Town Centre
CCTV improvement programme

RCE Overview and Scrutiny Committee March 2019

Appendix 1

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1. <u>Work Stream 1</u>

"Using surveillance systems can be privacy intrusive. They are capable of placing large numbers of law-abiding people under surveillance and recording their movements as they go about their day-to-day activities. You should therefore carefully consider whether or not to use a surveillance system. The fact that it is possible, affordable or has public support should not be the justification for processing personal data. You should also take into account the nature of the problem you are seeking to address; whether a surveillance system would be a justified and an effective solution, whether better solutions exist, what effect its use may have on individuals, and whether in the light of this, its use is a proportionate response to the problem. If you are already using a surveillance system, you should regularly evaluate whether it is necessary and proportionate to continue using it."

Information Commissioners Office

1.1 Scope

As part of the review of the Medway CCTV estate it was found that an unacceptable number of cameras were not operating, and that there was also an excessive coverage of public spaces. It was then decided to rationalise the stock to ensure the most effective coverage of priority spaces, whilst offering the best value for money. Priority cameras were considered to be (after consultation with our Police colleagues)

1. High Streets
2. Areas of high "night-time economy"
3. Main transport hubs

The initial intention, as indicated in December's brief, was to address individual cameras based on their specific priority.
For example, all of the Red cameras (the highest priority) across the towns first, followed by the Amber cameras.
Due to the dependency of some cameras on other cameras for network connectivity it was decided that instead, it would be more efficient and cost effective to deal with geographical groups in order of priority.

1.2 Status - Complete

2. **Work Stream 2**

2.1 Priority 1
Following the review of the Medway CCTV infrastructure, it was found that Gillingham had the highest density of non-functioning priority cameras, and was therefore considered a logical starting point for the improvement project.
Gillingham town centre phase was completed on 21/01/2019
Gillingham now has 16 fully functioning cameras, 9 of which are new High Definition "useful evidence quality" units.

The number of cameras covering Gillingham was reduced by 14

The rationale for removing these cameras are as follows:

- Camera 1   low use car park camera
- Camera 3   low use car park camera
- Camera 4   Field of view covered by higher traffic camera 5 and camera 2
- Camera 10   Field of view covered by camera 9
- Camera 11   required field of view covered by camera 20
- Camera 18   No justified activity camera
- Camera 21   unacceptable privacy intrusion due to new development
- Camera 24   no longer required due to development
- Camera 46   Not a town centre camera, area covered by camera 45
- Camera 60   Not a town centre camera
- Camera 61   Not a town centre camera
- Camera 1304 Not a town centre camera
- Camera 1308 Not a town centre camera
- Camera 1309 unacceptable balance of privacy intrusion

It is important to note that these cameras have been removed to "make safe", that is to avoid any breach in the Information Commissioners code of practice. However, the infrastructure supporting the position has been maintained. Therefore, if there is a recorded increase in activity in the locality, the camera can easily be recommissioned if deemed appropriate following a period of monitoring by rapid deployment camera.

Gillingham was particularly problematic due to the "Virgin Fibre" cables, which are unfortunately no longer supported by Virgin. This required the purchase of specialist equipment in order to connect to the network cost effectively.

2.2   Status – Complete

2.3   Priority 2

Due to the high footfall created by festival days, and the associated security risks, Rochester was considered the next highest priority.

Rochester town centre phase was completed on 11/03/2019

Rochester now has 23 fully functioning cameras, 13 of which are new High Definition "useful evidence quality" units.

The number of cameras covering Rochester was reduced by 7.

The rationale for removing these cameras are as follows:

- Camera 8   No longer required (development area)
- Camera 17   No longer required (development area)
- Camera 18   No longer required (development area)
- Camera 19   No longer required (development area)
- Camera 22   Camera removed, No Activity
- Camera 59   Camera removed (required field of view covered by cameras 58 and 60)
- Camera 1315   No longer required (development area)

It is also worth noting, not all of the cameras that were replaced were non-functioning, but were so near end of life that the decision was made to replace them to benefit from the cost efficiency of having a team of engineers already deployed. In addition, 4 of the cameras removed were due to the Riverside development.

Rochester was problematic due to dependency issues relating to a faulty camera in the Chatham area. In brief, all cameras are connected to the control room by data lines, this enables Officers to tell the camera where to look. On some data lines there are several cameras connected to each other. In Rochester's case a faulty camera on the network was sending "rogue data" down the line that the new camera interpreted as "turn left", but without the command to "stop". This resulted in the camera spinning on its axis. The rogue camera has been identified and isolated resolving the issue.

2.4   Status - Complete

2.5   Priority 3

Chatham town centre commenced earlier than planned due to the issues with the Rochester network, but once complete will have;

- 100% Coverage of the High Street
- Full Coverage of Bus and Railway Stations
- Appropriate coverage of Railway Street Nightspots
- Appropriate coverage of the Brook

Priority 3 consists of 52 cameras of which 18 have been identified to "make safe", the majority of which are located in low activity carparks (from reported offence perspectives). However this may change as more analysis comes forward.

3.   **Summary**

3.1   The town centre element is proceeding well.

Communication between Medway Council, MCG and the private contractors is now excellent.

The reduction of cameras will focus the attention of the camera operators on the areas of highest priority.

The reduction of cameras will lower the maintenance costs, the budget for which can be re-aligned to the existing replacement equipment budget line, ensuring a regular replacement programme can be planned.

Next steps are to review the budget position and agree other cameras in scope for work stream 2. Work stream 3 will focus on the strategic direction for the camera surveillance coverage of Medway. This will be progressed in the coming months.