

**Agenda Item No:**

**Report to:** Overview and Scrutiny (Services)

**Date of Meeting:** 15 March 2010

**Report Title:** Scrutiny review of the effectiveness of CCTV as a crime deterrent -  
Action Plan update

**Report By:** Richard Homewood  
Corporate Director Environmental Services

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### **Purpose of Report**

To provide an update on progress with the action plan arising from the scrutiny review of the effectiveness of CCTV as a crime deterrent.

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### **Recommendation(s)**

**1. That the report be noted**

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### **Reasons for Recommendations**

To acknowledge progress with the action plan.

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## Introduction

1. At its meeting on 27 April 2009 Cabinet considered the management response to the report from the scrutiny review of the effectiveness of CCTV as a crime deterrent.
2. The Cabinet resolved unanimously that:
  - (1) the findings and recommendations of the Scrutiny Review be acknowledged and the review team be thanked for their comprehensive report;
  - (2) the management response and actions proposed be approved; and
  - (3) the amended Action Plan be approved as set out in Appendix A to the management response.
3. A summary of successful intervention in community safety and crime and disorder issues is set out in Appendix A to this report. A copy of the action plan updated to indicate progress is also attached as Appendix B.

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## Wards Affected

Ashdown, Baird, Braybrooke, Castle, Central St. Leonards, Conquest, Gensing, Hollington, Maze Hill, Old Hastings, Ore, Silverhill, St. Helens, Tressell, West St. Leonards, Wishing Tree

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## Area(s) Affected

Central Hastings, East Hastings, North St. Leonards, South St. Leonards

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## Policy Implications

Please identify if this report contains any implications for the following:

Equalities and Community Cohesiveness	Yes
Crime and Fear of Crime (Section 17)	Yes
Risk Management	No
Environmental Issues	No
Economic/Financial Implications	No
Human Rights Act	No
Organisational Consequences	Yes

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## **Background Information**

Scrutiny review of the effectiveness of CCTV as a crime deterrent - Report to Cabinet  
27 April 2009

### Appendices

Appendix A - CCTV Successes in Community Safety enhancement and Crime and Disorder reduction

Appendix B - Updated Action Plan

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## **Officer to Contact**

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## Appendix A

### **CCTV Successes in Community Safety enhancement and Crime and Disorder reduction**

Working in partnership with Sussex Police the Council's CCTV operation now has the technical and operational capability to monitor 90 public open space cameras located both on and off street within Hastings and St.Leonards.

In April 2009 the Council's CCTV operation extended to a daily 24 hour monitoring service. In addition to it's partnership with Sussex Police the monitoring operation now provides operational support for field operatives carrying out many Council statutory duties and regulatory functions.

Also in 2009 the CCTV operations centre was subject of inspection by the Assistant Surveillance Commissioner who confirmed that the Hastings Borough Council's CCTV Monitoring Officers were well trained and equipped to deliver an effective operation on behalf of the Council with no recommendations for improvement in the service required.

Since that inspection all the Council's Monitoring Officers have completed the relevant training to achieve the recognised National Security Industry Accreditation standard together with a supporting 'B Tec' qualification to carry out their duties as CCTV Monitoring Officers.

The daily CCTV operation seeks to reduce crime, the fear of crime and enhance community safety in support of the well being of the town to encourage greater use of the town centre, shopping areas including Priory Meadow, car parks and similar locations within the Borough.

The Council's CCTV operation has delivered some outstanding surveillance successes to support Sussex Police in its crime detection role. Rape, armed robbery, serious assault, theft, possession of drugs, possession of offensive weapons, criminal damage, anti-social behaviour, serious road traffic collisions and youth nuisance behaviour have been all types of crime where CCTV evidence through expert monitoring has assisted in the arrest, investigation and successful detection of them.

Previous CCTV recorded incidents of note relate to crimes of armed robbery and robbery committed within the town where CCTV monitoring provided crucial evidence to help secure convictions of the offenders. On conviction the offenders received custodial sentences ranging from eight months to nine years imprisonment.

From the 1st April to the 31st December 2009 the Council's CCTV operation has monitored 235 crime related incidents resulting in 100 arrests being made by Sussex Police. The CCTV evidence secured not only aided these investigations but provided valuable and also crucial evidence to prove the commission of many of these crimes.

Much of the crime that has been monitored and detected has occurred within the town centre proximity between the hours of 10pm to 4am. Alert CCTV monitoring and swift

action by Sussex Police has prevented a number of these incidents from escalating to a more serious nature of crime being committed.

Particular mention should also be made of two further incidents that were subject of outstanding work by the CCTV monitoring team in November and December of 2009. The first incident relates to offences of burglary and the use of a stolen motor vehicle to commit the crimes by the individuals concerned. As a consequence of this excellent work a monitoring officer received a 'Police Commendation' for outstanding professional monitoring work. The second incident relates to an individual that when stopped by police and searched was found to have a 'machete' concealed on their person. The CCTV operation was not only vital in identifying the persons concerned in these crimes but also the subsequent tracking and locating of them so that Sussex Police were able to make swift arrests and detections. In regard to the latter incident a further Council employee has been nominated to receive a 'Police Commendation'.

Overall these successes clearly demonstrate the value of the local management and monitoring of CCTV in Hastings, how it contributes to the overall reduction of crime and disorder in the town and CCTV, enhances community safety, reduces the fear of crime and helps promote the evening economy and overall regeneration of the town.