

Enhancement of Yeovil CCTV

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Purpose of the Report

To inform and update members on the imminent completion of the installation of monitored CCTV covering the two underpasses serving the Hospital Roundabout and the immediate surrounding area.

Public Interest

Yeovil Town Centre has a network of fully integrated public CCTV cameras which are monitored at the control room in Bridgwater, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. All footage from each camera is recorded and stored for evidential purposes. The control room has direct radio contact with the Police and through the Yeovil Crime Reduction Teams, Radio Link system with over 100 users in the town.

Over the years there have been many incidents taking place in the subways that are a blind spot for the existing camera network.

This is one of the most used walkways into and out of the town centre during day and night. Given the serious nature of some incidents and the on-going issues of Anti-social behaviour and reported crimes it was agreed by the Area South Committee and approved by the District Executive in 2014 to allocate £29,000 of capital funds to complete the project and added £6,600 to the Medium term Financial Plan to cover the additional monitoring costs.

This report was raised and submitted to the Area South Committee as requested by the Committee. It should be noted that given the lead time to generate this report and the imminent completion of the work it may be out of date by the time it is received by the Committee. In view of this a verbal update will be given at the Committee meeting.

Recommendation

That members note the report

Background

Yeovil Town centre has a long established fully networked and monitored CCTV system consisting of 24 cameras in public areas that are controlled by the operators at the Bridgwater monitoring station. Most of the CCTV units have the facility to **Pan, Tilt and Zoom (PTZ)** giving the operators full control over the visual content of the cameras being monitored. The controllers are linked direct to the Police by radio and the business community through the Yeovil Crime Reduction Team's very successful and well subscribed Radio Link Scheme. The existing cameras are strategically placed throughout the town covering many of the major thoroughfares and car parks. The Quedam Centre operates their own stand-alone system but are able to communicate with the larger business community and the Bridgwater monitoring centre using Radio Link. There are also various other stand-

alone systems in the town controlled by the businesses and organisations that set them up, some of which are monitored by themselves or just linked to recording equipment.

In addition to the full time monitoring provided by the Bridgwater control room, all of the footage from the public system cameras is recorded and stored, for a calendar month on a rolling basis, on High Definition recording machines that are housed at Petters House. The Police are about to complete connections to the network giving direct access to the systems recordings. This will give Police 24 hours a day access rather than having to send an officer to Petters House during opening hours.

It has been identified for some time that the two underpasses serving the Hospital Roundabout have been targeted for crime and Anti-social behaviour. Most apparent is the continuing vandalism in the form of damage and graffiti that appears on a regular basis for all to see. More worrying is the regularity of petty crime and more serious assaults.

The long awaited road improvement works, on this roundabout, is now well under way and this has allowed for the final completion works to the CCTV installation to commence. As part of the Eastern Corridor improvements it is understood that some improvement work on both of the underpasses and access areas will take place to make them more user friendly and help reduce the fear of crime.

The Project

The solution being completed is to fit a fixed, vandal resistant, camera at each end of the two subways (4) with a PTZ unit (1) on a pole covering the open area linking the entrances. This will supplement the PTZ unit already in place on Princes Street that covers the Princes Street entrance.

The new PTZ will be at a sufficient height to cover the entrances and walk ways and also be able to see across the dual carriageway to the banked path on the other side that leads to the Kingston entrance. It will also be capable of viewing across the roundabout and the immediate surrounding areas. There may be a need to further cut back some vegetation and possibly some replanting or re-sighting if viewing is impaired.

The visual images from the five cameras feed back to the collection hub and allow for operation of the PTZ camera through a newly installed BT duct and cabling.

The fixed units mounted in the subways have trunking for the cables to run through and removed from view wherever possible being housed in secure conduit reducing the possibility of tampering and unauthorised access.

At time of writing the situation is as follows:

- The CCTV column and ducting is in place and ready to receive services and camera unit.
- British Telecom has the cabinet and ducting in place and connected to the BT infrastructure.
- The electrical power supply is in place and ready to be connected.
- Camera installation commenced on the 14th March with the installation of the required conduit and trunking for the fixed camera units

The final phase will see the local fibre optic cables 'laid in' and commissioned. The time frame for this is still unclear as the work involves access to where existing road works are taking place. Although negotiations for this access are ongoing it might be that it cannot be granted until April end when the road changes are completed. The system will then be checked and commissioned to full operation.

Financial Implications

The allocated budget of £29,000 has been monitored but final accounts are not yet prepared until the completion of the work and final invoices received. Early indications suggest that, subject to further complication, the overall cost will be close to the original budget.

Corporate Priority Implications

The Council plan states:

Work in partnership to deliver investment and development that local people value with a particular emphasis on Yeovil.....

Enhance the vitality of town centres.....

Ensure, with partners, that we respond effectively to community safety concerns raised by local people.....

Carbon Emissions & Adapting to Climate Change Implications (NI188)

There is little implication to carbon emissions although there will be a very slight increase in power consumption.

Equality and Diversity Implications

There are no implications for equality and diversity.

Background Papers:

Report to and decision from Area South Committee 2nd July 2014

Report to and decision from District Executive 7th August 2014