

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR SERVICES
14 OCTOBER 2008**

Present: Councillors Fawthrop, Forward, Silverson (as the duly appointed substitute for Councillor Soan), Webb (in the Chair) and Wilson

Apologies were received from Councillors Bird, Palmer and Soan.

**11. FINAL REPORT ON SCRUTINY REVIEW OF EFFECTIVENESS OF
CCTV AS A CRIME DETERRENT INCLUDING ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR**

Graham Belchamber, Scrutiny and Democratic Services Manager, briefed the committee on the process taken with this scrutiny review. He also explained that the review team, during the course of the review, agreed to incorporate the relocation of the existing CCTV monitoring room into their terms of reference.

Councillor Fawthrop, Chair of the review team, introduced the report to the committee. He gave a background to the review, saying that there had always been a 'big brother' sense of intrusion towards the cameras; this was one of the myths the review had tried to dispel. A workshop had been set up as part of the review, to gauge effectiveness of CCTV from a community perspective. The overwhelming message from this workshop was that communities felt CCTV was effective, especially from a crime and fear of crime perspective, but wanted it communicated back to them exactly how effective and successful it was. The review team also discovered that the CCTV monitoring room no longer had access to the police airwave radio, this had ceased when the police radio systems were upgraded. Members felt this link in communications was vital and made recommendations to this effect. There was also a recommendation to introduce a Lay Visitors Group, to monitor the operation of CCTV, ensuring all activity complied with the Data Protection Act and other relevant legislation.

Members of the review team were also asked to consider the proposed relocation of the existing monitoring room from its current location at Carlisle Parade, to the new Station Plaza complex. Councillor Fawthrop explained that the review team were in agreement with the principle of the relocation, as long as the existing Out of Hours Co-ordinators were consulted as the project developed. The review team had not considered a full business plan of the proposed relocation as this was not within their remit, this level of detail would be for the Cabinet to discuss.

Councillor Silverson thanked the review team for the work undertaken so far, but felt that the final report required more depth, in order to reflect the amount of work done. He did agree, however, with the proposed relocation of the CCTV monitoring room. To this end, he proposed a set of alternative recommendations, these were seconded by Councillor Forward.

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The Chair invited Councillor Chowney to the table; he was a member of the review team, but not on the Services Committee itself. Councillor Chowney expressed reservations with the report, explaining that he did not feel that the report reflected the amount of work done. He also felt that the review team had not fully completed the review within their terms of reference and asked that this be looked at again. With regard to the relocation of the monitoring room, Councillor Chowney agreed this was a much-needed move.

Richard Homewood, Corporate Director for Environmental Services, commented that the review had looked at more than just cost effectiveness of CCTV; one of the main considerations was enhancing the feeling of public safety and reducing fear of crime. He felt that the review team had addressed the terms of reference, but accepted that more could be included in the report to reflect this.

RESOLVED (unanimously) that:

- 1. the committee supports the principle of re-locating the CCTV Monitoring Room from its current location at Carlisle Parade, to the Station Plaza complex; and**
- 2. assurances are provided, that the delivery of the project will be managed effectively; progress updates to be reported at the relevant O&S committee until completed;**
- 3. the committee note the report and thank the review team for work undertaken so far; and**
- 4. the review team reconvene to discuss their report further, with a view to incorporating more of the work undertaken, but with the exception of the relocation of the CCTV Monitoring Room.**

(The Chair declared the meeting closed at 5.45pm)

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