

## COMMUNITY COUNCIL LIAISON COMMITTEE – 20TH JULY 2005

**SUBJECT: UPDATE ON THE COUNCIL'S CCTV SYSTEMS**

**REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF THE ENVIRONMENT**

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### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To update Members on the current position with regard to CCTV within the borough

### 2. SUMMARY

2.1 This report seeks to update members on the current situation regarding the Council's various CCTV schemes and to describe recent initiatives and future projects relating to CCTV technology.

### 3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

3.1 The provision of CCTV plays an important role in community safety, the prevention and detection of crime and disorder and reduction in the fear of crime. As such it makes a contribution to all the corporate strategies.

3.2 Community safety, the prevention and detection of crime and disorder and the reduction of the fear of crime are key aims of the Council. As such they play a major contribution to the corporate strategy of :

- Health and Social Care – improvements in the health, safety and well-being of the community
- Living Environment – Improvement to Peoples Environment.

### 4. THE REPORT

4.1 December 2002, a report was presented to the Council's Scrutiny Committee containing a prioritised list of areas that would benefit from CCTV if and when finance became available. These areas were:-

The Circle, Cefn Fforest  
Top Shops, Heol Aneurin, Penyrheol  
The Bus Station, Nelson  
The Shops, Greys Gardens, Graig-y-Rhacca  
Top and Bottom Shops, Ty Sign  
The Square, Senghenydd  
Church Street, Bedwas  
Dafydd Williams Park, Caerphilly  
Newport Road, Cwmcarn  
The Shops, Trinant Terrace, Trinant

The list was arrived at following several meetings between the Police, Officers of the Council and the then Cabinet Member for Environmental Services & Housing. The meeting considered crime statistics and other relevant information in formulating the list.

In the main, this list has been used as the basis for planning the Council's programme of installing CCTV within the Borough although some schemes other than those listed have been undertaken because the funding has been obtained by various community groups.

Since the list was drawn up, some of the schemes have, in part at least, been installed. A table showing the current position is provided below.

Priority	Scheme	Number of Cameras Originally Recommended	Number of Cameras provided
1	The Circle Cefn Fforest	3	3
2	Top Shops, Heol Aneurin, Penrheol	1	planned
3	Nelson Bus Station	2	2
4	Greys Gardens, Graig y Rhacca	2	1
5	Top & Bottom Shops, Ty Sign	2	1 provided 1 planned
6	Senghenydd Square	1	2
7	Church Street, Bedwas	2	0
8	Dafydd Williams Park, Caerphilly	2	2
9	Cwmcarn village	4	0
10	Trinant Terrace, Trinant	2	0

It has become obvious that the list is now outdated not only because some cameras have been provided but also because areas which had been previously identified as a problem were no longer considered as such.

It has therefore been decided that the working group will reform to consider a new list based on current crime and disorder statistics. The areas identified may be suitable for the use of OSCARS. Once prepared, the list will be referred to the Council's Environment Scrutiny Committee for endorsement.

## 4.2 Fixed C.C.T.V. Schemes

4.2.1 For the benefit of members of this Committee the fixed CCTV schemes, currently operational within the Borough are as follows:-

Caerphilly Town Centre	12 cameras
Ystrad Mynach Town Centre	8 cameras
Abertridwr Square	4 cameras
Hengoed Viaduct	2 cameras
Bargoed Town Centre and Car Parks	13 cameras
Blackwood Town Centre and Car Parks	17 cameras
Crescent Road Car Park, Caerphilly	2 cameras
Newbridge Town Centre	8 cameras
Lansbury Park	4 cameras
Rhymney (Ty Coch and Tanybryn)	6 cameras
Rhymney (High Street	3 cameras
Risca	3 cameras
Oakdale Village Centre	2 cameras
Elm Drive Ty Sign	1 camera
Senghenydd	1 camera
Graig y Rhacca	1 camera
Cefn Fforest	3 cameras
Llanbradach	2 cameras
Nelson	2 cameras

4.2.2. The Council's Capital spend on the schemes is in the region of £1.5m, most of which has been provided by Home Office grant or, latterly funding from the Welsh Assembly. At present, the annual revenue costs are as follows:

CCTV (Town)	304,340
CCTV (Car Parks)	67,730
CCTV (Mobile)	57,150

### **Monitoring For Other Authorities**

In addition to our own schemes, the Welsh Assembly Government facilitated a partnership between Caerphilly County Borough Council and Monmouthshire County Council to monitor 24 cameras, 6 in Caldicott, 6 in Chepstow, 6 in Abergavenny and 6 in Monmouth. An annual fee is charged to Monmouthshire for this service, which helps defray our own costs.

### **4.3 Proposed Fixed CCTV Schemes**

4.3.1 Several new schemes or extensions to existing schemes are also planned these are:

- Opposite the Red Lion Pub, Blackwood
- Picadilly Crossing, Caerphilly
- Ty Sign, Risca
- A second camera at Senghenydd (funded by a community group)
- Near the shops at Penyrheol

4.3.2 It is anticipated that these schemes will be commissioned within the next few months.

### **4.4 Mobile CCTV**

4.4.1 In 1999 the Authority commissioned a mobile CCTV vehicle. Since that time the vehicle has provided an extremely effective service being deployed, nightly in areas where there are particular problems which are causing serious disruption to the lives of residents.

4.4.2 Following the success of the first Mobile, a bid was made for funding from the Welsh Assembly Government, on behalf of the Community Safety Partnership for a second, more up to date vehicle. The bid was successful and the new vehicle provides an extremely effective addition to the Council's CCTV potential.

4.4.3 The vehicle is a large high roofed Mercedes Sprinter type vehicle, which is fully equipped to allow two people to monitor securely from within the rear compartment. The vehicle is air conditioned and provided with a toilet. Cameras ensure that the security of the vehicle can be monitored as well as the subjects or situations under surveillance. A siren is provided in case the vehicle comes under attack. The vehicle is also provided with state-of-the-art equipment for surveillance and recording. It is fully signed with the Authorities' logo, and that of the Safer Caerphilly C.B. Community Safety Partnership and is conspicuously labelled as being a CCTV vehicle. The new vehicle is free of the limitations imposed by the smaller van and will therefore allow for manning for longer periods of time, if necessary

### **4.5 Demountable Cameras (OSCARS)**

4.5.1 An exciting new development in the field of CCTV has been the provision of the Overhead Surveillance Camera Assessment Resource (OSCAR). It is now becoming apparent that the need for fixed CCTV cameras within the Borough has been more or less satisfied. The erection of an expensive CCTV camera and pole (costing in the region of £20,000) can be a total waste of resources if the problem being monitored is displaced to a location which is outside the range of the camera. With the use of OSCARS, this problem can be overcome since the cameras are redeployable at minimum expense and can be easily moved to take

account of the new location of the problem area. All that is required is a suitable lighting column and a power supply. Some of the OSCARS, can be monitored and controlled from the CCTV control room, while others can store up to four days of evidential quality images which can be downloaded if an incident takes place.

4.5.2 OSCARS are also a valuable resource in identifying the problems in an area, the solution to which may be something other than a permanent camera.

#### **4.5.2 Public Awareness Campaign**

4.5.3 A public perception survey was undertaken last year by the Council's Policy & Corporate Support Unit to find out what local people think about CCTV. The survey was carried out as a postal survey to the Viewpoint Panel and completed face-to-face in Blackwood, Caerphilly and Risca Town Centres at various times on weekdays and weekends.

4.5.4 Overall, a number of key points were highlighted by the survey:

- The level of crime in local town centres is perceived to have stayed the same or increased over the last year;
- Fear of crime varied between town centres and was much greater at night compared to the day;
- Most people were aware that a CCTV scheme is in place in the Caerphilly County Borough area;
- The main purposes of CCTV were perceived to be identifying criminals and catching criminals;
- The majority of respondents felt that CCTV is effective in identifying and catching criminals, making people feel safe and deterring criminals;
- Overall, public perception of CCTV was positive. A large proportion felt that "the more CCTV cameras we have the better". Only a very small proportion of respondents felt that CCTV cameras invade people's privacy or are spy cameras

4.5.5 Last year, an awareness campaign of posters, leaflets, beer mats and advertising on the back of car parking tickets was undertaken. The message of the campaign was that CCTV is watching the criminals while at the same time protecting innocent people using our town centres or car parks.

## **5. RECOMMENDATIONS**

5.1 Members note the contents of this report.

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