as the
report referred to CENTRO as he was employed by CENTRO.

28. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED

29. PUBLIC FORUM

No matters were raised under this Agenda item.

30. CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION (CCTV) IN THE DUDLEY BOROUGH

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted on the outcomes of an internal review of the Council's CCTV arrangements and new requirements arising out of the Protection of Freedoms Act. The CCTV Strategy Review was appended to the report submitted.

In presenting the report submitted, the Assistant Director of Corporate Resources, (Customer Services), provided an overview of the report including details of background information, the review that had been undertaken by the Head of Audit Services and the recommendations contained in the report submitted.

The Head of Audit Services referred to the internal review, the investigations that had been undertaken, the number of CCTV cameras situated throughout the Borough and their locations. He also referred to the work of the Sedgley Control Centre.

The Head of Audit Services reported that following the implementation of the Protection of Freedoms Act, 2012 a new Code of Practice in relation to CCTV Cameras was to be drafted. He summarised the recommendations contained in the report submitted and reported that the review had not revealed any major concerns in relation to CCTV cameras within the Borough stating that these were well controlled.

Arising from the presentation of the report and Appendix A to the report submitted, Members asked questions and raised concerns as follows:-

- How many cameras had the Council procured from the Police following Operation Champion.
- Concerns were raised in relation to the legalities surrounding the operation of CCTV cameras and a suggestion that resources should be made available to provide hard and fast guidelines which should be circulated and signed by all owners of such equipment in order to ensure that they were complying with legislation that surrounded the operation of CCTV cameras.

- Concerns were raised that the majority of CCTV Cameras were operated internally by schools and these would not detect crimes such as arson which takes place outside school buildings.
- The loss of income following the termination of the CENTRO contract and whether the integration with other services could generate further income for the Council.
- The percentage of cameras operated for traffic management in particular regarding equipment utilised by those crossing school children.
- Whether data lines were utilised in the provision of CCTV.
- Whether images could be used for educational and publicity purposes.
- Whether statistics were available in relation to the percentage of images utilised that had resulted in criminal convictions.

In responding to Members questions and concerns the Curatorial Services and Commercial Operations Manager advised that three cameras had been procured from the Police at a cost of £3.

In relation to cameras in schools there were sufficient external cameras to help identify problems taking place outside school buildings.

The Head of Audit Services confirmed that the feasibility of integrating other services would be undertaken.

He advised that there were a relatively small number of cameras within equipment utilised by those crossing school children, however where there are problem hotspot areas this equipment would be transferred to those areas.

The CCTV Security Projects Manager reported that the authority worked together with partners and ICT services in relation to integrating services in order to save resources for the authority. He referred to the Council's contract with Telewest which had resulted in the Council being able to integrate services as a result of having the whole fibre at the Council's disposal.

In relation to using images captured by CCTV for educational and publicity purposes the Principal Information Security Officer reported that should those images be able to identify an individual they could not be used without the prior consent of that individual.

Detective Chief Inspector Bramwell indicated the importance of using CCTV images to prevent and anticipate crime and advised that the provision of data assisted with using resources within those areas experiencing ongoing incidents in order to prevent crime and result in arrests. He stated that without CCTV the amount of detections of crime and arrests would reduce significantly.

The Head of Audit Services suggested that in order to make the public aware of the location of cameras and the strategies in place to protect personal data, details could be published on the Council's website.

The Assistant Director of Corporate Resources (Customer Services) reported that the Police did not retain statistical data in relation to percentages of arrests and convictions which had resulted from using CCTV images.

The Chair stated that fundamentally the use of CCTV cameras had been successful in the prevention and reduction of crime and the system should continue. He also recommended that the Cabinet Member for Transportation and Community Safety be advised that this Committee recommended the implementation of a strategy in relation to the operation of CCTV cameras taking into account the Council's resources and Members supported this recommendation.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the information contained in the report, and Appendix to the report, submitted on the outcome of an internal review of the Council's CCTV arrangements and new requirements arising out of the Protection of Freedoms Act, be noted.
- (2) That the Lead Officer be requested to advise the Cabinet Member for Transportation and Community Safety that this Committee recommended the implementation of a strategy in relation to the operation of CCTV cameras taking into account the Council's resources.

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31. TO CONSIDER WHETHER TO REQUEST THE ATTENDANCE OF ANY SAFE AND SOUND BOARD MEMBER OR THE PROVISION OF ANY INFORMATION AT A FUTURE MEETING IN RELATION TO THE COMMUNITY SAFETY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME.

Following discussion on this issue it was:

RESOLVED

That the attendance of any Safe and Sound Board Member or the provision of any information at the next meeting be not pursued.

The meeting ended at 7.15pm.

CHAIR