

**COMMUNITY WELLBEING PDG  
28 MARCH 2017**

**Tiverton Town CCTV System Update**

**Cabinet Member(s):** Cllr Margret Squires  
**Responsible Officer:** Nick Sanderson, Head of Housing & Property Services

**Reason for Report:** To update Members of the changes to the Town Centre CCTV system and operational overview.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That members note the upgraded CCTV facilities and the benefits of the system to the Tiverton community.

**Relationship to Corporate Plan:** The wellbeing and safety of Mid Devon communities.

**Financial Implications:** The upgrade to the CCTV System was funded by capital funds previously earmarked in 2015/16. Contributions are received annually from Tiverton Town Council towards the maintenance and management of the system. On occasions the police and community safety are also able to provide funding.

**Legal Implications:** The system is operated using the guidance provided by the Surveillance Camera Code of Practice. This includes the handling of data.

**Risk Assessment:** If the CCTV System is not operating the police have less evidence to identify and pursue individuals who have been involved in criminal activities in the area. Therefore crime could potentially rise. With the increase of the number of cameras now in use, there is wider coverage of the town centre area and more incidents and criminal activity can be monitored and provided to the police when required.

**1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 The CCTV System continues to be well used by the Tiverton Policing Team in liaison with the CCTV Supervisor.
- 1.2 As outlined in the report to members for the January 2016 CSB PDG the council planned to replace the existing CCTV system, reusing or relocating any camera units and equipment where possible. Technical specs and quotes were obtained. Funds were allocated to this within the capital budget 2015/16 and approved by Management Team.

**2.0 The System Upgrade**

- 2.1 The previous system had a total of 16 cameras covering the town centre and Pannier Market area. In addition there are also some operational camera monitoring the entrances and exits of the multi-storey car park.
- 2.2 As part of the upgrade we consulted with the partner agencies including the Police, Highways and Devon County Council to identify the best locations for

new cameras to ensure the best possible coverage of the town centre key areas. These are areas where there is most public footfall or known hotspots for criminal activity and anti-social behaviour. Several of the cameras are radio linked so need to be in line of sight of others in order to transmit the images back to the control room. This needed careful planning in order to get the best possible vantage points.

- 2.3 We did experience some considerable delays in completing the project which was caused for a variety of reasons. This included obtaining permissions from private property owners to install camera equipment on their premises and arranging for the power from nearby street furniture, which resulted in some additional ground works.
- 2.4 The system is now complete and consists of 26 camera's with ten in new locations in Tiverton not previously covered. This includes improved coverage of the Pannier Market area, Barrington Street, the Lowman Green area, Angel Hill and West Exe including allowing 360 degree views from the mini roundabout. 13 of the units are Pan Tilt and Zoom (PTZ) two of which have motion detection and 13 units are fixed. The PTZ cameras can be operated from the control room. We also have 10 cameras on the MSCP in Phoenix Lane .
- 2.5 The CCTV Control Room has new monitors and a larger hard drive to store the additional footage from the additional cameras. New software is now in use and the CCTV Operator is trained to view, retrieve and burn off any images required.

### 3.0 **CCTV Surveillance**

- 3.1 The CCTV Supervisor is employed for 7 hours per week; however he increases these hours considerably in a voluntary capacity. On average the cameras are 'manned' for around 14 hours per week and this will most often include a Saturday evening/night. During busy periods such as bank holidays, events in the town centre or police operations the hours are increased to 25-30 per week.
- 3.2 The CCTV Supervisor works very closely with the local policing team and can on occasions be called out when a particularly serious crime has occurred in the area and where CCTV can play an important part in identify suspect individuals or vehicles that have been in the town centre area. Three such call outs have occurred in the last 12 months and this included the 'ram-raid' incident at Banburys.
- 3.3 In order to support the police the CCTV Supervisor will change or increase his hours to help with any police operations. Recent Operations have included targeting shoplifting and drug offences.
- 3.4 It was identified that some of the tall trees and bushes in the town centre, around the Multi-storey car park and the Market car park are impeding the vision of the cameras. Work has been started to reduce the branches and foliage in order to allow better views and tracking of individuals, vehicles or activity.

## 4.0 Incidents

- 4.1 In the last 12 months the police have made 37 formal requests for CCTV footage in relation to incidents that have occurred in the Town Centre area. Time is also spent searching for any useful evidence relating to wanted individuals or vehicles that can assist police investigations. Gaining intelligence regarding the movement of known individuals and their associate's helps give the police a good overview of their activities and can assist when planning warrants or operations.
- 4.2 There has been one authorised insurance request in the last year relating to a traffic incident that was captured on the cameras.
- 4.3 Regular phone calls are received by members of the community asking for footage relating to damage to their vehicles but these are then routed via the Police or their insurance company.
- 4.4 It is not easy to identify how many cases go to court where CCTV footage has been requested by the police as it is not always possible to get the information from the CPS or the courts. However if the CCTV Operator has witnessed any incidents in 'live view' he will provide a statement to the police at the same time as providing the footage. In these cases we may get notification of the case results directly from the court.
- 4.5 Just prior to Christmas we were notified that a case where we were able to provide footage on a shoplifting incident had resulted in two individuals being arrested. Both were in court on 19th December 2016. One attended and pleaded guilty to theft from a shop, theft (other), Burglary (other than dwelling with intent to steal) and theft (other – including theft by finding). He was ordered to pay costs of £115 and imprisoned for 16 weeks, keeping Tiverton that little bit safer over the festive period. The other offender did not attend court due to ill health and was due in court on 10 January. However he failed to attend and a warrant was issued for his arrest.
- 4.6 At a hearing on 14 February 2017 an individual pleaded guilty to using threatening / abusive / insulting words / behaving with intent to cause fear / provoke unlawful violence and Obstructing/ resisting constable in the execution of duty. As a result a community order was made for 15 days, with a fine of £73 and court costs of £85.

## 5.0 Stakeholders

- 5.1 Mid Devon continues to liaise with other agencies that have an interest in the town CCTV system. This includes the police, town council, street pastors and local traders.
- 5.2 Street Pastors have expressed an interest in offering voluntary monitoring support of the system which will be further investigated now the new system is in place.

## 6.0 Summary

- 6.1 The cameras in the town are proving their worth against crime and identifying local criminal activity.
- 6.2 There have been several incidents where the cameras have been relied upon to track criminals in violent or serious cases. This has included the Banburys store ram raid, a knife point theft from a newsagents, and violent attacks on individuals. The system continues to support officers with intelligence regarding the movements of known local criminals and evidence for lower level crimes including theft, shoplifting and drug dealing.

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**Circulation of the Report:** Cllr Margaret Squires, CCTV Supervisor, Management Team