



Agenda item:

Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 24 July 2006

Report Title: Scrutiny Review on the Community Safety Role of CCTV	
Report of: Chair of the Review Panel	
Wards(s) affected: ALL	
<p>1. Purpose</p> <p>1.1 To approve the scope and terms of reference for the Scrutiny Review on the Community Safety Role of CCTV</p>	
<p>2. Recommendations</p> <p>2.1 That the scope and terms of reference for the review be approved</p>	
<p>Contact Officer: Robert Mack Principal Scrutiny Support Officer, Tel 0208 489 2921</p>	
<p>3. Executive Summary</p> <p>3.1 Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee have indicated their interest in undertaking a scrutiny review on the use of CCTV within the Borough. Independently, the Executive Member for Crime and Community Safety and the Deputy Borough Commander have also requested that the Community Safety Team undertake a review on the effectiveness of CCTV within the Borough in order to inform decisions about the future use of resources and develop appropriate options for partners to consider.</p> <p>3.2 It has been proposed that these two processes be developed so that they work in tandem. This report proposes a methodology for how this could be achieved as well as a scope and terms of reference for the scrutiny review.</p>	
<p>4. Reasons for any change in policy or for new policy development (if applicable)</p> <p>4.1 N/A</p>	
<p>5. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985</p>	

5.1 The background papers relating to this report are:

Review of CCTV in Haringey – Report to Safer Communities Executive Board, 12 June 2006

Assessing the Impact of CCTV – Home Office Research Study 292
To CCTV or not to CCTV – NACRO

These can be obtained from Robert Mack – Principal Scrutiny Support Officer on 020 8489 2921, 7th. Floor, River Park House

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6. Background,

- 6.1 CCTV systems have been used within Haringey for approximately ten years. There are currently several separate systems that are operational within the Borough that are run by a range of organisations including the Council, Police, Transport for London, Arriva Buses and shops. Each system has been installed for a different purpose and has a different capability. The Council is responsible for a number of these systems including ones for parking control, to detect and deter environmental crime such as fly tipping and for surveillance in alleged cases of anti social behaviour. There are currently two control rooms, one for parking control and one operated for community safety purposes.
- 6.2 There are increasing demands by residents for CCTV. However, very little analysis and evaluation has been done into its effectiveness in deterring and detecting crime and whether it is providing value for money. Such national research that has been undertaken has shown CCTV to have had mixed results and to not always have delivered the expected or assumed reductions in crime and the fear of crime.
- 6.3 The last review of CCTV usage in Haringey took place five years ago and the last strategy was developed in 2003. Since that time, the number of cameras in Haringey has increased, together with technological advances in their operation. In respect of crime and community safety, CCTV is only one tool and must be operated in conjunction with other appropriate strategies in order to be fully effective. A plan is therefore required by the Council and its partners to determine how to use CCTV most effectively as a community safety device as well as how to improve co-ordination between the various different systems.
- 6.4 A scrutiny review of CCTV and its role was requested by Members and is included in this year's workplan. In addition and independently, the Executive Member for Crime and Community Safety, Councillor Nilgun Canver and Deputy Commander Gerry Leitch have requested that the Community Safety Team undertake a review of CCTV. In particular, they feel that it should include an independent element so that it can be seen to be impartial. The issue was discussed at the Safer Communities Executive Board (SCEB) and it was proposed that the two projects would be developed so that they complement each

other. The scrutiny review will aim to assist the Safer Communities Partnership in making decisions on how the systems should be developed.

7. Objectives and Methodology

7.1 The overall objective in reviewing the operation of CCTV will be to determine:

- Whether it is working as effectively as it could towards enhancing community safety; and
- If it is providing value for money.

7.2 The outcomes and recommendations of the scrutiny review will aim to assist the Safer Communities Partnership in making decisions about future installations, development and resourcing.

7.3 The Community Safety Team will work with an **external** contractor to undertake detailed work including:

- Canvassing the views of CCTV providers, users, tasking group, Members and the public, including a questionnaire for users of systems.
- An audit of the coverage, purposes and uses of existing CCTV systems.
- An evaluation of the effect of CCTV on deterring and detecting crime and reducing fear of crime.

This will be achieved through engaging someone full-time on a 2-3 month contract to work solely on the review. They will assist with the work of the Scrutiny Review Panel and report periodically to them on progress with their work as well as reporting to SCEB.

7.4 The Scrutiny Review Panel will:

- Interview relevant stakeholders to obtain their views
- Consider relevant documentary and research evidence
- Visit key locations such as the CCTV control room
- Look at best practice elsewhere to ensure that CCTV is being used in the most effective manner.
- Consider and make appropriate recommendations on the options for future development proposed by the Community Safety Team
- Provide an element of external challenge

8. Terms of reference

“To consider the effectiveness and value for money of CCTV in contributing to community safety and to make recommendations on options for improving co-ordination between different systems, future installations and maximising its effectiveness”

9. Lead Scrutiny Member:

9.1 Councillor Matt Davies (Chair)

10. Adviser to the Panel

10.1 In order to help inform the deliberations of the Panel, consideration may wish to be given to the appointment of an external adviser to the Panel. Such a person would not be a Member of the Panel but would provide independent impartial advice. It is suggested that such a person would need to have an extensive knowledge of issues concerned with inclusion as well as an awareness of current issues and best practice. It should be noted that the budget for such advice is limited. Possible options for such an appointment are currently being explored together with the Community Safety Team. A final decision on any appointment will be undertaken in consultation with the Chair of the Panel.

11. Key Stakeholders:

Councillor Nilgun Canver (Executive Member for Crime and Community Safety)
Councillor Brian Haley (Executive Member for Environment)
CCTV Co-ordinator
Police Service
Safer Communities Manager
Wood Green Town Centre Manager
Director of Environmental Services
Transport for London
Manager of ABSBAT Team
Residents' organisations
Neighbourhood Watches

12. Timetable

12.1 The review will be aiming to complete its evidence gathering by December and reporting early in 2007.

13. Provisional Evidence Sessions:

Meeting One: Setting the Scene

Aim: To gain an understanding of the key issues in respect of CCTV and its use for community safety purposes within the Borough and in particular:

- A description of the main schemes in operation
- Their purpose and intended benefits
- How they are co-ordinated

Background Information: A report summarising the number of systems in operation within the Borough, how they work, their location and their perceived effectiveness

Possible Witnesses:; Safer Communities Team, CCTV Co-ordinator, relevant Executive Member(s).

Meeting Two:

Aim: To obtain the views of key partners (1)

Possible Witnesses: Police Service, ASBAT Team Manager,

Meeting Three:

Aim: To obtain the views of key partners (2).

Possible Witnesses: Transport for London, Environment Service

Meeting Four:

Aim: To obtain qualitative evidence on the perceived effectiveness of CCTV by using a small number of installations as case studies. This will be undertaken by hearing from a selective number of local residents organisations on particular schemes and, in particular, finding out if their expectations have been met.

Possible Witnesses: Residents Associations, Neighbourhood Watch

Meeting Five:

Aim: To receive feedback and options from the detailed work undertaken by the Safer Communities Team.

Background Information: Detailed information on results of work undertaken by Safer Communities Team.

Possible Witnesses: Safer Communities Manager

Meeting Six: Plenary Session - Conclusions and recommendations

Aim: Sift evidence gathered and make recommendations for improvements.

Background Information: Issues paper summing up the evidence received to date as well as highlighting key issues.

14. Visits

- 14.1 Arrangements will be made for the Panel to visit the CCTV Control Rooms. In addition, consideration will be given to visiting a similar local authority that either has addressed the issue in a distinctive or innovative way or is perceived to have a particularly effective system(s). Guidance on this will be obtained from the Panel's adviser and/or local stakeholders.