

Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee – Tuesday 19th November 2019

Action:

A member requested an update position on the implementation of the CCTV system.

Professional Response (22nd November 2019):

Policy and Legal Compliance

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council currently has 53 CCTV surveillance cameras deployed in seven zones across the borough (Ebbw Vale, Abertillery, Brynmawr, Tredegar, Cwm, Blaina and Llanhilleth train station). The cameras are recording in each of the zones and have been subject to the necessary Data Impact Privacy Assessments which have been approved and signed off by the Council's Senior Information Risk Officer (SIRO). The process involved establishing and evidencing the pressing need for the cameras within each zone considering against key legislation e.g. Human Rights Act (Right to Privacy), the Protection of Freedoms Act, the Data Protection Act 2018 and the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). The CCTV Policy and Operating Framework for the Council is being revised in line with the new GDPR Privacy Commissioner expectation.

Providing footage to Responsible Authorities

As of 22nd November there have been 25 requests for footage. The majority of these (16 requests) have been from Gwent Police related to specific incidents across the zoned areas. Two requests have been from insurance companies in relation to road traffic incidents in relation to insurance claims. Seven requests have been directly from members of the public via C2BG or email. Advice in the case of requests from members of the public is that the individual to contact the Police for consideration in relation to specific incidents.

Of these requests, the Council has been able to provide footage on 11 occasions. Footage has been supplied to the Police for incidents relating to assaults, burglaries, thefts and a death by dangerous driving.

Technical Implementation

All cameras have been installed in the following locations

- Abertillery.
- Tredegar including Cefn Golau.
- Ebbw Vale.
- Brynmawr.
- Blaina.

- Llanhilleth.
- Cwm

The installation of all equipment within the CCTV monitoring suite has been completed.

At present there are a number of cameras not transmitting images to the local recorders. The contractor has been made aware of this and as such the system has not been accepted as complete.

The contractor has been proactive in dealing with these issues and arranged for the manufacturer to attend Abertillery to investigate the reason for the transmission issues. The manufacturer has provided a report to the contractor on the findings and recommended remedial works required including replacing a wireless bridge, and recommissioning the installed units to limit interference from other Wi-Fi sources.

The report has been accepted by the contractor and remedial works will be undertaken. Upon completion of these works the manufacturer's technical team will remotely inspect the system to perform a final check and ensure the stability of the system. On completion and acceptance by technical officers that the transmission system is fully operation the contractor will undertake remedial works in all other areas.

Although the current data transmission system that links the local recorders to the monitoring suite is in line with the approved CCTV solution for operational reasons SRS have been engaged to provide a feasibility study of increasing the data speeds from the local recorders to the main monitoring suite.

Deployable Cameras

All cameras have been received and the method of image storage and downloading is being tested. This testing phase has highlighted a problem with downloading image due to a likely software issue (firmware update) which is currently being attended to.

Heavy duty brackets have been fabricated for mounting the deployable cameras on existing heavy duty CCTV or lighting columns. A mock-up of the installation was undertaken which noted Health and Safety and operational issues, adjustments have been made to take these into account.

Additional brackets are being fabricated to allow the cameras to be deployed on a standard street lighting columns.