



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Community Safety and Public Protection Scrutiny Sub Committee

17th December 2021

Report of the Chief Digital Officer

Matter for Information

Wards Affected: All Wards

CCTV: Position Statement and Update

Purpose of the Report:

This report provides Neath Port Talbot elected Members with an update on the Local Authorities public space Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) provision.

Executive Summary:

Public space CCTV has been in place across the Authority since the mid 1990's and is a non-statutory service provision. The current CCTV service operates a staffed service at evenings, weekends and Bank Holidays, with all other times covered by 'passive' un-staffed monitoring only.

The current camera network consists of 53 cameras strategically placed throughout Neath and Port Talbot town centres and along Aberavon seafront.

The camera network has recently expanded following engagement with Britton Ferry Town Council. This has seen a further seven cameras deployed to this ward, fully funded by the Briton Ferry Town Council. These cameras are used to improve safety and assist in tackling crime and anti-social behaviour.

The CCTV provision provides a highly visible deterrent and as has supported a number of scenarios including identifying criminal activity such as burglary, anti-social behaviour, assaults and assisting with arson investigations. All of this is possible through the network of cameras we have available and the diligence of the CCTV staff who provide an out of hours monitoring service for the CCTV system.

Replacement Camera Programme

The CCTV camera infrastructure has not been renewed since its original installation. As a result, it has now reached end of life and has become increasingly difficult to maintain. Work is currently underway to replace the entire CCTV camera system with a modern and high-specification infrastructure, operating over a new Wi-Fi transmission network. We are also taking the opportunity to update existing CCTV control room software, upgrade networking and storage and paint existing CCTV columns.

As part of this process, we have engaged a CCTV specialist consultant to determine the ongoing validity of each camera location. Through this process, we identified where replacement cameras would need to be sited or a new camera installed due to changes in the town centre.

Camera location changes as follows (all others are replacement in situ):

- Neath Multi Storey car park - Two new cameras located on top of the car park. Replaces camera lost from BT telephone exchange.
- Bridge St, Neath - Supported by local intelligence of a need for additional monitoring in this area.
- New St, Neath – Identified as potential hot-spot by Police.
- Water St, Neath - Camera reinstated in this location to replace cameras lost from the old Wilkinson/Tesco building.
- Victoria Gardens - Move camera to improve viewing angle.
- Water St, Port Talbot - Move camera to provide better viewing angles.
- Grove Road/Station Road, Port Talbot - Reinstated camera to replace camera removed from this location on the demolition of the old police station.
- Aberavon - Move camera further along the promenade to provide improved CCTV viewing locations.

It is expected that camera replacements will commence in the New Year, with work expected to be complete by May 2022.

Review of CCTV Operating Hours

A review of the CCTV service is underway to explore whether it could be reinstated as a 24/7, 365 day a year monitoring operation. A business case is being developed with detailed financial profiles to allow an informed decision to be made on this non-statutory service.

There is no additional budget currently identified to fund an expansion of active CCTV monitoring and any additional costs will need to be fully considered against other Council priorities.

So far, the business case has identified potential benefits to this operational change including:

- Enhanced town centre safety.
- Improving public perception of safety in the town centre areas.
- Reducing anti-social behaviour.
- Targeted response and assistance in police operations to tackle anti-social behaviour in the town centre.
- Access to daytime town centre radio system with assistance to businesses from CCTV where required. E.g. tackling shoplifting and identifying potential issues before they occur.
- Renewed ability to effectively assist Police in ongoing investigations during the daytime.

Further information will be provided to Elected Members as this work progresses.

Financial Impacts: There are no financial impacts associated with this report.

Integrated Impact Assessment: There is no requirement to undertake an Integrated Impact Assessment as this report is for information purposes.

Valleys Communities Impacts: There are no valley communities impacts associated with this report.

Workforce Impacts: There are no workforce impacts associated with this report.

Legal Impacts: There are no legal impacts associated with this report.

Risk Management Impacts: There are no risk management impacts associated with this report.

Consultation: There is no requirement for external consultation on this item.

Recommendations: That Members note the content of this information report

Appendices: N/A

List of background papers: None

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