



Subject:	Update on Safer Belfast CCTV system in wider university area
Date:	Tuesday, 13 th October 2015
Reporting Officer:	Siobhan Toland, Head of Environmental Health
Contact Officer:	Alison Allen, Safer City Manager

Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an update on the status of the Safer Belfast Redeployable CCTV system and to recommend an interim position while an Options Report is collated.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	Members are asked to agree an interim way forward for the future of the CCTV system in the Holylands and to note that a report will be brought back for consideration later in the year.
3.0	Main report
3.1	Members will recall that, through key stakeholder requests, Belfast Community Safety Partnership commissioned the installation of a CCTV system following ongoing antisocial behaviour within the Holylands.
3.2	Project partners who provided the original funding for the pilot in the Holylands were Department of Justice - Community Safety Unit (£48,000), Belfast City Council (£40,000), Belfast Community Safety Partnership (£35,000), NIHE (£24,400), and Belfast District

	<p>Policing Partnership (£5,000). In addition, DRD assisted with the installation process while PSNI agreed to monitor the Safer Belfast Redeployable CCTV system within Musgrave Street. The Council has continued to provide Officer support as well as ongoing maintenance for the system.</p>
3.3	<p>The system was installed in March 2010 and consisted of 12 cameras located at strategic locations throughout the Holylands area. An additional 2 cameras were later installed at Broadway roundabout, which is geographically not part of the Holylands but is deemed to be part of the system. The data from all cameras is relayed via a wireless network to monitoring facilities at Musgrave Street (PSNI) and through the Police cameras located in the emergency coordination centre (ECC) at City Hall when required</p>
3.4	<p>The purpose of the system is to assist in the reduction of crime against people, property and business and to improve the public's perception of safety within the area.</p> <p>The objectives of the CCTV are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To assist in the prevention and detection of street crime ▪ To deter public disorder and antisocial behaviour ▪ To help in the apprehension and prosecution of offenders in relation to crime and public disorder ▪ To assist with the policing of major events/festivals and/or incidents ▪ To improve the feeling of community safety within the Holylands Area.
3.5	<p>In March 2013 a CCTV Compliance Audit and Performance Assessment was carried out and it was found that the Holylands CCTV system was performing below an acceptable level.</p>
3.6	<p>Additionally in May 2015 a hardware survey of the system established:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Significant water egress at a number of the cameras ▪ Unreliability of the wireless transmission system leading to temporary loss of signal, image freezing and latency problems. ▪ Poor image quality at night
3.7	<p>Further discussion with external specialists and internal BCC staff has raised concerns as to whether the system is fit for purpose and if future investment of any kind will help the partners and the Council achieve the original objectives of the scheme as listed above. It</p>

	<p>is the view that the Holylands system is performing below an acceptable level. It is a system with poor image quality and high levels of maintenance down-time and the continued value for money and affordability of the future of the system needs to be reviewed.</p>
3.8	<p>Council has also been advised that the PSNI is not in a position to continue to monitor and record the existing number of 12 cameras. The current PSNI position is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ PSNI would be prepared to maintain a recording capacity only for five strategically placed cameras at Musgrave Street PSNI Station ▪ PSNI would monitor these cameras during critical periods only e.g. Freshers, St. Patrick's, Halloween. ▪ There would be no routine monitoring throughout the rest of the year but the recording capacity of the five agreed cameras would remain
3.9	<p>Discussion with the original funders and with other potential partners will need to be undertaken as soon as possible regarding the future of the system. The partnership could consider a range of options, to take account of affordability and deliverability, and make recommendations to Members later in the year when discussions have taken place with all stakeholder and partner organisations.</p>
3.10	<p>Given that Council manages this on behalf of the partner agencies, Members are asked to agree an interim position.</p>
3.11	<p>Taking into account concerns about ongoing crime and anti-social behaviour in the area, Council could continue to support this initiative through the use of an existing Mobile CCTV contract at key periods in the Holylands. This could be delivered within an existing citywide contract for the delivery of mobile CCTV services and would cost approximately £3,000 per annum.</p>
	<p><u>Ongoing Support</u></p>
3.12	<p>Members will be aware that in addition to the provision of a CCTV system in the area, Council and other partners provide dedicated support to the Holylands area through a Strategic Inter-Agency Group, Partners and Communities Together (PACT) and dedicated operations to tackle ASB, noise, on street drinking and general nuisance in the area over high risk periods (Fresher's, St. Patrick's, Halloween etc). This support and resource invested is still ongoing.</p>

	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>This interim position would cost approximately £3,000 per annum, which has been provided for in the Revenue Estimates.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>There are no Equality or Good Relations implications at present, but this will continue to be monitored.</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	None