

Time commenced – 6.30pm

Time finished – 7.50pm

SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

29 JUNE 2009

Present: Councillor Higginbottom (in the Chair)
Councillors Batey, Hird, Hussain, F Khan, Poulter and Webb

In attendance: Councillors Banwait, Care, Ingall and Rawson

01/09 Apologies for Absence

No apologies for absence were received.

02/09 Late items introduced by the Chair

There were no late items

03/09 Declarations of Interest

Councillors Batey and Webb declared a personal interest in minutes 04/09 and 05/09 as they are board members on Derby Homes.

Matters referred to the Commission by Council Cabinet

04/09 Changes relating to Public Area CCTV

Members considered a report referred to the Commission by the Council Cabinet on Changes relating to Public Area CCTV. Representatives from the Derby Community Safety Partnership and the Police also fed into the debate.

It was reported that the current CCTV network did not always provide accurate images that could then be used in court. Officers plan to secure the future of the City centre network and then review, in consultation with the Police, the effectiveness of the remaining cameras.

Councillor Rawson expressed concern that mobile CCTV cameras are not as effective as fixed placements in deterring anti-social behaviour. He also added that this could present officers with an opportunity to expand the CCTV network and review areas that do not currently have cameras. Officers reported that other measures have to be employed when using mobile CCTV cameras and especially so when deploying covert surveillance so as to demonstrate justification. The CCTV infrastructure was limited by funding and any future emplacements would be governed by the amount of money allocated to the project.

Councillor Hussain asked if crimes were committed if the CCTV would always pick them up. It was reported that there is roughly one operator to every 75 cameras in the police headquarters control room. Most of the time the cameras run through a set of programmes which covers known hotspots. It is quite rare that a camera focuses on a specific area at a time that a crime is committed.

Councillor Poulter expressed concern in the level of consultation that had taken place. Councillor Hussain echoed this view and added that each neighbourhood board that will be affected should be consulted before the report goes back to Cabinet.

Resolved to endorse the following recommendations of the Council Cabinet report:

- 1. That the Council's public area CCTV system be concentrated on those locations where levels of activity are highest. These locations are indicted in Section B1 of Appendix B. A formal steering group will be established to guide the future role of the service.**
- 2. Subject to LPSA 2 funding of £250k being granted this will be invested in upgrading the control room and the city centre cameras in 2009/10.**
- 3. That the continued use of CCTV in city outskirts and identified in Sections B2 and B3 of Appendix B be the subject of further consideration as and when replacement becomes necessary.**

And to recommend deferral of the following recommendation, pending consultation with the neighbourhood managers of the affected areas:

- 1. That those camera locations which do not contribute to the core purpose of the CCTV system and which are identified in Section B4 of Appendix B of the Council Cabinet report, be decommissioned.**

Councillor Calls for Action

05/09 Save the CCTV Camera, Cockayne Street South,
Allenton

The Commission considered a Councillor Call for Action (CCfA) from Councillor Banwait petitioning the Council to retain the CCTV camera on Cockayne Street South, Allenton. It was reported that Members needed to assess the CCfA when it is received and decide whether or not to accept it.

Councillor Poulter stated to the Commission that the CCfA protocol requests ward councillors to use all means available to them before they bring a CCfA before the Scrutiny Management Commission. He asked Councillor Banwait to clarify what he had done so far to warrant a CCfA. Councillor Banwait told Members that he had a petition from the community requesting the retention of the camera and he presented an email trail as proof of his communications with officers at both the Council and the Community Safety Partnership.

Councillor Webb stated that when this protocol was considered by the Scrutiny Management Commission it was made quite clear that this procedure should be used only as a last resort by councillors and only when all other means had been exhausted. He added that in this case he did not believe that every option had been explored. He suggested that for the conditions to be met to consider this CCfA that there needs to be evidence of discussions with the relevant Cabinet Member, the Bouton Neighbourhood Board and the relevant chief officer. Councillor Banwait disputed this and said that he felt

the conditions had been met.

Resolved to not accept Councillor Banwait's CCfA requesting the Council to save the CCTV camera, on Cockayne Street South, Allenton.

Items for Discussion

06/09 Scoping Report – Review of the Council's Budget Setting Process

The Commission considered a scoping report requesting a review of the Council's budget setting process. It was reported that there has been criticism of last year's budget setting process on the grounds that it is sometimes difficult to understand and the information is not clearly presented.

Resolved to accept the proposed terms of reference of the review process and to delegate responsibility for arranging the review meeting to officers.

MINUTES END