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CCTV INDEPENDENT INSPECTORS ANNUAL REPORT 2005

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**Responsible Cabinet Member(s) - Councillor Bill Dixon,  
Community and Public Protection Portfolio**

**Responsible Director(s) - Paul Wildsmith, Director of Corporate Services**

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**Purpose of Report**

1. To inform Members of the results of the inspection regime carried out by the Council's Independent Inspection Team during 2005.

**Information and Analysis**

2. This is the third report to Members by the Inspection Team, the report being based upon the findings of a series of continuous inspections carried out by the Inspection Team at random during 2005.
3. To refresh Members, the Inspection Team currently have free access to the Control Room at any time of the day or night and on any day of the week. Normally working in pairs, their purpose is to randomly visit the Control Room to check that the Control Room is running to the rules and regulations that it declares and equally important, runs to the current legal guidance.
4. In the context of legality they are also authorised to inspect non-evidential tapes to help establish that the system has been used and is used appropriately at all times.
5. The report from the Inspectors, is **appended** to this report. Once again, the report is extremely positive, with a few concerns being raised.
6. In the context of the Inspectors report, Item 3.3 relates to the Security Industry Authority and the need for licences. All of the appropriate paperwork is currently with the Security Industry Authority and we are waiting for the licences to be issued. The SIA are dealing with a backlog of applications and although technically the staff should have their licence for some of the work that we carry out (for example, Wear Valley District Council) it is not anticipated that the lack of a licence would lead to any serious problems. The individual staff licences will hopefully be awarded by July 2006 at the very latest. In relation to Item 3.5, the three new Inspectors have now been appointed and are carrying out their full role with the assistance of the Inspection Team. In relation to Item 3.8, the ANPR system is now in place and functioning and being fine-tuned with a view to a joint operation being run in mid-May 2006. Regarding Item 3.10, officers have now established the full specification for the digital recording and a list of preferred suppliers and the tendering process will begin shortly with a view to installing a complete digital recording system by December 2006. Finally, Item 3.11, those works are almost complete and it is anticipated that the application

to become an accredited alarm-receiving centre will be sent to the appropriate controlling body within the next two to three weeks.

7. Item 4.3 has been addressed by taking a more detailed look at the causes of the excessive number of alarm triggers. This identified the main reasons as: poor staff training and incorrect use of the equipment and poor maintenance of the perimeter fences. By working closely with those involved it has been possible to significantly reduce the number of alarm calls received. The number of warden call contacts has increased, but this is not perceived to be a problem and the service continues to be provided at an extremely high level.
8. Overall, the report is extremely positive and supportive of the operation and all of the staff involved.

### **Outcome of Consultation**

9. No consultation required.

### **Legal Implications**

10. This report has been considered by the Legal Services Manager for legal implications in accordance with the Council's approved procedures. There are no issues which the Legal Services Manager considers need to be brought to the specific attention of Members, other than those highlighted in the report.

### **Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998**

11. The contents of this report have been considered in the context of the requirements placed on the Council by Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, namely, the duty on the Council to exercise its functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area. It is not considered that the contents of this report have any such effect.

### **Council Policy Framework**

12. The issues contained within this report do not represent change to Council policy or the Council's policy framework

### **Decision Deadline**

13. For the purpose of the 'call-in' procedure this does not represent an urgent matter

### **Recommendation**

14. It is recommended that :-
  - (a) Members note the contents and comments of the Inspectors report and approve that report accordingly.
  - (b) An annual report from the Inspection Team continues to be put to Cabinet for consideration once a year.

## **Reasons**

15. The recommendations are supported by the following reasons :-

- (a) The Inspectors report is an independent endorsement of the level and quality of the work carried out by the CCTV team and as such, is a valuable public endorsement of a front line Council service.
- (b) The continuance of both the inspections and the production of the annual Inspectors report is a valuable tool in giving/providing reassurance to the public (who do not have ready access to the service) that CCTV is being used in an appropriate, safe, fair and legal manner.

**Paul Wildsmith**  
**Director of Corporate Services**

## **Background Papers**

No Background papers were used in the preparation of this report, other than those that are appended to the report.

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