

Report of the Director of Development and Regeneration

Area Regeneration Framework, 3G Rapid Deployment CCTV Project.

1. BACKGROUND

The aim of the Safer Sunderland Partnership's 'Safer Sunderland Strategy 2005-2008' is to:

“Create a City which is, and is seen to be, safer by reducing crime, anti-social behaviour and the misuse of drugs through work on (i) prevention; (ii) early intervention; (iii) enforcement and (iv) support/rehabilitation”.

The Safer Sunderland Partnership (The SSP) has endorsed and supported the medium of CCTV as a major preventive, enforcement and community reassurance tool since the early 1990's and the development of technology has enhanced the effectiveness up to the position held today.

The SSP is supported by a 'CCTV Working Group' that comprises of representatives from the City Council, Northumbria Police, Nexus and other partners who have experience both in the technical and administrative elements of CCTV specification, procurement, installation, monitoring and maintenance. This group has been in place for a number of years and has a record of success in the development of CCTV systems evidenced by the widespread coverage of both fixed and mobile/portable systems across the City.

The evidence and opinion from the police and other agencies overwhelmingly advocates the use of CCTV both as a positive factor in detection, prevention and reducing community concerns through reassurance. The ability to locate the proposed 3G rapid deployment CCTV cameras at locations identified through intelligence, will be an invaluable tool for communities affected by crime and disorder.

2. STRATEGIC AIMS

The CCTV Working Group has adopted a '**Mission Statement**' to guide ongoing development which aims **“To have a City Wide integrated CCTV system which fully supports the Crime, Disorder and Drugs Strategy, is**

sustainable, resilient, and contributes to making Sunderland a safer place to live, work, visit and play for all citizens whilst taking into account their Human Rights"

The City Council and its partners have long recognised the cross cutting nature of the City's strategic priorities and that actions and initiatives undertaken under one priority impact, or are impacted by, actions under another.

On this basis, not only will an enhanced CCTV operation across the City help realise improvements in community safety, reduce fear of crime and incidences of crime, increase the detection of crime, and deter and reduce anti-social behaviour – primarily focused under the current strategic priority of Reducing Crime and the Fear of Crime (Sunderland Strategy 2004-2007), and the emerging theme of Safe City in the developing Sunderland Strategy 2008-25 - but will play its part in improvements under Prosperous City, Healthy City and Inclusiveness (emerging Sunderland Strategy cross-cutting priority).

The increased deployment of CCTV helping create places which feel, and are safer, for local people, will for example help contribute to a more vibrant and prosperous city centre, and to people's feelings of well-being through more opportunities for them to participate in community life and activities – irrespective of the time of day and the fear that some people have about going out at night for example. Increased feelings of safety will lead to people wanting to take advantage of social and cultural activities including participating in physical activity right across the City, and to move around the City more, making better use of public transport, and the City's green and open spaces, as well as its natural assets including coast and riverside.

The City Council, along with many other local authorities nationally, is faced with the issue of the 'perception gap' and the fact that often there is a mismatch between people's perceptions of the Council as an organisation and the services it delivers, and the reality of services which are actually improving year on year, compare favourably with neighbouring and similar authorities, and are delivered to a high standard.

The arena of 'crime' versus 'fear of crime' is no exception, and whilst significant success has been achieved in reducing actual crime in the city in recent years – the crime rate having been below the national since 2005/6 - a range of surveys including the Annual Residents Survey, British Crime Survey and a range of consultation activity undertaken with local people, continue to identify that there is not a corresponding reduction in the fear or perceptions of crime, and so this remains a high priority, as reflected in the developing Local Area Agreement (LAA) 2008-11. Under the Safe City priority within the LAA (Draft Outline) the aim is to ensure that by 2025 "Sunderland will be a

place where everyone feels welcome and is part of a community which is safe, inclusive and successful.”

An enhanced CCTV operation making its contribution to a better quality of life for local people will undoubtedly help “ensure people are free from crime, disorder and substance misuse, “create a safe environment”, and “ensure residents are safe from harm” which are the three key challenges (with related priority improvement indicators including NI 17 -measuring perceptions of anti-social behaviour) under this aim.

3. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE FOR PROJECT

WHY THE NEED FOR CCTV DEVELOPMENT IN SUNDERLAND?

WHAT WILL IT ACHIEVE AND WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF CCTV? -
CCTV will continue to play an ongoing and important role in maintaining this success through: -

- The protection of all assets, City-wide
- The protection of resources both human and practical
- The prevention and deterrence of crime and disorder
- The provision of support measures that counter the threat of terrorism and any subsequent investigations into such matters
- The identification and processing of offenders within the Criminal Justice System
- The successful operation/management of city activities and resources, social and commercial that are aided by the protection and reassurance of electronic surveillance
- The contribution to ongoing cost reductions and efficiency savings in respect of crime related activity within in the public and private sectors
- Prevention through reducing the ‘pay off to offenders’ through raising the risk of identification and prosecution
- Reducing the attractiveness of a particular target by increasing surveillance levels
- Persuading offenders not to involve themselves in criminal, anti-social or negative environmental behaviour due to the enhanced risk of identification and prosecution
- Increasing resident and visitor levels of re-assurance leading to a reduction in the fear of crime
- Increasing the attractiveness of the area to businesses and housing providers making it a positive area in which to invest

- Supporting the criminal justice system by investing in a project that has a proven track record of persuading offenders to accept their guilt when monitored and recorded on CCTV whilst offending.

STATISTICAL EVIDENCE OF NEED - CCTV has played an important role in crime and disorder since the early 1990's with positive reductions experienced over recent years. Sunderland is now regarded as the 'Safest Big City in the North' with a crime rate below the national average. From 2002/03 to 2006/07, total crime in the City has reduced by 27%, which equates to 10,000 fewer victims of crime.

While positive reductions are being achieved, crime levels are still unacceptable and a wide range of interventions is still required to tackle the issues. For example, from April 2006 to March 2007 there were a total of 27,399 crimes reported within the City. Of this total: -

- 5,438 related to 'violence against the person'
- 1,479 related to 'burglary of dwellings'
- 1,082 related to 'theft of motor vehicles'
- 1,854 related to 'theft from motor vehicles'
- 8,264 related to 'criminal damage'.

Each of the 6 ARF's was affected by crime and the statistics showed that the proportion of reported offences when measured against the City total of 27,399 was: -

- Coalfield = 3,812 crimes (13.9% of City total)
- East (inc. City centre) = 8,617 crimes (31.4% of City total)
- North = 4,748 crimes (17.32% of City total)
- South = 2,306 crimes (8.41% of City total)
- Washington = 4,160 crimes (15.18% of City total)
- West = 3,756 crimes (13.70% of City total)

101 Single Non Emergency Number

Analysis of the 101 Single Non Emergency Number data was analysed from June 06 - March 07. It can be seen from the table below that the category with the highest number of incidents is 'intimidation and harassment' – which is predominantly made up of 'harassment by youth' and 'Loitering/perceived threat'. Calls about 'people being drunk or rowdy in public places' had the second highest number of calls – the majority of which were classed as 'drinking alcohol on unlicensed premises', followed by 'people throwing objects'. This supports the findings of the community engagement questionnaires and the fear of crime survey where youth related disorder and alcohol related disorder were the most prominent issues.

Breakdown of 101 Incident Types for Sunderland Jun 06 - Mar 07

Intimidation and harassment	2715
Drunk or rowdy in public places	1965
Vehicle related ASB	1625
Noise Nuisance	1439
Vandalism and graffiti	738
Rubbish or litter	548
Out of Scope	537
Street Lighting	175
Substance Related ASB	134
Total	9877

The table above contains a high number of incidents that are capable of monitoring by CCTV where police attendance could be summoned quickly and where there would a high potential for offender identification and criminal justice intervention.

RESEARCH - THE FEAR OF CRIME AND COMMUNITY PERCEPTIONS/ CONCERNS AND REASSURANCE - While working in partnership to reduce crime and disorder, the SSP continues to consult with the public to ensure their views and concerns are heard and addressed. The carrying out of a 6 monthly 'Fear of Crime' survey and community engagement exercises carried out LMAPS areas are designed to identify local problems to be tackled in partnership.

The Sunderland Fear of Crime Survey (Phase 3 March 2007) indicated that there is some public support for CCTV. As described earlier, residents' worry about overall crime is improving; however, feelings of safety are not. When asked how safe residents felt in Sunderland, 63% said they felt safe – a drop from 69% in March 2006. Despite excellent reductions in perceptions of property crime there are still concerns about:

- Young people hanging around
- People drinking or being drunk in the street/public place

Residents were asked how the effects these various problems had on their feelings of safety. The top three were

- Young People hanging around – 27% said this made them much less safe than it otherwise would.
- People drinking or being drunk – 21% said this made them much less safe

- People using or dealing drugs – 19% said this made them feel much less safe

Findings also included: -

The 7th highest comment (32%) from a total of 18 relating in respect of 'why they were worried about crimes happening to them' was '**because there is no CCTV locally**'

Community Engagement Surveys – The SSP intends to tackle local problems through local partnership and consequently 'Community Engagement' surveys are carried out across the ARF areas. Recent research identified that across the LMAPS areas there was a public wish for '**more CCTV coverage**' in several of the LMAPS areas.

MISCELLANEOUS PROBLEMS BENEFITING FROM CCTV INTERVENTION

ALCOHOL ISSUES

The Local Alcohol Profiles for England for 2007 lists Sunderland as having one of the worst records for binge drinking in the country, ranked 349th out of 354 authorities. Alcohol related violent offences ranked Sunderland 242 out of 354.

According to the National Policing Plan 2005-08 and the New National Crime Strategy, alcohol is a key driver in nearly half of all violent crime and is a key cross-cutting issue. The majority of violent crime is committed in and around pubs and most takes place on a weekend evening.

Tackling underage drinking and public drunkenness is one of the top priorities in Sunderland's Fear of Crime survey and alcohol-related crime and disorder was highlighted within the top 3 priorities for each LMAPS area. Whilst alcohol has links to violent crime (including domestic violence and serious assaults), it also links to lower level violence, anti-social behaviour, youth disorder and criminal damage.

Young people's access to alcohol remains an issue despite the education and enforcement work that takes place. Of 59 test purchases for alcohol during 2006/07, 15% resulted in underage sales (9 sales). Convictions were secured against 7 people for the sale of alcohol to minors. However, anecdotally, adults are also buying alcohol for young people.

All of the above has a disproportionate impact on people's quality of life and is known in Sunderland to negatively impact on feelings of safety.

The impact of CCTV as a factor in tackling alcohol related problems has been proven over many years in most city centre areas, and consequently, the

provision of ARF 3G equipment during peak time to broaden existing coverage would be welcomed.

TERRORISM / MAJOR INCIDENTS

The threat of terrorism and preparation for an unexpected major incident is another element in advocating the acquisition of the CCTV equipment in question. The Home Secretary recently commented 'We are facing an unprecedented threat from terrorism in this country, and we are determined to take whatever action is necessary to protect the public from future attacks.'

In an interview, she told the BBC there is 'a consensus that we face a serious threat from terrorism. It's growing in scale. It's becoming more complicated in nature. People need to intervene earlier because of the way in which it aims to cause mass casualties with no warning.'

Access to a resource such as rapid deployment CCTV would be of major benefit to the police and partner authorities in the event of the risk of terrorist threat or major incident occurrence. Deployment can be swift and accurate when based on shared intelligence and can prove vital in the gathering of evidence in advance of or after any such scenario.

MAJOR PUBLIC EVENTS

Sunderland is a vibrant city that hosts a number of high profile and popular events throughout each year. Rapid deployment CCTV is an ideal resource for temporary deployment to areas/events of need and then easily returned to its original position. Such a facility would be ideal to support a range of events including: -

- The Sunderland International Air Show
- The Christmas illumination 'switch on' and local seasonal attractions
- The Remembrance Parade that can attract Royal and VIP visitors
- Premier football matches at the Stadium of Light including on occasions International fixtures
- Cultural and Music events

ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Anti-social behaviour is any activity that impacts on other people in a negative way. Despite a 39% drop in the incidence of crime since 1995, anti-social behaviour remains a serious national issue with around 66,000 reports of

ASB made to authorities each day (Source: One day count of anti-social behaviour: September 10, 2003).

In Sunderland anti-social behaviour continues to be a major concern within communities despite securing Government Trailblazer status for our efforts in dealing with anti-social families and various other positive interventions. During the period April 2006 to March 2007, there were 39,923 reports to the police of anti-social behaviour, with all areas being adversely affected by the problem.

4. KEY OUTPUTS AND OUTCOMES

- Reduce incidents of crime and anti social behaviour.
- Reduce the fear of crime.
- Make effective enforcement action against the perpetrators of anti social behaviour including harassment.
- Improved public safety
- Increased public confidence

5. PROJECT DETAILS

Four Rapid Deployment cameras will be available for each of the 6 A.R.F.s across the city, to be installed at locations identified and agreed by the Local Multi Agency Problem Solving (LMAPS) groups. Northumbria Police, Sunderland City Council officers and Gentoo are key constituent members of these groups. Council Members will become core members of these groups in the near future, and as such will be instrumental in the deployment of the camera units.

The project aims to establish a network of 24 rapid deployment cameras using Third Generation (3G) mobile phone technology (still images of the transmission quality are attached at the end of this document). This allows camera units to be quickly deployed virtually anywhere providing either 8 metre or 10 metre high lighting columns, or suitable buildings, are available onto which the cameras can be fixed. Five metre columns are unsuitable as the units could be easily damaged by accidental or malicious acts. The camera units are unique and they transmit images to remote monitoring stations or any laptop computer configured to receive such images.

The units can be removed and redeployed very quickly should the need arise. Units can be relocated periodically or in response to a particular problem being highlighted, which allows partners to address a range of issues including crime, anti social behaviour, fly tipping, nuisance neighbours, special events and the like. The systems would also be of great assistance during major incidents in the City.

Each camera will have a “home site” identified by LMAPS groups. Cameras when not in use at other locations will be returned to their home sites to ensure constant and valuable use. Permanent columns will be installed at each home site should existing lighting columns be inadequate.

Should the need arise for a camera to be deployed to a location where existing lighting columns are inadequate, suitable replacement columns could be considered, financed by a contingency sum set aside for this eventuality.

Northumbria Police has been involved with the development of this bid, and if successful they have given commitment to provide and install a two way radio base station into the City Alarm and Emergency Centre. This will greatly enhance two way communications and provide direct means of contact with officers responding to incidents. They have also given an assurance that additional police resources will be made available if and when necessary.

6. CAMERA DEPLOYMENT PROTOCOL

Liaison between LMAPS and Area Committees will be achieved through each LMAPS Member representative and effective project management and reported processes.

LMAPS provide a forum for partners to address issues that are difficult to resolve within mainstream activities and operate under the Chairmanship of the Northumbria Police Area Community Inspector.

Their access to comprehensive information and partner intelligence/opinions places the LMAPS groups in a unique position to act as the lead body in assisting in the selection of sites for deployment of the CCTV equipment.

The LMAPS process is supported in its robust, intelligence led approach by researchers and analysts from both Northumbria Police and the Council’s Safer Communities Team. As a consequence, all LMAPS partners have access to ‘hot spot’ information that can advise and guide the deployment of the CCTV units.

In addition to the LMAPS process, Northumbria Police and the SSP representatives hold regular meetings where ‘tasking and co-ordination’ of resources is discussed, and this will also support the appropriate deployment of the units.

LMAPS groups meet on a 5 week cycle, and therefore in the case of a pressing or urgent need for a decision outside of that cycle, it is proposed that under these circumstances, authority to deploy a CCTV unit be delegated to:-

- The Area Community Inspector who chairs the appropriate LMAPS group in consultation with the respective LMAPS Council Member and the Director of Development and Regeneration or his nominee.

In the event of multiple requests for equipment that exceed availability it is suggested that the final decision rests with the Chief Inspector, Northumbria Police, Sunderland Command responsible for Community Policing Teams in consultation with the respective LMAPS Council Member and the Director of Development and Regeneration or his nominee.

7. OPERATING ARRANGEMENTS

The success of the project depends on the appointment of a dedicated CCTV supervisor, as existing staffing resources are now at capacity with current workload. The post holder would have day to day responsibility for the project, including scheme development, deployment/redeployment of units, system monitoring and inspections, partner liaison, evidence gathering and downloads. The post holder would also be required to prepare reports to Area Committees and other partners. Ongoing maintenance management would also be part of this function.

Although the City and Alarm and Emergency Centre has the capacity to receive additional transmissions, additional monitoring staff would be required to ensure effective and successful outcomes. Senior officers of Northumbria Police and relevant council officers have discussed the monitoring requirement and agreed that the project will only be successful with dedicated monitoring at peak times between 1800hrs and 00.00 hrs every day. This time period is recognised as “peak time” for the majority of incidents. The cameras will be monitored sequentially with existing systems at all other times. All camera images will also be digitally recorded at all times.

The project will compliment the existing fixed public space and rapid deployment C.C.T.V systems across the City. It will address problems being encountered across the City with regard to domestic and commercial burglary, vehicle crime and anti social behaviour including youth disorder and harassment. The intention will be to impact on crime and disorder activities by both prevention, deterrent value and by detection through the identification of offenders. It is intended that the fear of crime within the framework areas is positively addressed leading to an improved quality of life for all.

Life expectancy of equipment is estimated at a minimum of 5 years. Should the project continue after this period, then future funding would need to be identified.

CODE OF PRACTICE

The City Alarm and Emergency Centre is the designated location for signals from the new CCTV equipment. The centre has a well-established record of continuous monitoring by trained staff and holds the BS5979/2000 standard as well as operating to a robust formal code of practice. The operating procedures are also well established in line with the internal code of practice.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Capital option

24 no. 3G Camera's	£375K
CCTV Supervisor	£27,500.00 per annum (Sc 6 Maximum)
Peak Time Monitoring	£36,486.62 per annum
Home site columns (if req)	£30K maximum
Annual redeployment cost	£15K(Estimated)
Insurance	£6K per annum
Additional columns (as and when required)	£20K per annum

Lease option

24 no. 3G Camera's	£7,850 per month
CCTV Supervisor	£27,500.00 per annum (Sc 6 Maximum)
Peak Time Monitoring	£36,486.62 per annum
Home site columns (if req)	£30K maximum
Annual redeployment cost	£15K(Estimated)
Insurance	£6K per annum
Additional columns (as and when required)	£20K per annum

9. PROCUREMENT

The procurement and tendering process will be carried out in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulation 2006 and the council's procurement rules. Currently the delivery of this equipment would take between six and eight weeks from date of order. Estimated timescales for the procurement process would extend that timescale to a minimum of six months.

MAIN PROPOSAL (assuming all external funding is secured) NOT APPLICABLE – see next section

	Funding Sources	Phasing					Total Cost
		2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	
Capital Costs							

Revenue							
Costs							
Net Cost							

ALTERNATIVE CAPITAL PLAN (if no or limited external funding were forthcoming).....

	Funding Sources	Phasing					Total Cost
		2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	
Capital Costs		£405,000					£405,000
Revenue Costs		£104,986	£108,135	£111,373	£114,714	£118,155	£557,363
Net Cost		£509,986	£108,135	£111,373	£114,714	£118,155	£962,363

ALTERNATIVE LEASING PLAN (if no or limited external funding were forthcoming).....

	Funding Sources	Phasing					Total Cost
		2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	
Capital Costs		£30,000					£30,000
Revenue Costs		£104,986	£108,135	£111,373	£114,714	£118,155	£557,363
Lease costs		£94,200	£94,200	£94,200	£94,200	£94,200	£471,000
Net Cost		£229,186	£202,335	£205,573	£208,914	£212,355	£1,058,363

10. CONCLUSION

The proposal to acquire '3G' rapid deployment CCTV cameras for use within ARF areas is seen as a positive and cost effective measure to target and tackle crime, disorder, fear of crime and address community reassurance. The decision to provide manned continuous monitoring and staffing support for additional installation/removal responsibilities is also supported.

The intention to use the established 'LMAPS' process as the central driver for deployment aided by intelligence and 'hot spot' mapping together with an agreed authorisation level to arrange deployment, is also seen as positive.

The use of the LMAPS process will also enable the effectiveness of the equipment to be assessed through statistical analysis and community consultation carried out by SSP and Northumbria Police staff.

The intention to place operational and fiscal responsibility for the equipment and appropriate staff within the Council's Security Services Team is based on the long-standing experience in the acquisition, installation, monitoring and partnership use of surveillance equipment.

AREA LOCATION: City-Wide, 6 A.R.Fs

COUNCIL LEAD OFFICER: Barry Frost, Security and Emergency Planning Manager

OTHER PARTNERS / AGENCIES INVOLVED: L.M.A.Ps, including Northumbria Police, Safer Sunderland Partnership, Council anti social behaviour teams, Elected Members and Gentoo.

EXAMPLES OF STILL IMAGES FROM A 3G CCTV SYSTEM

