



Cherwell District Council
Equality and Climate Impact Assessment
CCTV Network

November 2021

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Section 1: Summary details

Directorate and Service Area	Commercial Development, Assets and Investment Directorate - Regulatory Services and Community Safety
What is being assessed (e.g. name of policy, procedure, project, service or proposed service change).	Service and resource planning proposal SCSAF222 – End financial support for public space CCTV network
Is this a new or existing function or policy?	Proposal relates to the cessation of an existing function
Summary of assessment Briefly summarise the policy or proposed service change. Summarise possible impacts. Does the proposal bias, discriminate or unfairly disadvantage individuals or groups within the community? (following completion of the assessment).	<p>The proposed change is for Cherwell District Council to cease funding the public space CCTV system in Cherwell.</p> <p>The public space CCTV system aids in the investigation of crimes committed in some public areas in the District. It is also a crime prevention measure, deterring crime in areas covered by the cameras.</p> <p>The CCTV system has universal benefits for residents, visitors and businesses in Cherwell. There is no data available to inform an assessment of whether a reduction in CCTV coverage will have any greater impact on some groups of people or communities than others. However, the presence of the CCTV system may provide greater reassurance to some groups of people. In addition, CCTV recordings are used to support investigations of specific crimes that victimise people as a result of their personal characteristics. There are other measures that can be taken to mitigate these negative impacts if they arise and therefore the impact of this change needs to be monitored.</p> <p>This function is only partially funded by Cherwell District Council and the removal of our funding does not equate to the removal of this provision.</p>
Completed By	Richard Webb
Authorised By	Emily Schofield

Date of Assessment	23/11/21
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Section 2: Detail of proposal

<p>Context / Background</p> <p>Briefly summarise the background to the policy or proposed service change, including reasons for any changes from previous versions.</p>	<p>Cherwell District Council currently provides funding and management capacity to support the public space CCTV system in Cherwell. This CCTV network consists of 80 cameras located across Banbury, Bicester and Kidlington. The cameras are all connected to a central control room staffed by Thames Valley Police employees. There are 4 control room staff who operate and monitor the cameras and provide evidential material to support Police investigations. Cherwell District Council funds a proportion of the employment costs of the control room operators and also pays for the maintenance, repairs and refurbishment of the CCTV network equipment itself. Thames Valley Police manage the control room staff whilst Cherwell District Council provides management capacity to oversee the contract for the maintenance of the CCTV system and to manage the repair and upgrade of the system.</p>
<p>Proposals</p> <p>Explain the detail of the proposals, including why this has been decided as the best course of action.</p>	<p>It is proposed that Cherwell District Council will cease to provide funding to support the public space CCTV network. This is a cost saving proposal. The council does not have any statutory duty to provide or fund public space CCTV in the District. All non-statutory costs are being reviewed in order to identify options which would allow the council to meet its budget challenges. This proposal is one of a number of cost saving measures identified and being considered.</p> <p>The impact of this decision depends on the response of Thames Valley Police. Thames Valley Police could choose to meet the funding shortfall and take over the entire management of the CCTV system which would then lead to no overall impact of the change in funding arrangement. However, this is unlikely. It is more likely that the reduction of funding available to support the system will lead to operational hours of the system being significantly reduced and potentially all live monitoring of the system ceasing. The system is likely to become mainly a tool to be used for retrospective evidence gathering and will degrade over time. This will reduce the effectiveness of the system since live monitoring assists in the identification of offences and incidents in the District and the tracking of persons involved in those offences or incidents. The ability to control the cameras during an incident also ensures that the</p>

	<p>system effectively records evidence of incidents and this will no longer be possible if the control room is not staffed to the same extent as it currently is.</p>
<p>Evidence / Intelligence</p> <p>List and explain any data, consultation outcomes, research findings, feedback from service users and stakeholders etc, that supports your proposals and can help to inform the judgements you make about potential impact on different individuals, communities or groups and our ability to deliver our climate commitments.</p>	<p>The Cherwell Public Space CCTV system has four purposes-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To support Police operational response to on-going incidents, allowing operators to relay information to Police officers in the location of an incident/ crime. • To assist in the identification of incidents/ crimes through the monitoring of the images by control room staff. • To support investigations of crimes, through the provision of recordings as evidence. • To provide for public reassurance and to deter criminal actions through awareness that actions could be being observed and recorded. <p>Data on the use of the CCTV network in Cherwell has been requested from TVP but may not be available. There is no routine data collection that captures the involvement of CCTV control room in the local policing function. It is noted that there are daily CCTV requests to check footage for evidence in response to incidents that may have been captured by some of the cameras as well as an on-going utilisation of the system to support policing in the night-time economy. The control room also assist in on-going incident responses, for example when a violent crime has taken place and the suspect has fled from the scene or when a town centre shop reports shoplifting by someone who has left the shop but may still be in the town centre.</p> <p>The CCTV control room become involved in incidents either through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact from the TVP Control Room. • The operators identifying an incident from monitoring the cameras. • Shops or licensed premises who are members of Nightsafe or the Cherwell Crime Partnership alerting the control room to incidents. • Direct contact from Police Officers seeking support.

A report from the West Oxfordshire system which was completed in April 2020 provides indicative information about the likely benefit of the Cherwell system since the use of the systems are the same.

Key information from the West Oxfordshire review includes-

Between 2010 and 2020 West Oxfordshire's CCTV has-

- o monitored 14,441 incidents,
- o provided 1,850 evidential DVD's
- o initiated 2,051 incidents
- o monitored or made a contribution to 1,746 arrests,

The most common offence/ incident types the CCTV control room supported were anti-social behaviour, shoplifting, assault, drunkenness and abandoned, nuisance or suspicious vehicles or vehicle collisions.

More recently the control rooms have assisted more frequently in calls related to concerns about welfare or missing persons.

The system provides universal benefits to visitors to Cherwell and businesses in the town centre. It only provides coverage of public spaces and therefore only has an impact on crime detection in relation to crimes taking place in public. There is no data which suggests that the system provides greater benefits to any specific groups or persons of protected characteristics. However, people who may be more vulnerable to crimes that take place in public spaces may benefit more from the reassurance and crime deterrence that the CCTV system provides. Reducing CCTV coverage may impact on the feeling of safety in public spaces and this could impact some groups more than others.

Consideration was given to analysing the data on crime types reported in the areas covered by the existing CCTV cameras to identify whether the reduction of CCTV coverage may adversely impact on specific groups of people. However, this analysis would only identify the crime incidents reported at a time when there is already CCTV coverage of the area. It would not identify the extent to which the CCTV coverage positively impacts on those crimes, either through deterrence or through providing an investigative outcome that would not otherwise have been

	<p>achieved. Therefore, such an analysis is thought unlikely to help identify whether the proposed reduction in CCTV funding by Cherwell District Council would disproportionately impact some groups of people.</p> <p>This proposal will be subject to public consultation as part of the budget planning process and therefore this consultation may identify specific impacts that need to be considered and addressed.</p> <p>Other crime prevention measures can be utilised in areas affected by specific crime types (e.g. improving lighting or removing obstructions which impact on visibility of the area). These types of measures are an on-going consideration of partners in multi-agency community safety meetings.</p>
<p>Alternatives considered / rejected</p> <p>Summarise any other approaches that have been considered in developing the policy or proposed service change, and the reasons why these were not adopted. This could include reasons why doing nothing is not an option.</p>	<p>This proposal is one of a number intended to reduce the costs of services in order to meet budget pressures on the council.</p> <p>The alternative approaches identified were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuing to fund the CCTV network at current levels. This option would not deliver any savings for the council. • Reduce the level of funding provided by Cherwell DC. This option would achieve some savings but would still impact on the effectiveness of the CCTV network. This option can be progressed if a lower level of saving is required by the council. • Developing an alternative approach to the provision of CCTV through collaborating with other councils, reducing the direct cost to Cherwell DC. This option is under development, with work progressing on a business case assessing the benefits and costs of merging CCTV systems and monitoring. However, it is unclear whether a collaborative approach can be progressed at this time.

Section 3: Impact Assessment - Protected Characteristics

Protected Characteristic	No Impact	Positive	Negative	Description of Impact	Any actions or mitigation to reduce negative impacts	Timescale and monitoring arrangements
Age	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Potential impacts on feeling safe in public spaces can impact all age groups.	Review of any relevant data and feedback with partners via Cherwell Community Safety Partnership	6 months after implementation
Disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Potential impact on ability to effectively investigate hate crime incidents linked to visible disabilities.	Review of relevant crime and incident data with TVP via the Cherwell Community Safety Partnership.	6 months after implementation
Gender Reassignment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Marriage & Civil Partnership	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Pregnancy & Maternity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Race	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Potential impact on ability to effectively investigate hate crime incidents.	Review of relevant crime and incident data with TVP via the Cherwell Community Safety Partnership.	6 months after implementation.
Sex	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Potential impact on feelings of safety in public spaces. This impacts women more, based on	Review of any relevant data and feedback with partners via	6 months after implementation

Appendix 4b

				Office of National Statistics Data ¹ that indicates one in two women felt unsafe walking alone after dark compared with one in seven men.	Cherwell Community Safety Partnership	
Sexual Orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Potential impact on ability to effectively investigate hate crime incidents	Review of relevant crime and incident data with TVP via the Cherwell Community Safety Partnership.	6 months after implementation.
Religion or Belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Potential impact on ability to effectively investigate hate crime incidents	Review of relevant crime and incident data with TVP via the Cherwell Community Safety Partnership.	6 months after implementation

¹ [Perceptions of personal safety and experiences of harassment, Great Britain - Office for National Statistics](#)

Section 3: Impact Assessment - Additional Community Impacts

Additional community impacts	No Impact	Positive	Negative	Description of impact	Any actions or mitigation to reduce negative impacts	Timescale and monitoring arrangements
Rural communities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cameras not located in rural communities		
Armed Forces	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Carers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Areas of deprivation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Some cameras located near areas of deprivation which may affect response to crime in those areas.	Review of relevant crime and incident data with TVP via the Cherwell Community Safety Partnership.	6 months after implementation.

Section 3: Impact Assessment - Additional Wider Impacts

Additional Wider Impacts	No Impact	Positive	Negative	Description of Impact	Any actions or mitigation to reduce negative impacts	Timescale and monitoring arrangements
Other Council Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Providers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Social Value ²	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			

² If the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 applies to this proposal, please summarise here how you have considered how the contract might improve the economic, social, and environmental well-being of the relevant area

Section 3: Impact Assessment - Climate Change Impacts

CDC aims to be carbon neutral by 2030. How will your proposal affect our ability to reduce carbon emissions related to

Climate change impacts	No Impact	Positive	Negative	Description of impact	Any actions or mitigation to reduce negative impacts	Timescale and monitoring arrangements
Energy use in our buildings or highways	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	If the camera network is reduced there will be a small reduction in overall energy use by the council		
Our fleet	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Staff travel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Purchased services and products (including construction)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Maintained schools	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			

We are also committed to enable Cherwell to become carbon neutral by 2030 and Oxfordshire by 2050. How will your proposal affect our ability to:

Climate change impacts	No Impact	Positive	Negative	Description of impact	Any actions or mitigation to reduce negative impacts	Timescale and monitoring arrangements
Enable carbon emissions reduction at district/county level?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			

Section 4: Review

Where bias, negative impact or disadvantage is identified, the proposal and/or implementation can be adapted or changed; meaning there is a need for regular review. This review may also be needed to reflect additional data and evidence for a fuller assessment (proportionate to the decision in question). Please state the agreed review timescale for the identified impacts of the policy implementation or service change.

Review Date	1/10/22
Person Responsible for Review	R Webb
Authorised By	Emily Schofield, Acting Head of Strategy