

Community Safety O & S Committee

Possible CCTV Review - Notes from meeting with Consultant on 1 March 2011

Nationally

No legislation on use of CCTV
Authorities have to self-regulate
York has no declaration of right to use

York's Current Set Up

Fibre optic analogue network – due for upgrade (new network)
70+ Cameras inc. 3 portable cameras for placing where there is a priority
Approx 60 referrals a week from the Police
Need breakdown of camera numbers i.e. those used solely for traffic management, those solely for crime and disorder prevention and those with a dual purpose

- Qu. How many of our fixed cameras are switched off?
- Qu. How many of the referrals are used as evidence for prosecution?
- Qu. 3 mobile cameras on trial since April 2010 – what are the results?
- Qu. Does York have any KPIs on effectiveness of CCTV in York?
- Qu. Is there any evidence of crime displacement?

Cost

- Qu. Can we demonstrate effectiveness of CCTV in York?
- Qu. Are we getting value for money?
- Qu. Does having 70+ cameras have a measurable affect on crime?
- Qu. What is the annual cost to the council for providing CCTV footage to the Police?
- Qu. Nationally, many Authorities charge the Police for provision of CCTV footage – why don't we? – **and what impact might charging the Police have on the 60 referrals requested a week?**

Civil Liberties

- Qu. Why do we have CCTV - originally introduced as a traffic management tool, now also being used to manage crime and disorder? How and when was this change in use agreed, or did it just evolve ?
- Qu. Who would be able to access the footage if we have a North Yorks joined up service?

Potential for Shared Service

York could manage Selby's CCTV because of its close proximity

- Procurement – maintenance and replacement
- CCTV Consultation Group – officers meeting on a regular basis to discuss issues/problems, sharing ideas on use etc
- Secondment of officers – sharing best practice / better use of resources. Standards and working practices would need to be agreed.
- Engagement with MOD – they have approx 70 cameras in North Yorks which are not controlled by the local authorities even though they are in public areas – civil liberties over ridden by MOD security issue?
- Inconsistent approach across the region could be sorted out

- Regional agreement would be unlikely to include real time access to data across local authorities because of the many technical challenges.
- civil liberties should be raised in the consultative document.
- bulk purchasing of equipment or services, opportunity to reduce costs.

The consultant revealed that CYC currently has over 50% of all the cameras in the region; the only other local authority in the region to have CCTV in any numbers is Scarborough where they have a significant number of cameras in the city centre. He also revealed that several local authorities in the region are looking either to scale back the number of CCTVs they have or get rid of them altogether.