North Walsall Area Panel
CCTV Camera Locations
Tuesday 7th July 2015

Introduction

This report seeks to obtain the view of the North Walsall Area Panel on the location and effectiveness of fixed CCTV cameras within its Area Partnership and also on the effectiveness of the current re deployable camera stock. This information will be used to inform an options review of the CCTV infrastructure within Walsall to be undertaken within the near future.

Report

1.   **Background**

1.1   Walsall Council's CCTV Service monitors 91 fixed cameras located within a number of areas of the borough. The Control Room is located within the Streets Corner Response Centre at Walsall Wood and in addition to the fixed cameras manages and monitors 28 re deployable cameras for various council departments. The CCTV Control Room is manned 365 days a year with at least one operator always being on duty. The council also owns a number of covert cameras used to tackle specific issues including for example fly tipping.

1.2   Due the passing of time and technological progress it is recognised that much of the existing CCTV infrastructure and equipment is now in need of upgrade to ensure that Walsall benefits from an up to date and effective system. The re deployable stock (Domehawk and Apache Cameras) in particular is approaching the end of its working life and it is important that re deployable cameras continue to be available to support a range of enforcement and reassurance activity.

1.3   In order that this complex task is done in the most effective way a specialist consultant is to be commissioned to undertake an evaluation of the current infrastructure and equipment and to produce a full options appraisal as to the possible and best way forward.   These options could include a capital investment by the council, commissioning a third party to manage/provide the system or entering into a shared services arrangement. Importantly the review will include consideration of the technical capabilities of our existing CCTV systems and the way in which these can be upgraded in line with technological advancements.

1.4   Any review of the current system will of course include consideration of the existing cameras, their location and the level of usage for each unit. It is of interest that it is estimated that each fixed camera costs in the region of £1500 per year and that since the fixed cameras were originally installed technology in relation to re deployable cameras that can be moved around the borough as required has moved on significantly.   To assist with this analysis the Walsall Intelligence Network has produced a detailed report on CCTV usage which has been used to inform this report. Please see **appendix A** which is referred to throughout this report.

1.5　The consideration and evaluation of data paints one part of the overall picture but local intelligence and the views of key stakeholders are also important and will be used to inform the process.　To support this Elected Members and Area Panels are to be consulted such that their views can be obtained.

2.0　Walsall's CCTV System

2.1　Walsall's 91 fixed cameras are located within five of the boroughs six Area Partnerships and for evaluation purposes have been clustered accordingly. Streetly, Pheasey and Aldridge is the only Area Partnership in which none of the fixed cameras are located. Map 1 of the appended report shows the location of all fixed CCTV cameras across the borough in addition to re-deployable (Domehawk and Apache) deployments made over a 4.5 year period. It is of note that a number of these will be repeat locations to which a camera has been deployed on more than one occasion. Table 1 of the report shows unsurprisingly that the majority of the cameras (44%) are located in and around central Walsall whilst Darlaston has the smallest number (8%).

2.2　The CCTV Control Room records the number of incidents captured by each camera and Table 2 details that over a three year period to June 2015 a total of 15,131 incidents have been captured.　Of these the vast majority (89%) relate to the Walsall camera Cluster with the least number (1%) captured in Darlaston, albeit this is unsurprising due to the smaller number of cameras in that area.　The Willenhall cluster accounts for 4% whilst the Brownhills and Bloxwich clusters each account for 3%. Across the borough the top three incident types captured by the cameras are Suspicion (17%), Public Order (15%) and Anti-Social Behaviour (14%). Despite the large number of incidents captured the number of occasions when data has following an incident taking place been copied to tape or DVD for use in a subsequent investigation is 1406 over the 3 year period.

2.3　To support analysis a series of maps that detail incidents of crime, violent crime and anti-social behaviour over a three year period have been produced.　These maps (on pages 7 and 8 of the report) have been provided at a borough wide and camera cluster level and show hot spots of activity against camera locations. The mapping at a borough wide level shows that generally fixed cameras have been appropriately located within key hotspot areas.　It is inevitable that not all hot spots are covered by fixed cameras,　however there is a strong correlation between these locations and the use of the re deployable cameras.　This demonstrates the usefulness of this more flexible resource.

North Walsall Area Partnership

3.1　The North Walsall Area Partnership has 15 fixed CCTV cameras that are located in and around Leamore precinct and Bloxwich Town Centre.　Over a three year period (please see table 2) from June 2012 to May 2015 these cameras captured 408 incidents which equates to 3% of the borough total.

3.2　The maps on pages 11-12 of Appendix A detail hot spots for Violence with Injury, Committed Crime and Anti Social Behaviour around this camera cluster.　The maps indicate that the majority of the cameras are in locations that are within identified hot spots for these crime/incident types.　Any that are not are however within or on the edge of locations with higher incidents of crime/ASB.

3.3   The map at the top of page 11 details the location of fixed CCTV cameras and Domehawk/Apache deployments over a three year period. This shows clearly that there have been a number of these mobile CCTV cameras deployed across the Area Partnership. These will have been utilised at problem locations/hot spots not covered by the fixed cameras and supports the need to maintain and or extend our re deployable CCTV capability.

3.4   Appendix 1 of the WIN report details on page 22 the number of incidents captured by each camera. It is of note that despite falling within a hot spot for Committed Crime over the three year period in question ten of the cameras (142, 147, 139, 136, 146, 138, 137, 130, 133 and 132) have captured on average between 1 – 20 incidents over the period and cameras 147, 146 and 132, have captured no incidents since September 2014 with camera 132 capturing nothing since March 2014.

3.5   Table 4 records that the top three incident types captured by the camera's in North Walsall are Suspicion, Public Order and Theft. The number of days lost through faults is at 1460 over the three year period 10th June 2012 to 10th June 2015. This area has significantly the highest number days lost due to camera faults, throughout the Walsall borough.

3.6   This report summarises the analysis produced by the WIN and is intended to inform discussion at the Area Panel. Comments and observations made by the panel will be fed into the evaluation to be undertaken and are an important part of the process.

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