

**COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL SERVICES SCRUTINY**  
**28 August 2025**

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**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**RE-DEPLOYABLE (MOBILE) CCTV CAMERAS**  
**DEPLOYMENT GUIDELINES**

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**SUMMARY REPORT**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. To provide members with an overview of the policy and guidelines on issues involved in the planning for, and actual deployment of the Council's re-deployable (mobile) CCTV cameras (RCCTV).

**Summary**

2. The Council has the capability to use 14 deployable cameras to deal with isolated matters on a short-term basis which the extensive CCTV fixed camera system may not cover.
3. This is a heavily regulated area, and a relevant authority must follow a duty to have regard to the Surveillance Camera Code of Practice issued by the Security of State when, in exercising any of its functions, it considers that the future deployment or continued deployment of surveillance camera systems to observe public places may be appropriate.
4. This can include the operation or use of any surveillance camera systems, or the use or processing of images or other information obtained by virtue of such systems.
5. As with fixed CCTV cameras, Councils have a duty to operate any RCCTV system in a way that is compliant with all legal requirements. Therefore, it is essential that evidence obtained using such equipment is acceptable and admissible by the Courts.
6. The intention of the policy/guidelines are to ensure that wherever possible the Council gives due consideration to the restrictions placed by the Data Protection Act and possible infringements of Human Rights, in particular Article 8 - the right to private life, and opportunities to challenge the use of RCCTV equipment in the Courts are minimised.

**Recommendation**

7. It is recommended that Members note the content of the report.

**Ben Grabham**  
**Assistant Director – Environmental Services and Community Safety**

## ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

### Background Papers

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<b>Council Plan</b>	The information in the report helps to support communities to remain safe and resilient by working with key agencies and communities to address anti-social behaviour and crime issues in the community.
<b>Addressing inequalities</b>	The report does not have any adverse impacts.
<b>Tackling Climate Change</b>	This report has no impact on Climate Change.
<b>Efficient and effective use of resources</b>	There is no impact on the Council's efficiency agenda.
<b>Health and Wellbeing</b>	To ensure the safety and wellbeing of residents and visitors to Darlington
<b>S17 Crime and Disorder</b>	The key objectives of the Council's RCCTV system are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Detecting and deterring crime and ASB in public areas;</li><li>• Assisting in the identification of offenders leading to their arrest and successful prosecution;</li></ul>
<b>Wards Affected</b>	All Wards
<b>Groups Affected</b>	There are no specific groups adversely affected.
<b>Budget and Policy Framework</b>	This decision does not represent a change to the budget and policy framework.
<b>Key Decision</b>	This is not a key decision
<b>Urgent Decision</b>	This is not an urgent decision
<b>Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers</b>	This report has no impact on Looked After Children or Care Leavers

## MAIN REPORT

### Introduction

8. This document sets out the policy and guidelines on issues involved in the planning for, and actual deployment of the Council's re-deployable (mobile) CCTV cameras (RCCTV).

### Aims and Objectives

9. It is important that all those who are likely to be affected by the deployment of the RCCTV cameras, those who are likely to request their deployment and all personnel involved in their operation, have a clear understanding as to the circumstances in which the system will be deployed.
10. The key objectives of the Councils RCCTV system are:
- Detecting and deterring crime and ASB in public areas;

- Assisting in the identification of offenders leading to their arrest and successful prosecution;
- Reducing the fear of crime;

The Policy concerning deployable cameras is included in Appendix B.

## Deployment

11. The RCCTV system will normally be deployed upon request, only within the boundaries of Darlington Borough Council. The area will be subject to a detailed survey prior to deployment. Deployments outside this area will only be considered after full consultation with the Darlington Multi Agency Problem Solving (MAPS) Partnership.
12. There are strict criteria governing the deployment of these cameras and they must be compatible with Aims and Objectives as outlined above.
13. All applications for the deployment of RCCTV cameras must take into consideration the Council's responsibilities under the GDPR/Data Protection Act 2018, the Human Rights Act 1998, the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) and existing CCTV Codes of Practice. Applications must also take the following requirements into consideration:
  - **Justifiable** - there must be adequate evidence to show that the cameras are an appropriate response. This will usually be shown by evidence of repeated complaints of past incidents, or intelligence on future incidents or events;
  - **General** - the target of the surveillance must be in a public area or against unknown offenders. If a known individual(s) is the target this becomes 'Direct Surveillance' and the deployment will additionally have to be authorised under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000.
  - **Reviewable** - there must be a clear time limit for the duration of the deployment and an identified process of ongoing evaluation of the need for the cameras' continued use in a specific location. Normal deployments will last approximately 3 months; this may be extended but only in exceptional circumstances.
  - **Objective** - there must be specified objectives to be achieved by the camera deployment and the achievement of these objectives should be monitored.
14. To ensure consistency and to maintain compliance as outlined above all applications have to be submitted on the Application for Deployment Form (shown at Appendix 'A'). All application forms are returned to the Council's CCTV Manager, and they will make the final decision on deployments.
15. The CCTV Manager is responsible for assessing and prioritising applications for the deployment of RCCTV cameras. The CCTV Manager is also responsible for arranging for an officer to visit the location and undertake a formal feasibility study along with a Data

Protection Impact Assessment. Any potential issues would be flagged with the Head of Community Safety.

16. Within the Policy, every deployment of the RCCTV cameras (which is still ongoing) must be reviewed no later than one month from its commencement by the Council's CCTV Manager.

### **Signage and consultation**

17. When RCCTV cameras are mounted within the public view there needs to be clear signage indicating their use within the area. Signs advising members of the public that CCTV cameras are in use are located in the immediate vicinity of the camera mounting location (if the signs are mounted on property not belonging to the Council (e.g. telegraph poles), permission must be sought from the owners prior to installation).
18. Additionally, letters are distributed to all residents in the area where a request for a camera has been made. This will be done prior to any deployment and covers the reasons for deployment and the contact details of the CCTV Manager. This allows residents to contact the CCTV manager prior to any deployment should they have any concerns over the use or reason for using CCTV.