

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

COMMUNITY LIAISON COMMITTEE: 6TH JULY 2023

REFERENCE FROM HOMES AND SAFE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE: 19TH APRIL 2023

“907 PRESENTATION: CCTV UPDATE –

The presentation was given to the Committee by the Council’s Principal Community Safety Officer in conjunction with the Head of Housing and Building Services on the upgrading of the Vale of Glamorgan Council’s CCTV system. Key areas highlighted to the Committee included:

- The background to the CCTV system, from the initial installation of CCTV in 1998 via Home Office funding, through to the eventual challenges faced with aging equipment, critical failures and growing difficulties to repair and maintain the existing CCTV system in recent years.
- Subsequently, a strategic review was undertaken which led to Cabinet agreement in 2020 to fund the capital replacement of the cameras, in conjunction with a search for partners willing to contribute to ongoing revenue costs. This led to securing funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner in South Wales (plus additional investment from Welsh Government (WG)) to develop a regional approach to CCTV monitoring that would help bring the Vale’s CCTV into the 21st Century.
- The new CCTV system (which utilised the new ‘Synergy’ software) would offer a more ‘dynamic, integrated and higher quality monitoring system which would help identify crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) ‘hotspot’ areas as well as assist safeguarding, including the integration and use of both ‘deployable’ cameras and their static counterparts across the Vale, in order to help support the Council, Police and partners. It would also allow quick and easy access to the CCTV and the review of footage retrospectively.
- Community Safety staff were also trained to become CCTV operators to ensure a quicker response.
- The CCTV upgrade was nearing completion, despite challenges in getting the fibre connections installed, with the replacement of analogue by HD/digital cameras. The process was expected to be complete by the Summer.
- As part of this, the effectiveness and success of the new CCTV system would be incorporated into the Community Safety Highlight Report in order to raise awareness with local residents and communities, help showcase their work and build public confidence.
- There would be an ongoing review of the CCTV system, including a new performance framework, to ensure that the full benefits of this new system could be fully realised, i.e. located in the right place, to develop links with town centres and the late night economy, etc.

- The new CCTV system was already making a positive impact within the Vale, with a significant number of requests since October 2022 for CCTV footage regarding instances of burglary, ASB, welfare and criminal damage, resulting in police involvement and attendance.
- Arrangements would be made for Members to visit the new CCTV control room in Cardiff.
- Examples of the quality of the new CCTV cameras were demonstrated to the Committee, at various sites in the Vale.

Following the presentation:

- The Chair welcomed Mr. Stuart Burnell, a public speaker and Vice-Chair of the Holton Road Traders Association, who put forward his concerns around the CCTV system, which although extremely welcome in terms of addressing crime and ASB concerns for local traders, was felt to be not working as effectively as it should and therefore not 'value for money' in that it did not seem to be catching all instances of vandalism and burglary that were impacting local shops, i.e. the CCTV was not pointing in the right direction when some of these crimes occurred and despite being manned 24/7. It was felt that, due to the CCTV being monitored in Cardiff, they may not have the local knowledge necessary to have the CCTV monitoring the relevant spots.
- In response to Mr. Burnell's comments, the Head of Housing and Building Services explained that CCTV could not cover everything at the same time, and there were limits to the numbers of CCTVs that could be installed and deployed, but it was important that CCTV monitoring be intelligence-led and a monitoring station had been located at Barry Police Station in order to have that mix of strategic oversight and local knowledge, plus a speedy response from the local Police. Also, the Council with partners, would be looking at the root causes of ASB and related criminality in order to undertake preventative work. The Principal Community Safety Officer wished to reassure the Committee and Vale residents that CCTV footage was available for many of the incidents mentioned by Mr. Burnell, as well as for other similar activities elsewhere in the Vale. CCTV was being used to build intelligence on these activities and operators were trawling through previous footage as part of this. In tandem with this approach, stronger links were being forged with traders and town centres in the Vale as well as stronger communications with victims.
- On Councillor Buckley's query around the use of 'dummy' CCTV cameras to help increase the deterrent capability of the real cameras, it was explained that these could lead to public expectations that all the cameras were able to pick up ASB and criminal activities which would subsequently be dashed if they were only dummy cameras, leading to the public losing faith in the CCTV system and removing the dummy cameras' deterrence factor. There was also the legal requirement to inform the public of the location of the CCTV cameras and ensure their visibility.
- Councillor Carroll commented on the deterrence value of CCTV in helping to prevent crime, ASB and other disorderly behaviour, i.e. vandalism, litter, dog fouling, etc. which benefitted the Council via less costs in any follow up activities such as replacing damaged bins and cleaning up, as well as the intelligence and detection benefits it brought to South Wales Police. On his

query around quantifying the benefits of CCTV to the Council, it was explained that this was difficult to quantify, with there being more obvious direct benefits to the Police in detecting serious crime, etc. However, with the deployment of a Council Enforcement Team, CCTV would help them to be proactive in dealing with neighbourhood and environmentally related activities and issues, bringing together operational, front-line, services with a more strategic overview.

- On the Vice-Chair's query around strengthening communications with victims following ASB and crime, a more proactive approach would be pursued in order to explain to the public what the Council, Police and partners were doing in order to deal with these issues, and the benefits of CCTV in achieving this, i.e. the work undertaken with the Youth Offending Service (YOS), Police and schools to identify young persons involved in the recent ASB and vandalism at Holton Road Barry and to address their behaviours, as well as supporting the local community and ensuring safe spaces for all.
- Councillor Perkes commented on the improvement and efficacy of the new CCTV system (particularly the use of re-deployable cameras) and suggested that Elected Members have the opportunity to visit the new CCTV centre in Cardiff.
- H. Smith (a Tenant Representative) asked about the range and coverage of the fixed CCTV cameras (including any blind spots); the example of Holton Road was given where the current fixed CCTV coverage included virtually the whole length of the road, with very few blind spots and with the pre-programmed ability for the cameras to all be brought up in a cluster.
- Councillor Hanks asked that the presentation be referred to the next meeting of the Community Liaison Committee. This would help to raise awareness of the benefits of the new and improved CCTV system and increase engagement and transparency with Elected Members and Vale residents.

Scrutiny Committee, having considered the presentation, subsequently

RECOMMENDED –

- (1) T H A T the presentation on the CCTV Update be noted.
- (2) T H A T the presentation be referred to the next meeting of the Community Liaison Committee for their information.

Reasons for recommendations

- (1) Having regard to the contents of the presentation and discussions at the meeting.
- (2) To apprise the Community Liaison Committee."

Attached as Appendix: Presentation to Homes and Safe Communities Scrutiny Committee: 19th April, 2023

CCTV UPDATE

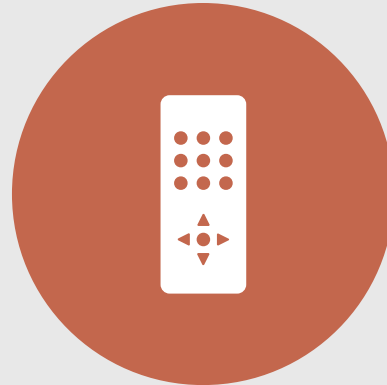


Deborah Gibbs
Community Safety and Partnership
Team Manager

Background



PARTNERSHIP



CONTROL ROOM



TRAINING

Current Status



Camera status

- The full upgrade is nearing completion and is expected to be finalised in the next few months.
- 84 cameras and 10 re-deployable cameras.
- 63 in Barry, 2 in Cowbridge, 4 in Llantwit Major, 14 in Penarth & 1 in Rhoose.

New process'

- 24/7 monitoring by Cardiff Council.
- Operational Viewing suite at Barry Police Station

Synergy

- All cameras are being monitored on newly installed software, Synergy
- Re-deployable CCTV cameras are being integrated into Synergy to allow a more streamline approach.

Current Status Continued..



Communication

- We will incorporate CCTV successes into the Community Safety Highlight Report which is published to members of the public.

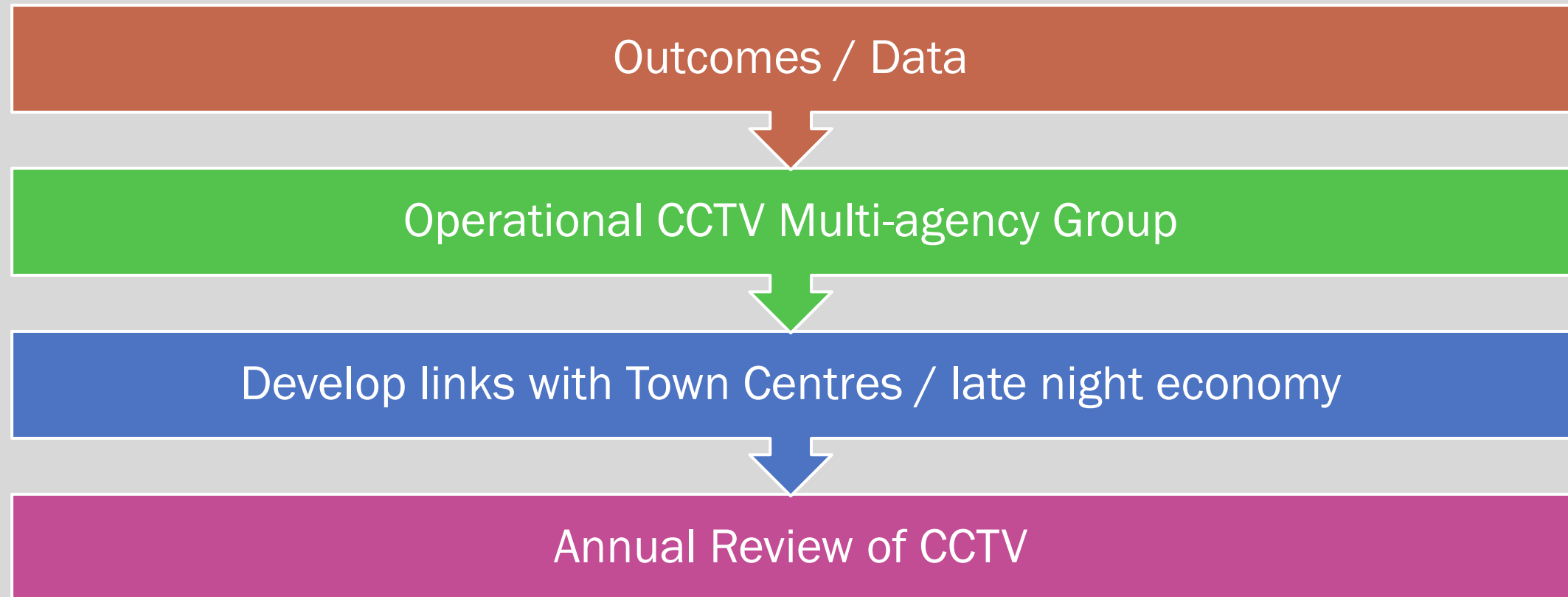
The Partnership

- Vale and Cardiff colleagues continue to meet weekly to discuss CCTV development and to ensure compliance with The Surveillance Camera Commissioner.

Funding

- The Police and Crime Commissioner has committed funding to assist with the monitoring costs. The remainder is funded through The Vale of Glamorgan Council.

Going forward



Llantwit Major Train Station



Kings Square



Barry Island



Camera 1

Dock Offices



ВРО МОРГАННВГ



VALE of GLAMORGAN



BRO MORGANNWG

ВРО МОРГАННВГ

ANY QUESTIONS?