

SAFER STREETS GRANT AND CCTV

Head of Service:	Rod Brown, Head of Housing & Community
Wards affected:	Ewell Ward; Stoneleigh Ward; Town Ward;
Urgent Decision?(yes/no)	No
If yes, reason urgent decision required:	
Appendices (attached):	Appendix 1 CCTV usage data Appendix 2 Location of CCTV cameras in Ewell and Stoneleigh Appendix 3 Safer Streets Bid Application (redacted)

Summary

This report seeks authority to utilise the safer streets grant award to replace 16 out of the 20 CCTV cameras in the borough, requests a decision to decommission the remaining 4 cameras, and approval to spend the balance of the safer streets grant award on the identified projects appearing as part of the successful bid.

Recommendation (s)

The Committee is asked to:

- (1) Approve the allocation of the Safer Streets grant allocation to the projects outlined in the bid submission in Appendix 3.**
- (2) Approve the allocation of £128,624 of Safer Streets grant funded capital expenditure to the replacement of the 16 remaining cameras in Epsom and £43,888 transmission costs covering two years.**
- (3) Approve the decommissioning of two obsolete CCTV cameras in Stoneleigh and two in Ewell.**

1 Reason for Recommendation

- 1.1 To ensure CCTV used in the borough is compliant with relevant codes of practice.
- 1.2 To ensure the Safer Streets project proceeds in line with expectations.

2 Background

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- 2.1 The Council and its partners have recently been successful in attracting a grant award from the Home Office Safer Streets 4 Programme of £271,712 to promote the safety of the night time economy in Epsom and includes initiatives in response to concerns about Violence Against Women and Girls. The original application appears as appendix 3 to this report and proposes to:
 - 2.1.1 Replace the 16 town centre CCTV cameras.
 - 2.1.2 Provide staff training and accreditation for licensed premises within the town centre to increase safety and awareness.
 - 2.1.3 Deliver a specific communications package for Epsom Night time economy promoting the safety of patrons in the town centre, the improvements made and promotions around personal safety.
 - 2.1.4 Assist the Street Pastors with uniform and training.
 - 2.1.5 Investigate a new night angels volunteer scheme to support and collaborate with the existing Street Pastors.
 - 2.1.6 Purchase branded drink testing kits and anti spiking merchandise for distribution to venues in the night time economy.
- 2.2 This committee is asked to endorse the proposals set out in Appendix 3 and allocate the grant funding on the basis awarded. However, further details on the CCTV provisions in the Town Centre and wider borough are set out below
- 2.3 Public space CCTV surveillance has been carried out by the Council since the mid 1990s and there is evidence that the Council's original system was funded by a Home Office grant as part of a significant overall investment in such systems at that time.
- 2.4 Under present arrangements, Surrey Police carry out the monitoring at the CCTV control room in Reigate Police Station without cost to the Council.
- 2.5 The Council has 20 CCTV cameras which are used to monitor public spaces. All these cameras are analogue relying on an expensive legacy fibre optic connection and nearing the end of their useful operational life.
- 2.6 Modern day controls on state surveillance oblige the Council is to have regard to [the Information Commissioner's \(ICO\), Surveillance Camera Code of Practice](#) which is made under the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012.
- 2.7 The code contains 12 guiding principles which, in the context of the proposed renewal of the system, have been used to assess the legalities of carrying on surveillance at some of the locations where monitoring data shows low utilisation of the cameras.

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- 2.8 Within the overall bid, the amount allocated to CCTV is £172,512 and is intended to replace the 16 obsolete street cameras within the area defined by the bid.
- 2.9 The remaining 4 cameras not included in the Safer Streets bid area are in Stoneleigh and Ewell - their locations appear in appendix 1.
- 2.10 A summary of usage data from all the borough public space CCTV cameras in 2021 appears as appendix 2. Using this, it is possible to see that those cameras in Ewell (179 and 180), together with Stoneleigh (177 and 178) were amongst the lowest utilised in the scheme.
- 2.11 Officers have assessed these four cameras against the ICO code of practice and find that it is unlikely they would be considered proportionate to their stated objective of the prevention and detection of crime and, crucially cannot be said to meet an identified *pressing* need as defined in the code.
- 2.12 It is concluded therefore that these remaining 4 cameras ought to be decommissioned.

3 Risk Assessment

Legal or other duties

3.1 Equality Impact Assessment

3.1.1 No implications have been identified

3.2 Crime & Disorder

3.2.1 Recorded police data for the affected cameras would suggest that in 2021 a total of 40 incidents would not have benefitted from being seen. However a proportion of the incidents were not crimes, instead being used for missing person searches and concern for safety and the actual figures for use in the prevention and detection of crime are lower.

3.3 Safeguarding

3.3.1 No safeguarding implications have been identified.

3.4 Dependencies

3.4.1 None.

3.5 Other

3.5.1 None.

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4 Financial Implications

- 4.1 Currently the costs associated with the replacement and ongoing monitoring costs of CCTV are unbudgeted. The funding from the Safer Streets bid will provide the capital costs to replace 16 of the 20 street CCTV cameras and the Epsom BID, Go Epsom, will fund the monitoring costs associated with the 16 replaced CCTV cameras.
- 4.2 Any further cameras which need to be replaced would need to subject to a future capital bid.
- 4.3 The only budgeted expenditure for street CCTV is £32k which funds the transmission, electricity and maintenance costs associated with the existing cameras.
- 4.4 It might reasonably be expected that a saving could be generated through the economising on transmission and maintenance costs for these four cameras. However, the degree to which the full budget will be required to fund decommissioning costs is uncertain at this stage.
- 4.5 **Section 151 Officer's comments:** Any decommissioning costs which cannot be met from the saved transmission and maintenance costs for these four cameras will need to be funded from identified savings within other existing budgets.

5 Legal Implications

- 5.1 Compliance with the ICO code of practice is a requirement of law.
- 5.2 **Legal Officer's comments:** Section 33(1) of the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 (PoFA 2012) states that "a relevant authority must have regard to the surveillance camera code when exercising any functions to which the Code applies". The Council is a relevant authority (section 33 PoFA 2012). "Have regard" to statutory guidance means that the Council should take statutory guidance into account and if the Council decides to depart from it there would have to have and give clear reasons for doing so.
- 5.3 The Amended Surveillance Camera Code of Practice 2022 applies to use of surveillance cameras that operate in public places in England and Wales including CCTV and Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR).
- 5.4 The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) guidance sets out legal obligations for compliance with data protection laws and should be followed by the Council.

6 Policies, Plans & Partnerships

- 6.1 **Council's Key Priorities:** The following Key Priorities are engaged: Safe and Well

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6.2 **Service Plans:** The matter is included within the current Service Delivery Plan.

6.3 **Climate & Environmental Impact of recommendations:** None identified

6.4 **Sustainability Policy & Community Safety Implications:** The implications on community safety are covered in the body of this report.

6.5 **Partnerships:** None

7 Background papers

Information Commissioner “Amended Surveillance Camera Code of Practice”, 2022 www.gov.uk/government/publications/update-to-surveillance-camera-code/amended-surveillance-camera-code-of-practice-accessible-version [accessed 12/9/22]