

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD – 19th December 2016

CCTV Update - Briefing Paper

Following an item being placed on the Cabinet Work Programme the Overview and Scrutiny Board, Review of CCTV in the District the Board requested an opportunity to pre-scrutinise the review. Although, this item has now been removed from the Cabinet Work Programme the Board requested that background information be provided together with an update on the current position.

Bromsgrove Community Safety Tasking Group received a request for additional CCTV in Bromsgrove covering a particular site.

This resulted in the group discussing other locations and how they should be compared.

Points discussed were:

- How to identify the problem to be resolved.
- What was the range of solutions to consider?
- Is a surveillance camera system considered to be the most effective way to solve the issues?
- How the surveillance camera system will be used to address the problems that may be identified.
- How success will be measured (i.e. evaluation: reduction in crime, reduction of fear, increased detection etc)

In addition, consideration must be given to the Surveillance Camera Commissioners Code of Practice and Data Protection legislation which requires the council to review proportionality, legality, accountability and necessity, as any interference by a public authority of an individual's rights must be justified.

Therefore the following questions must be considered as part of a Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA):

- Is the surveillance activity established on a proper legal basis and is it undertaken in accordance with the law?
- Is the surveillance activity necessary to address a pressing need, such as public safety, crime prevention or national security?
- Is it justified in the circumstances?
- Is it proportionate to the problem that it is designed to deal with?

If the answer to any of these questions is no, then the use of camera surveillance is not appropriate.

Further research and investigation should be completed and recorded:

- Consultation with local residents and businesses

- What other solutions have been considered e.g.
 - Improved lighting
 - Interaction with Licensing
 - Diversionary activity
 - Reassurance from fear of crime... etc
- Record the benefits to be gained through adopting a CCTV solution
- What privacy issues may arise?
- Is sufficient funding available? Establish potential capital contributors and ongoing revenue costs.
- Confirm that the proposed solution will deliver the desired benefits.
- What is the pressing need to be addressed; public safety, crime prevention, national security?
- Is the camera justified and proportionate?
- Equality impact assessment.

A process was devised which could be used to assess the need for CCTV, alternative solutions, funding requirement and the impact on people's privacy, of any new CCTV scheme/camera proposal. Information can be formally submitted using a standardised application form from a third party and recoded in the CCTV Requirement Assessment and Privacy Impact Assessment

By adopting this assessment process it will ensure future identified and/or perceived issues can be evidenced and assessed against a set criterion.

(See the attached forms)

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