
CCTV IN BUS SHELTERS TASK AND FINISH REVIEW GROUP

**Responsible Cabinet Member - Councillor Stephen Harker,
Consumer and Environmental Services Portfolio**

Responsible Director – Paul Wildsmith, Director of Corporate Services

Purpose of Report

1. To report the Public Protection and Community Partnerships Scrutiny Committee's recommendations in relation to the provision of CCTV in Rural Bus Shelters.

Information and Analysis

2. The Public Protection and Community Partnerships Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 16th August, 2005 established a Task and Finish Review Group to investigate the provision of CCTV in bus shelters following a successful bid by this Council in February, 2002 from the Rural Bus Challenge funding to encourage the use of buses in rural areas of the Borough.
3. The detailed findings of the Group are outlined in the attached report (**Appendix 1**).
4. The Public Protection and Community Partnerships Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 27th March, 2007, accepted and endorsed the recommendations of the Review Group and agreed to forward the following recommendations to Cabinet :-
 - (a) Increase staff resource.
 - (b) Complete the Code of Conduct as a matter of urgency and circulate to the Police and Police Community Support Officers to ensure they are aware of the accepted procedures, Community Groups and Parish Councils and Members for information.
 - (c) Outstanding technical problems which are affecting the continual operation and effectiveness of the system are investigated and solved.
 - (d) Continue to examine the effectiveness of the cameras and continually check that they are fit for purpose.
 - (e) Publicity be improved and leaflets be distributed at the Town Hall and to all Ward Councillors for distribution in their Wards.

- (f) Laminated posters to be produced and supplied for display in public places e.g. Post Officers, Local Shops, advertising a contact telephone number to enable crimes to be reported and a second number to report breakdowns/vandalism to the CCTV system.
- (g) With regard to the financial implications caused by the delays, this matter be referred to the Resources Scrutiny Committee for their investigations.
- (h) That this Scrutiny Committee receive an update in six months time so that Members can continue to monitor the situation with the CCTV cameras.

Director of Development and Environment's Comments

- 5. The CCTV element of the Council's bid for Department of Transport (DfT) funding for improvements in the condition of selected bus shelters has taken longer to deliver than originally anticipated. As discussed with Members, the reasons for this included a change in legal advice whereby all cameras are now assumed to be connected to a recording device. This meant that the scale of the CCTV element had to be significantly altered when compared to the original plan to have 2 recording devices only. The camera system is one that is usually used for security purposes and our procedures have been designed to make the images admissible as evidence in Court. We do need to complete minor remedial work to the power supply at five sites, but after this is completed, all sites will be working as planned.
- 6. Day to day maintenance of the system is vested with the highway maintenance team and requests to view images should be made to the Police or Council Officer responsible for enforcement action, due to legal requirements. Signs have been placed at bus stops where the system is running; letting people know that they are under surveillance and how to obtain more information.
- 7. In response to the specific recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee :
 - (a) Staff resources in the Highways Maintenance Team are available to maintain the system.
 - (b) The Code of Conduct is complete and on the internet, and a letter about it has been sent to the relevant parties.
 - (c) The outstanding technical problems have been investigated and remedial measures put in place.
 - (d) Maintenance and checking arrangements are in place.
 - (e) A leaflet has been produced and is being distributed.
 - (f) Posters are on display in the shelters where the cameras are placed, which is felt to be the most appropriate location.

- (g) The financial implications have already been described to and considered by Public Protection and Community Partnerships Scrutiny Committee, and arise largely from the legal imperative to have continuous recording at all sites which arose after the initial bid (as described in paragraph 5 above). Where delays have been due to the contractor, financial recompense has been obtained.
- (h) An update can be provided to PPCP Scrutiny Committee.

Outcome of Consultation

- 8. In undertaking this Review the Group consulted various people which included Darlington Borough Council's staff and their comments were taken into consideration when compiling the final report.

Legal Implications

- 9. This report has been considered by the Borough Solicitor for legal implications in accordance with the Council's approved procedures. There are no issues which the Borough Solicitor 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

- 10. 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

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

Decision Deadline

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

Recommendation

- 13. It is recommended that :-
 - (a) The recommendations of the Public Protection and Community Partnerships Scrutiny Committee be noted.
 - (b) The comments of the Director of Development and Environment be endorsed.

Reasons

14. The recommendations are supported to enable the recommendations of the Review Group to be considered and the comments of the Director to be endorsed.

Paul Wildsmith
Director of Corporate Services

Background Papers

There were no background papers used other than those referred to in the report.

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