



REPORT TO:	Overview & Scrutiny - Environment and Performance Committee
DATE:	13 th February 2024
SUBJECT:	Overview of the CCTV function at Boston Borough Council.
PURPOSE:	To provide the committee with further information, following an all-member briefing in respect to the Community Safety and the CCTV function at Boston Borough Council.
KEY DECISION:	N/A
PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	Councillor Anne Dorrian, Leader of the Council with responsibility for Community Safety
REPORT OF:	Emily Spicer – Assistant Director, Wellbeing and Community Leadership
REPORT AUTHOR:	Emily Spicer – Assistant Director, Wellbeing and Community Leadership; Peter Hunn, Community Safety Manager; Andrew Haw, CCTV Manager.
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	All
EXEMPT REPORT?	No

SUMMARY

The use of CCTV cameras within the Borough play an important role in addressing community safety issues; being utilised to deter and detect crimes as well as directing an effective response across a number of agencies if required. In turn, this supports our communities to feel safer whilst they go about their daily activities.

Whilst CCTV systems are an important tool in providing the most effective solution to community safety issues, they must be used alongside other measures and intelligence in providing early intervention and prevention activities to reduce crime.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee note and comment on the contents of this report and the presentation provided to the Committee.
2. That Members consider any additional areas of focus to be included in the annual 'Crime and Disorder Report' prepared for the Committee.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The content of the report and supporting presentation is noted to ensure members of the Committee are up to date on the current work being undertaken.
2. The focus of future updates provides members with an opportunity to advise of areas to include in the annual report.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

1. Do nothing

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1** Following an all-member briefing on 16th October 2023 which covered the functions of Community Safety that the Borough Council provides, the Environment and Performance Committee requested further information specifically in respect to the CCTV system.
- 1.2** This report provides an overview of the CCTV system, to support a presentation to be provided at the Environment and Performance Committee on 13th February 2024.

2. REPORT

- 2.1** The CCTV system is managed and monitored by the Community Safety Team at Boston Borough Council. The service supports approximately 300 cameras across Boston, South Holland, East Lindsey and North Kesteven. Opportunities to invest in the equipment and service overall are proactively sought, to help ensure that it meets the needs of our communities from a quality and surveillance perspective.
- 2.2** All cameras are carefully positioned, taking into account lines of sight and the wider environment. A maintenance contract is in place to ensure any faults are dealt with in a timely manner.

- 2.3** Through £396,945 of 'Safer Streets' funding (a Home Office fund supporting local authorities to invest in crime prevention initiatives) the Borough Council has developed a programme of works which includes undertaking several significant upgrades to the system. This work will continue throughout 2024 and includes increasing the number of cameras to provide further surveillance opportunities, whilst improving lines of sight, the quality of images and recordings. A new maintenance contract will also be procured alongside to ensure continued proactive maintenance and timely repairs should they be required.
- 2.4** There are five full time staff at the centre, which operates on a 24-hours a day, seven days a week basis. These staff concentrate on rotas within the working week whilst a further six part time staff covering weekends. In addition, the centre has five staff members that operate on a flexible basis, covering annual leave and other absences.
- 2.5** Adding further opportunities into the suite, the team are undertaking a 'Trusted Volunteering Programme' in collaboration with Lincolnshire Police. Commencing in April 2024, this will provide an opportunity for individuals to be involved in supporting their local communities through proactive surveillance, in a flexible way that matches the commitment they are able to provide. These volunteers will be supported by existing team members with all suitable training provided to ensure the experience is positive and fulfilling.

3. CONCLUSION

- 3.1** This report has provided further details in respect to the CCTV function following last year's all Member briefing.
- 3.2** A presentation will be given at the Environment and Performance Scrutiny Committee meeting to support this report and to further facilitate the opportunity for Members to ask questions relating to this important service.

IMPLICATIONS

SOUTH AND EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCILS PARTNERSHIP

The CCTV function at Boston Brough Council, provides services to both East Lindsey District Council and South Holland District Council.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

The CCTV function supports all priorities within the Corporate Plan.

STAFFING

Staffing details are included within 2.4 of this report.

WORKFORCE CAPACITY IMPLICATIONS

Staffing details are included within 2.4 of this report and supported in accordance with HR procedures. Further opportunities are being explored as detailed in 2.5.

CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no constitutional and legal implications arising from this report.

DATA PROTECTION

There are no specific data protection issues arising from this report.

FINANCIAL

All financial aspects relating to the CCTV functions are managed through the budget management process.

RISK MANAGEMENT

All risks associated with the CCTV are managed as appropriate.

STAKEHOLDER / CONSULTATION / TIMESCALES

There are no stakeholder/consultation implications as part of this report.

REPUTATION

There are no reputational implications arising from this report.

CONTRACTS

There are no contract implications arising from this report.

CRIME AND DISORDER

The CCTV function seeks to reduce crime and disorder as part of a number of measures utilised by Boston Borough Council with the support of other agencies.

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY/ HUMAN RIGHTS/ SAFEGUARDING

There are no equality and diversity issues arising from this report.

HEALTH AND WELL BEING

Work carried out to reduce crime and disorder, of which the CCTV function supports, positively contributes to improving the health and wellbeing of our communities.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no climate change/environmental implications arising from this report.

LINKS TO 12 MISSIONS IN THE LEVELLING UP WHITE PAPER

MISSIONS	
This paper contributes to the following Missions outlined in the Government’s Levelling Up White paper.	
Living Standards	By 2030, pay, employment and productivity will have risen in every area of the UK, with each containing a globally competitive city, with the gap between the top performing and other areas closing.
Digital Connectivity	By 2030, the UK will have nationwide gigabit-capable broadband and 4G coverage, with 5G coverage for the majority of the population.
Skills	By 2030, the number of people successfully completing high-quality skills training will have significantly increased in every area of the UK. In England, this will lead to 200,000 more people successfully completing high-quality skills training annually, driven by 80,000 more people completing courses in the lowest skilled areas.
Health	By 2030, the gap in Healthy Life Expectancy (HLE) between local areas where it is highest and lowest will have narrowed, and by 2035 HLE will rise by 5 years.
Wellbeing	By 2030, well-being will have improved in every area of the UK, with the gap between top performing and other areas closing.
Pride in Place	By 2030, pride in place, such as people’s satisfaction with their town centre and engagement in local culture and community, will have risen in every area of the UK, with the gap between the top performing and other areas closing.
Crime	By 2030, homicide, serious violence, and neighbourhood crime will have fallen, focused on the worst-affected areas.

ACRONYMS

CCTV – Closed Circuit Television

APPENDICES
None

BACKGROUND PAPERS	
Background papers used in the production of this report are listed below: -	
Document title	Where the document can be viewed
Environment and Performance Committee – October 2023	Boston Borough Council

REPORT APPROVAL	
Report author:	Emily Spicer, Assistant Director
Signed off by:	John Leach, DCX – Communities
Approved for publication:	Councillor Dorrian, Leader of the Council