



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

AREA PANEL 3 10 NOVEMBER 2004

Report of Assistant Director Highways, Transportation and Waste Management

Monitoring and Evaluation of CCTV



SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 1.1 The Derby City public area CCTV scheme has been developed since 1997 with funding from the Home Office 'Crime Reduction Strategy'. There are now 184 cameras. Over £2m of Home Office grant has been spent on purchasing and installing the cameras and the communication and control facilities.
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 - 1.3 The scheme cover the city centre, Castle Ward, parts of Normanton, residential sites such as Britannia Court and Rivermead House, and Allenton district shopping centre.
 - 1.4 Within the City Council there is also a range of systems and monitoring facilities, for example, the Council House and the Museum both have CCTV. These systems are not part of the 'Public Area' scheme.
 - 1.5 Not all CCTV in Derby is managed by the city council. There are numerous systems of varying sophistication throughout the city. The council has no involvement with these systems and has no power of regulation over 'private' equipment.
 - 1.6 The majority of cameras in the public area scheme are fully functional, i.e. they have the ability to pan, tilt and zoom and have night vision capabilities. Static, single focus cameras are only widely used in the multi-storey car parks. There are no 'dummy' cameras as part of our current scheme.
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- 2.1 **Monitoring**
All of the cameras are operational 24 hrs per day, everyday of the year. All of the cameras transmit images to a secure control room, where a team of operators monitor the images. The control room operation is split into three 8-hour shifts. Two shifts have three operators and the third shift has two operators. All of the images are recorded 24 hrs per day.

- 2.2 In addition to watching the monitors the operators are linked to shop and pub radio schemes and spend a significant amount of time responding to incident calls from these groups. In addition the police will often report incidents and ask for monitoring. When the operators identify these incidents they can begin 'real time' recording, which may provide valuable evidence at a later date, the operator can also send the live transmission direct to the police operations room, enabling the police to view events and decide on the appropriate response to incidents.
- 2.3 The police regularly use the control room to conduct targeted surveillance operations; such operations involve the investigation and possible prevention of the most serious crime types. For these operations the police will usually place an officer in the control room and use the equipment for intelligence gathering and to direct officers.

3.1 **Evaluation**

Evaluating CCTV is extremely complicated and technical work. At present there are no studies recognised by the Home Office or academic criminologists as valid. Research in this area shows conflicting results. Some research shows dramatic reductions in crime, while other research has actually shown increases in crime.

- 3.2 The process of evaluation requires the isolation of the effect of CCTV from other possible background effects, and if CCTV is installed as part of a wider programme of regeneration then the separate effects need to be understood. For example, CCTV usually requires the local street lighting to be improved, if there is a fall in recorded crime does this mean that CCTV or street lighting is responsible, is it a combined effect or has something else happened to change the local context?
- 3.3 Some studies appear to establish that CCTV has a positive effect on reducing car crime in car parks. However, the national trend for car crime has been falling for several years, as has the rate of reporting by victims. Also there have been subtle changes by manufactures that make this crime less attractive or harder to commit. The effect of CCTV even on this single crime type in a managed environment is almost impossible to discern without complex measurement of all of the other influences.
- 3.4 In the city centre scheme, the possible range of activity and crime types are so varied that all kinds of interventions and season factors can effect crime and disorder (in positive and negative ways). Again this means that it is almost impossible to detect and measure the effects of CCTV.
- 3.5 Although there is a lack of robust statistical data to support positive or negative views of CCTV, there is some survey evidence that shows it is widely support by the public. The suggestion is that CCTV is one of the most important things that people say makes them feel safer and this has stimulated a demand for more CCTV. The fear of crime has long been a significant barrier to many people while they go about their day to day lives and is often disproportionate to the actual crime rate. Where CCTV has a positive impact on reducing the fear of crime then this is to be viewed as a significant benefit. It is also recognised that good CCTV evidence saves Police time and the time it takes to process people through the courts.

- 3.6 There is also some suggestion from research that town centre schemes may reduce the severity of injuries caused in cases of assault.
- 3.7 After 20 years and with massive investment in CCTV the Home Office has commissioned a huge research project and contracted Leicester University to carry the actual work. This work has been on going for almost 3 years, with a large team of researchers employed to carry out the detailed work. The Derby CCTV scheme was one of 18 schemes around the country that were chosen to be part of the study. Derby also volunteered to be part of an additional study of control room activity.
- 3.8 The research results will be published before the end of 2004. The results will help us to determine the precise effects of public area CCTV and will enable us to ensure that resources are targeted to areas where the greatest impact can be achieved.
- 3.9 We remain committed to using and developing the CCTV system to ensure that the City Council continues to play a significant role in deterring and detecting crime and anti social behaviour.

PROPOSED ACTION

- 2.1 To note the contents of this report.



For more information contact: Nigel Brien Telephone number e-mail
Background papers: None or list
List of appendices: Appendix 1 - title

