



AGENDA ITEM: 6(d)

CABINET: 1 July 2014

Report of: Assistant Director Community Services

Relevant Managing Director: Managing Director (People and Places)

Relevant Portfolio Holder: Councillor D Sudworth

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SUBJECT: CCTV ANNUAL REPORT

Wards affected: Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To seek approval of the Council's Annual CCTV Report 2013/14.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 That the Annual CCTV Report 2013/14, attached as an appendix to this report, be approved.

2.2 That the Assistant Director Community Services be granted delegated authority to publish future reports following consultation with the Portfolio Holder.

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 In June 2013 the Home Office published the "Surveillance Camera Code of Practice" (the Code). The Code was issued under Section 30 of the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 and certain operators of surveillance camera systems, which includes the Council, must have regard to it when exercising functions.

- 3.2 The Code provides that 'failure on the part of any person to act in accordance with any provision of the Code does not itself make that person liable to criminal or civil proceedings. However, the Code is admissible in evidence in criminal or civil proceedings and a court or tribunal may take in to account a failure by a relevant authority to have regard to the code in determining a question in any such proceedings (1.16). This may lead to the exclusion of evidence which was obtained as a result of activity not in accordance with Code requirements. IN addition claims for breach of the Human Rights Act 1998 may be brought by individuals claiming interference with relevant rights, which may result, for example, in the award of damages against the Council.
- 3.3 As such it is clear the Council would be expected to have regard to the guidance.
- 3.4 The Code requires (amongst other things) that regular reports should be published and that the Council undertakes a regular review of its CCTV surveillance system to ensure it remains necessary, proportionate and effective in meeting the stated purpose for deployment. The review should be on a regular basis, but at least annually. The review must assess camera locations with respect to whether they remain justified or whether there is a case for removal. If appropriate, the Council is required to consider less intrusive locations.
- 3.5 It is proposed that there should be an annual report. Whilst the first annual report in the Appendix was being produced, as well as including information about the required review, it was considered worthwhile to include information about the Council's CCTV provision and the good work undertaken by the operators. It is proposed that, for ease, the Assistant Director Community Services should publish further reports on the Council's website.

4.0 REVIEW

- 4.1 The overall objective for the Council's system is the prevention, detection and investigation of crime. This is tied to the Council's priority of combating crime and the fear of crime. The reduction of crime is the remit of the Police and Crime Commissioners, and the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) plays a key role in assisting with this. The priorities for the CSP are to reduce
- Child sexual exploitation
 - Numbers of those killed or seriously injured – as a result of road traffic accidents
 - Domestic Abuse
 - General ASB
 - Reducing reoffending/cross border crime
- 4.2 Clearly CCTV can positively assist in addressing the last two priorities.
- 4.3 There is an expectation that published reports will contain information about the review of the locations. The review was undertaken and the annual report therefore contains a list of the camera locations and comments about the appropriateness of the location. It can be seen that the camera locations are all considered appropriate at this time. Subsequent reviews will be carried out regularly and each year as a minimum.

5.0 OTHER INFORMATION IN THE REPORT

- 5.1 The report also includes some information about how the system has benefitted the Police and the Community, and mentions some notable successes.
- 5.2 At full Council in March 2014 additional funds were allocated to provide further CCTV cameras in Scarisbrick (2), Downholland (2), Tarleton (2) and Burscough (1). This work is being progressed and a public consultation is expected in July 2014

6.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS/COMMUNITY STRATEGY

- 6.1 Effective surveillance using compliant overt CCTV systems is likely to reduce crime and/or the fear that is derived from criminal behaviours.
- 6.2 CCTV has a direct link to the Community Strategy in relation to improving safety.

7.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no significant financial or resource implications arising from this report.

8.0 RISK ASSESSMENT

- 8.1 This item is for information only and makes no recommendations. It therefore does not require a formal risk assessment and no changes have been made to risk registers.

Background Documents

There are no background documents (as defined in Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) to this Report.

Equality Impact Assessment

The decision does not have any disproportionate effects on members of the public, employees, elected members and / or stakeholders. Therefore no Equality Impact Assessment is required.

Appendices

Appendix – CCTV Annual Report 2013/14