

Appendix 1

Town Centre CCTV improvement programme

RCE Overview and Scrutiny Committee June 2019

James K Brown

Head of Regulatory Services

May 2019 v1

Work Stream 1

“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 Commissioner’s office

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 it would be more efficient and cost effective to deal with geographical groups in order of priority.

Work stream 2

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 avoid any breach in the Information Commissioner’s 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. This required the purchase of specialist equipment in order to connect to the network cost-effectively.

The forecast cost of works for Priority 1 was £28,350.00, the actual cost was £28,231.92

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 Rochester Riverside development.

Rochester was problematic due to dependency issues related to a faulty camera in the Chatham area. In brief, all cameras are connected to the control room by data lines, which 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”. The rogue camera has been identified and isolated, resolving the issue.

The forecast cost of works for Priority 1 was £23,250.00, the actual cost was £23,550.00

Priority 3

Chatham town centre commenced earlier than planned due to the issues with the Rochester network, and (at the time of writing) is now 98% complete (it is anticipated works will be complete by mid May). All cameras have been replaced or removed; the only delay in completion is power supply issues created by the street light replacement project, and the construction works on the former Riverside 1 site. Once completed Chatham Town Centre 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.

Chatham Town Centre is now covered by 36 cameras, 17 of which are new units.

14 cameras have been removed to comply with the information Commissioner's guidance, the majority of which were located in low activity carpark (from reported offence perspectives).

The rationale for removing these cameras are as follows:

Camera 13	Useful field of view covered by camera 80
Camera 23	Unacceptable privacy intrusion
Camera 77	No justified activity camera
Camera 78	Required field of view covered by camera 68
Camera 79	required field of view covered by camera 84
Camera 96	Not a town centre camera, no justified activity
Camera 107	No justified activity camera
Camera 108	Not a town centre camera, no justified activity
Camera 1301	No justified activity camera
Camera 1303	Unacceptable privacy intrusion
Camera 1320	No justified activity camera
Camera 1321	No justified activity camera
Camera 1327	No justified activity camera
Camera 2305	No justified activity camera

7 cameras have been removed from the scope of this project. These cameras are currently not functioning, and were covering the Globe Lane carpark / Sun Pier area.

The rationale for removing them from scope is due to riverside camera coverage being dealt with as a separate project and to avoid double spend.

The forecast cost of works for Priority 3 was £26,150.00, the actual cost was £26,650.00

Priority 4

Work on priority 4 is now due to commence on the week commencing 23 May 2019. This will cover areas including Rainham, Strood, Luton, Parkwood and the Peninsula.

The highest priority cameras will be dealt with in order of overall coverage and available Budget.

The network infrastructure around Rainham is known to be high risk, so will be tackled first. There will then be a review of the scope against the remaining budget.

The forecast cost of works for Priority 4 is £24,150.00, bringing the total cost to 102,581.92 against a budget of 105,000.00

Summary

The town centre element continues to proceed well.

The project is currently on budget and it is anticipated that it can be completed within the current budget.

Communication between Medway Council, MCG and the private contractors is excellent with weekly project meetings and regular site visits. Statistical data is received monthly on all cameras which reports on activity levels witnessed by the operators and information requested by Police colleagues. Used in conjunction with the crime level statistics, and the Police call records, this will allow Medway Council to ensure there continues to be appropriate coverage by the CCTV network.