

**Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting**

Improving Places Select Commission – 03 March 2020

**Report Title**

Review of Re-Deployable CCTV

**Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?**

No

**Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report**

Paul Woodcock, Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment

**Report Author(s)**

Sam Barstow

Head of Community Safety and Regulatory Services

Sam.barstow@rotherham.gov.uk

**Ward(s) Affected**

Borough-Wide

**Report Summary**

This report provides an update on the purchase and deployment of CCTV units as a result of additional funding of £60,000 made available in 2018. All the units other than one, which is awaiting the identification of an appropriate location, are deployed, however two currently have faults and are awaiting repair.

**Recommendations**

1. That Improving Places Select Commission note and comment on the report.

**List of Appendices Included**

Appendix A – Sample of results from covert CCTV

**Background Papers**

None

**Council Approval Required**

No

**Exempt from the Press and Public**

No

**Review of Re-Deployable CCTV**

## **1. Background**

- 1.1 Council allocated a total of £60,000 of capital funding for the 2018/19 municipal year to enhance CCTV capacity within wards through the purchase of additional re-deployable CCTV units. Re-deployable units are independent systems that can be placed anywhere where suitable mountings and a power supply are available. The units contain the camera, alongside the relevant hardware and software to record images on a continuous loop and in accordance with various settings which can be adjusted subject to the particular needs of the deployment.
- 1.2 During the process to allocate funding, Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB) made the following recommendations, which were adopted by the Cabinet:
  - That all Members be notified of the arrangements and process for re-locating cameras in their Wards.
  - That arrangements be made to notify residents of deployment and use of mobile cameras.
- 1.3 The ambition was to ensure that at least one CCTV unit was available to each ward through the allocation of this funding. This has been achieved. The cameras arrived in November 2018 with the processes for deployment established by December 2018. The first deployments took place in January 2019.

## **2. Key Issues**

- 2.1 Purchase and deployment of the cameras did take some time. The purchase of units were subject to financial and procurement rules for the value of £60,000. The units also required building by the contractor after parts were sourced. Additionally, the initial processes for the application of installation and the necessary formal authorities to place them were challenging, largely due to it being undertaken at a time when new multi-agency structures were being established around joint teams in Community Safety, and the new Community Action Partnerships (CAPs) were bedding in.
- 2.2 Currently, all but one of the units have been deployed. It should be noted that CCTV alone is not the solution in many cases. The installation of CCTV is therefore often accompanied by a range of activities including increased patrols, intelligence gathering, identification of offenders and the issuing of warnings or further sanctions as appropriate. Resolutions to issues will also explore wider problem-solving opportunities such as designing out crime, engaging with youth provision or working with schools in the area. The table below provides some examples of the purposes of deployment in order to illustrate the type of requests.

<b>Ward</b>	<b>Type of Issues</b>
Wath	High levels of anti-social behaviour within the locality with gangs of youth congregating causing anti-social behaviour and committing criminal damage.
Rotherham West	High levels of anti-social behaviour and crime within the locality.
Swinton	A number of reports have been made from both members and residents with regards to ASB, congregations of youths, alleged drug dealing and cars parking up with young people of an evening.
Valley	Anti-social behaviour on the park. Newly refurbished equipment has been vandalised and graffiti
Rawmarsh	A number of reports have been made from both members and residents with regards to serious ASB, violence, large groups of around 20 people, drug abuse, drink associated crimes, safeguarding concerns, cars gathering in an evening playing loud music and littering.

- 2.3 Due to the nature of the issues that drive camera deployment (mainly anti-social behaviour) and the fact that the equipment is not hidden, then deployment does not generally identify offences. In many cases, the deployment of the units does have a positive preventative effect and reduces the issues in an area. Whilst this can mean on occasion that an issue is simply moved on to another area, this is usually not the case. Behaviours are influenced by wider factors and certain types of behaviours don't always manifest elsewhere or if they do, don't impact the same level of individuals. The units have also been used to support various Police investigations, demonstrating the wider positive impacts of the equipment.
- 2.4 The use of these assets should not be viewed in isolation. Increasingly the Council is beginning to coordinate its monitoring assets, which includes fixed CCTV systems (such as the ones in the Town Centre area), alternative overt camera's (used for environmental enforcement) and the Council's covert camera equipment. Across the range of devices, the Council does generate positive results, particularly in relation to environmental crime. Appendix A provides several case studies where the Council has utilised evidence as a result of CCTV Installations in order to progress legal action.
- 2.5 At times units do develop faults and it is understood that repairs can often take time. This is often due to the requirements to source replacement parts for the units. The Council does not hold a contract or agreement for servicing and repair and therefore targets are not in place for the time taken for repairs. Further consideration will be given to ongoing maintenance and repair within a wider full-system review of CCTV which will commence in April 2020.

## **2.6 OSMB Recommendations**

- 2.7 As noted above, two recommendations were made by OSMB relating to the purchase of mobile cameras. In relation to the process for the identification of locations for cameras, this is primarily driven through ward-based meetings known as Community Action Partnerships (CAPs), which involve all Ward Members. Formal consideration, along with completion of the appropriate processes, such as a Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) is undertaken by the 'Tasking' group for each area. These are regular meetings between the joint Council and Police teams. Final authorisations and decisions are then notified back to Ward Members, again through the CAPs meeting.
- 2.8 With regards to notification to residents in the area, this is primarily through use of signage. This accompanies any CCTV deployment undertaken by the Council. Officers are not currently routinely notifying any and all surrounding residents when CCTV is installed, however, wherever residents have been involved in making complaints or are a victim of any behaviours the camera is seeking to prevent, they will be notified directly by officers. For certain types of issues, consideration should be given within the CAP or tasking process as to whether wider efforts should be made to notify residents and how this will be delivered. Ward Members are also able to inform residents in the local area if they are responding to residential complaints or feedback. Additional assessments must also be made as to whether the positioning of the camera, including any pan, tilt or zoom capability, is likely to have an impact on any individual's privacy.

## **3. Options considered and recommended proposal**

- 3.1 This report does not propose any decision and therefore alternative proposals not considered.

## **4. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision**

- 4.1 As noted above, this report does not propose a decision.

## **5. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications**

- 5.1 There are no additional financial implications arising as a result of this report.

## **6. Legal Advice and Implications**

- 6.1 There are no additional legal implications arising as a result of this report.

## **7. Human Resources Advice and Implications**

- 7.1 There are no additional HR implications arising as a result of this report.

## **8. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications**

- 8.1 For each camera deployment a specific privacy impact assessment is made to ensure that each deployment is proportionate and complies with any legal or statutory requirements.

## **9. Implications for Partners**

- 9.1 These assets and the process for deployment is managed jointly with the Police through the Joint Community Safety Teams. Police will regularly access the units for the purposes of investigating criminal offences.

## **10. Risks and Mitigation**

- 10.1 As above, this report does not propose a decision.

## **11. Accountable Officer(s)**

Sam Barstow, Head of Community Safety and Regulatory Services

This report is published on the Council's [website](#).

## Appendix A

### Examples of Fly tipping Cases and Results 2019

#### Bassingthorpe Lane, Munsbrough, Rotherham



On Sunday 17th March 2019, occupants of a white Mercedes Sprinter with a registration were filmed on hidden camera depositing waste from the side door of the vehicle at Bassingthorpe Lane, Munsbrough, Rotherham. The waste consisted of an internal white door and other household items. The owner of the vehicle was interviewed under caution. He admitted to the offence.

A fixed penalty Notice was subsequently served (Environmental Protection Act 1990, section 33ZA) and was paid in full.

**£400 Fixed Penalty Notice Issued**

## Howdike Lane, Hooton Roberts, Rotherham



Household waste was found dumped on Howdike Lane, Hooton Roberts at the junction with Holmes Lane. Waste consisted of three plastic garden chairs, a rubbish bin, plastic containers and bags containing garden waste plus other domestic items. Hidden CCTV footage showed a white Peugeot Boxer panel van with a registration deposit the waste on Tuesday 28th May 2019.

The owner of the vehicle was interviewed under caution. He admitted to the offence.

A fixed penalty Notice was subsequently served (Environmental Protection Act 1990, section 33ZA) and was paid in full.

**£400 Fixed Penalty Notice Issued**

## Bassingthorpe Lane, Munsbrough, Rotherham



Waste consisting six bags of general domestic waste including carpet, plastic, and piping, was filmed on hidden camera being deposited from a White Vauxhall Vivaro minibus with a registration on Saturday 23/03/2019 at 10:45am. The owner and passenger of the vehicle were interviewed under caution.

They both admitted to the offence. Fixed penalty Notices were subsequently served (Environmental Protection Act 1990, section 33ZA) on both the driver and passenger and were paid in full by each person.

**£400 Fixed Penalty Notice Issued**

## Long Lane Treeton, Rotherham



A White Vauxhall Vivaro panel van with a registration was filmed on a hidden camera depositing bags of builder's waste into layby at Long Lane Treeton, Rotherham on 12th February 2019. The owner of the vehicle was interviewed under caution and admitted to the offence.

The case was heard in the Sheffield Magistrates' Court on Tuesday 13/08/2019. The Defendant appeared, represented by his solicitor, and pleaded guilty to the offence.

**The Court imposed total fine of £948.00.**

## Bassingthorpe Lane, Munsbrough, Rotherham



A white Ford Transit panel van with registration was filmed by hidden cameras depositing 3x fridges at Bassingthorpe Lane, Munsbrough, Rotherham on Tuesday 4/12/2018. The vehicle owner was interviewed under caution.

The case was heard in Sheffield Magistrates' Court on 14/05/19. The defendant appeared, represented by his solicitor, and pleaded guilty to the Offence.

**The Court imposed total fine of £530.00.**

**Bassingthorpe lane, Munsbrough**



A black Suzuki Swift with registration was filmed on camera depositing 8x bags of soil / rubble at Bassingthorpe lane, Munsbrough on 23/03/2019 and on 4/04/2019 also filmed depositing a box and bags containing household waste at Back Lane, Nether Haugh. The vehicle owner was interviewed under caution and admitted to both deposits.

The case was heard in the Sheffield Magistrates' Court on Tuesday 13/08/2019. The Defendant appeared, represented by his solicitor, and pleaded guilty to the offence.

**The court imposed a total fine of £728.00.**