

To : PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE		Subject: CCTV IN NORTH LANARKSHIRE
From : DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT		
Date : 26 June 2002	Ref. : JH/SWCCTV Rep856	

**1 Background**

- 1.1 Public realm CCTV in North Lanarkshire came into being in 1991/92 when the first operational system was established in Airdrie. Since that time, other systems have been successfully introduced to the main town centre areas of the authority – Coatbridge (1995), Wishaw (1995), Motherwell (1996), Bellshill (2000) and Kilsyth (2002).
- 1.2 Originally the systems operated independently and were administered by a local CCTV Development Trust, a partnership of representatives from the local community, local authority and the police.
- 1.3 Separately, CCTV installations were introduced to a number of housing areas of the local authority, the first being in Gowkthrapple in Wishaw and thereafter other areas including Forgewood, Old Monklands, Sikeside, Greenend, Northburn, Bellshill (Jewel), Coltness, Greenend, Langloan and, most recently, Tannochside.
- 1.4 At present the total number of public realm cameras in operation amount to 180.
- 1.5 In 1996 the Council undertook a review to determine the longer-term strategy for CCTV provision and to assure its cost efficient operation within the Council area. This resulted in the formation of North Lanarkshire CCTV Ltd (November 1997). A process of amalgamation was subsequently undertaken which brought the work of the Development Trusts under a central administrative unit and, as a result, saw an immediate improvement in the operating efficiency of CCTV monitoring and control.

**2 EDAW Study**

- 2.1 In 1999 the Council commissioned EDAW to undertake a feasibility study into establishing a single control and command centre for CCTV activity in North Lanarkshire.

This study made the following recommendations:-

- 1.1. North Lanarkshire Council adopts a corporate approach to the use of CCTV across all its departments and functions.

- 1.2. A lead role, ideally co-ordinated through the Chief Executive's office, but with strong links to IT and Property, as well as user departments, be established to review practice, monitor technology, develop policy, set standards and guidelines, and co-ordinate procurement.
- 1.3 The objective of a single command and control centre be pursued to integrate the control and monitoring of all non-town centre alarm and CCTV systems.
- 1.4 Departmental budgets be adapted to ensure the corporate CCTV system is integrated in a manner which is fundable from existing budget streams and, ideally, secures economies of scale. If appropriate this could also include secondment of skilled CCTV staff from departments to the central CCTV function.
- 1.5 North Lanarkshire Council pursues the objective of an integrated corporate approach to community CCTV, embracing other public and private sector partners or subscribers.
- 1.6 At the earliest opportunity, North Lanarkshire Council enters into discussions with potential partners to develop and agree baseline operational parameters for an integrated system. This should include Strathclyde Police, Health, Education, Housing Association bodies, ScotRail/Railtrack, SPTE and the Lanarkshire Development Agency.
- 1.7 Opportunities may exist in the future for North Lanarkshire Council to operate the corporate CCTV system with similar minded organisations such as the Lanarkshire Health Board, and South Lanarkshire Council. An early meeting should be arranged with these groups to gauge their interest and potential involvement as partners with North Lanarkshire CCTV Ltd.
- 1.8 The outline business plan be developed in detail as part of the negotiations to help operationalise the integration process and to establish transparent and fair 'subscription rates'.
- 1.9 North Lanarkshire Council should continue to explore further avenues for securing private sector participation in a scheme, including advance intervention through the planning process, ideally through policy references in planning documentation and in the negotiation process.

### **3 Current Position**

- 3.1 During the period of operation, good, strong, positive working relationships have been forged with Council, Police, businesses (retailers), suppliers and the general public.
- 3.2 North Lanarkshire CCTV Ltd continues to be a major influence within the CCTV business.
- 3.3 There continues to be an overwhelming demand for further installations, particularly from people living in areas which have been experiencing continued anti-social behaviour.
- 3.4 In town centres the combined efforts of the CCTV cameras allied to very effective Radio Link System, have proven to be extremely valuable in the battle against retail crime as well as continuing to be increasingly relevant as a community safety tool, e.g. 'Kidscare', medical emergencies etc.

- 3.5 Statistics, year on year, confirm a 4.26% reduction in the number of incidents and 53.79% increase in number of apprehensions.
- 3.6 Local knowledge and the good work being carried out by CCTV operators is a significant benefit to the organisation and is continually referred to by the Police.

#### **4 Issues**

- 4.1 In the course of the work of the company it is necessary to review and evaluate whether best value is being obtained. It is clear that various elements do require to be considered, including:
- The overall working relationships with the police, both from an operational and organisational perspective.
  - The continued financial support from the Chief Constable.
  - What options exist as to alternative siting of CCTV control units and what impact any change could have on the efficiency of the service provided.
  - What, if any, implications are being considered in the course of the revised arrangements for police control.
- 4.2 Much work has yet to be done on how to match the benefits of the provision of CCTV and the ability to ensure sufficient financial resources are available to operate such schemes. The Scottish Executive, through their "Making Our Communities Safer" initiative, will positively view funding requests for schemes which aim to combine rather than fragment operations.
- 4.3 Consequently it could be financially prudent to move towards a centralisation policy, however it will be essential to fully examine all the implications since some examples, so far, do not necessarily reduce running costs.
- 4.4 It would be timely also to fully explore opportunities for sponsorship and commercial support for such a proposal.
- 4.5 It would also be essential to examine what other Council services could be included in any central monitoring unit.
- 4.6 There is, therefore, a need to undertake a feasibility study to scope the benefits and costs associated with a single control.

#### **5 Future**

The feasibility study will, hopefully, give some direction as to the way ahead for CCTV. However, there are a number of other considerations to be explored in the short term. These include:

- Funding and links with the private sector.
- "Business Activity" of North Lanarkshire CCTV Ltd.
- Where does CCTV appear in the wider Community Safety Agenda.
- Links, working relationship and value of CCTV to police.
- Paths to success of CCTV is being compromised by a lack of police resources.
- Further exploration of development of Radio Link to further complement and extend benefits of CCTV.
- Expectations, Perceptions and Reality.

**6 Recommendation**

Members are asked to note and approve the details of this report and to support the subsequent work being carried out to take the organisation to the next stage in the development of CCTV within North Lanarkshire.



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