
REPORT TO:	HOUSING & COMMUNITY SERVICES	AGENDA ITEM: 9
DATE OF MEETING:	9 TH JUNE 2005	CATEGORY: DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES	OPEN
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	SUE HASLETT EXT. 5924	DOC:
SUBJECT:	CCTV FEASIBILITY STUDY	REF:
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	SWADLINCOTE, NEWHALL	TERMS OF REFERENCE: HCS07

1.0 Recommendations

- 1.1 That Members agree that the establishment of a monitored CCTV system within Swadlincote town centre is not progressed at this time.

2.0 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 To inform Members of a feasibility study into establishing a CCTV system within Swadlincote town centre.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 Over the last 5 years there have been occasional calls within the press and local business community for the installation of CCTV in the Swadlincote Town Centre. These calls, along with the need to consider appropriate crime reduction methods in the town centre, have led to the District Council and Safer South Derbyshire Partnership to consider the feasibility of deploying a CCTV system in Swadlincote. Consequently a consultancy specialising in CCTV was commissioned and have undergone a technical and financial assessment of deploying a CCTV system. Crime statistics and the locations of incidents were considered and numerous site visits made.
- 3.2 The feasibility study has also included costings for the provision of neighbourhood based cameras which could be deployed to cover 'hot spots' in locations such as Goseley Estate, Newhall Park, Swadlincote Woodlands and the urban parks.
- 3.3 At the same time as the feasibility study was being completed, the Safer South Derbyshire Partnership together with the ward Councillors for Swadlincote established a Swadlincote Town Centre Action Group. The membership of the Group includes representatives from various shops and organisations within the town centre. Numerous discussions have taken place regarding the CCTV proposal. The general consensus of the Group is that an additional uniformed presence would be preferable to CCTV.

3.4 Beat 620 covers an area which is larger than that classed as Swadlincote town centre. Between April 2004 and March 2005, there were 247 recorded offences on Beat 620, of which the town centre is a part. The actual town centre experienced the following incidents:

Assault	21
Burglary Non-Dwelling	26
Drugs Offences	4
Forgery	6
Fraud	6
Interference with vehicle	1
Other crime	1
Other theft	30
Sex Offence	2
Shoplifting	27
Theft from vehicle	4
Theft of cycle	2
Damage/arson	29
TWOC/Theft of vehicle	4
Total	163

3.5 The nearby towns of Coalville and Ashby in Leicestershire already have existing CCTV systems. For comparison, the crime figures for the town centre beats of these areas over the same period were 1631 and 1017 respectively.

3.6 The CCTV System would need to allow digital recording and be capable of future expansion/development. The use of a fibre optic infrastructure also needed to be incorporated. The system design needed to include linking the Council's existing static systems at the Council Offices and Depot into the scheme. Tests were carried out with some of the latest camera/lens combinations to ensure that pictures could be obtained in any lighting conditions. It would also be possible to identify both vehicles and people at ranges in excess of 100 metres.

3.7 An assessment of Granville Court as a potential control room was also carried out. Any security control room would need to comply with BS 5979:2000 Category 2, as it would need to *'handle signals from intruder detection systems and/or CCTV systems in security applications that require emergency response and/or from fire alarm systems and/or social alarm systems.'*

3.8 There would therefore be stringent requirements in relation to both physical and electronic protection of Granville Court itself and also the actual control room within it. This would include:

- Ballistic protection of glazed areas
- Protecting services into the building e.g. power and air conditioning
- Installing independent ventilation
- Incorporating toilets and food preparation areas for control room staff into a secured area

It would also be necessary to consider the operating environment e.g.

- Lighting levels and locations
- Control of noise levels
- Colour and quality of wall decoration
- Ergonomic design of operators chairs

- Number and size of monitors plus angle of view and eye distance
- Recording and control of data
- Operator training and supervision

3.9 In terms of the crime levels that exist in the town centre it would appear that 24 hour surveillance would not be appropriate. A logical assumption would be to augment the current Granville Court staffing by an extra person who would monitor the system at times when incidents were likely to occur.

3.10 According to the latest Home Office research 'Assessing the impact of CCTV', the majority of CCTV schemes evaluated did not reduce crime. In some areas, the crime levels increased as a result of additional observations by CCTV operators. Gill & Spriggs' report also states that CCTV schemes do not make people feel safer, much less change their behaviour. This is most disappointing as a main reason for installing a system in the town centre was to achieve a reduction in peoples' fear of crime.

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 The feasibility study assessed the financial costs of the scheme being as follows:

Capital

6 cameras and fibre optic link	£115,000
4 Neighbourhood Cameras	£20,000
Control Room	<u>£75,000</u>
	£210,000

Revenue

Rental of fibre optic link	£5,000
Maintenance	£2,000
Additional Staffing - 1 person	£15,000
Increased costs existing Staff	£5,000
Other Costs	<u>£2,000</u>
	£29,000 p.a.

4.2 The funding of these costs would principally need to come from the District Council with some support towards the capital costs from the Safer South Derbyshire Partnership. There would be the potential for getting contributions towards the running costs of the system from local traders but this has proved to be very difficult elsewhere as many retailers are unwilling to join the scheme.

5.0 Corporate Implications

5.1 The reduction of crime and fear of crime in the District is a key Council priority.

6.0 Community Implications

6.1 Community consultation carried out for the 2004 Crime and Disorder Audit and Local Strategic Partnership and with the Town Centre Action Group suggests that an

increased uniformed presence would be preferred to CCTV. Funding has already been identified for establishing a Neighbourhood Warden scheme or employing additional Police Community Support Officers.

7.0 Conclusions

- 7.1 Although a detailed costing for the conversion of Granville Court into a CCTV control centre has not been completed, it would be difficult to justify the obvious investment required for a monitored CCTV system, when compared to actual levels of crime within the town centre. In addition to the initial investment of the surveillance system and control room, there would be additional costs such as employing and training staff to monitor the CCTV.
- 7.2 In terms of cost effectiveness and the extent of the problems within the town centre, it is recommended that the establishment of a monitored CCTV system for the town centre is not progressed.

8.0 Background Papers

- 8.1 Crime and Disorder - CCTV file