

**COMMUNITY SAFETY
AND COMMUNITY SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Thursday, 3rd November, 2011 at 6.00 p.m.
in Committee Room 2, The Council House, Dudley

PRESENT:-

Councillor Kettle (Chairman)
Councillor Cotterill (Vice-Chairman)
Councillors Attwood, Burston, Caunt, Foster, Mrs D Harley, Mrs P Martin
and Zada.

OFFICERS

Assistant Director of Corporate Resources (Customer Services),
(Directorate of Corporate Resources), (Lead Officer to the Committee),
Assistant Director of Policy and Improvement and the Drugs and Alcohol
Team Manager, (Both Chief Executive's Directorate), Director of Corporate
Resources, Head of Accountancy, Curatorial Services and Commercial
Operations Manager, Principal Information Security Officer, Principal
Solicitor and Miss K Fellows, (All Directorate of Corporate Resources).

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Superintendent Stuart Johnson – Dudley Local Policing Unit – West
Midlands Police.

18. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of
Councillors Ryder and Ms Wood.

19. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No Member made a declaration of interest in accordance with the
Members' Code of Conduct in respect of any matter to be considered at
the meeting.

20. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on
1st September, 2011 be approved as a correct record and signed.

21. PUBLIC FORUM

No matters were raised under this Agenda item.

22. CONSIDERATION OF PETITIONS (IF ANY) REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE BY THE PETITIONS OFFICER.

No Petitions had been referred to the Committee.

23. REVENUE BUDGET STRATEGY 2012/13

A joint report of Officers was submitted on the proposed Revenue Budget Strategy for 2012/13 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2012/13 – 2014/15 and detailing spending and funding options for consultation and representations of Business Ratepayers.

Following a presentation of the content of the report and Appendix A to the report submitted, the Director of Corporate Resources in responding to Members' questions clarified that the proposals contained within the report may change following the scrutiny and consultation processes.

The Head of Accountancy confirmed that the forecast reserves would be £9.4million for 2012/13.

RESOLVED

That the Cabinet's Revenue Budget Strategy proposals for 2012/13 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2012/13 – 2014/15, as set out in the report, and Appendix to the report, submitted be noted and the Cabinet be informed that there were no observations that this Scrutiny Committee wished to make on the proposals.

24. AN OVERVIEW OF CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION (CCTV) IN THE DUDLEY BOROUGH.

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted on an overview of the Council's CCTV responsibilities within the Borough, with a particular focus on the role of the CCTV Control room in Sedgley.

In presenting the report submitted, the Assistant Director of Corporate Resources (Customer Services) particularly referred to the development of CCTV within the Dudley Borough, the number of Council owned cameras, the CCTV control room, disclosure of information as it pertained to CCTV and the Protection of Freedoms Bill which would introduce further regulation in relation to CCTV cameras and that the Council would be

required to adopt a policy in relation to the CCTV following the implementation of the Bill.

He also referred to two local case studies that highlighted the benefits of the CCTV which would be available to Members following the meeting.

In responding to questions from Members the Curatorial Services and Commercial Operations Manager advised that since she had managed the Sedgley Control Room Operations Centre she had received no complaints from the public in relation to the CCTV cameras that were in situ within the Dudley Borough.

She stated that the Council's geographical mapping information service mapped each CCTV camera, and that she was responsible for 127 of the Council's CCTV cameras.

She reported that the cost of replacing CCTV cameras would be in the region of £1500 to £2000 and there was a six monthly maintenance programme in place in order to ensure that camera images were fit for purpose and that there were regulations and guidance with relation to the quality of images. It was stated that the replacement camera parts would be less expensive with more wear and tear occurring to movable cameras.

Members raised concerns in relation to the number of CCTV cameras within Dudley Borough indicating that this could be excessive.

The Curatorial Services and Operations Manager responded stating that the number of CCTV cameras within the Borough was historical and there was now a requirement under the Data Protection process for consultation prior to installing any further cameras. The layout of the Dudley Borough Townships impacted upon the number of cameras required to monitor each area as there were a number of small roads requiring further surveillance.

She also stated that in relation to the 127 CCTV cameras that she was responsible for, none were covert and that the cameras were utilised for the purpose for which they were intended with the images being used for lawful purposes.

Superintendent Johnson responded to further questions from Members reporting that the increase in the number of CCTV cameras had resulted from public demand in relation to their own personal safety issues.

He also referred to the clear distinction between using CCTV cameras for surveillance purposes advising that this would require justification and proportionality issues to be determined and authorisation from a high level would be required.

He also referred to the four principal reasons for using CCTV cameras which were crime prevention, to gather intelligence information, arranging for public spaces to be policed and public re-assurance.

He reported that it was common place for CCTV images to be utilised to support prosecutions and that images may be used on a daily basis.

The income received from CCTV camera monitoring and legion costs were outlined by the Curatorial Services and Commercial Operations Manager.

The Principal Information Security Officer reported that some data protection audits on CCTV systems had been undertaken and there were different rules for recording devices and live feed devices, for example door entry systems data protection controls were not as stringent. However an asset register would be required in order to identify the controls required for all CCTV cameras.

In responding to a question from a Member the Principal Information Security Officer also reported that although access to images was protected by the Data Protection Act, the Police had powers to access images and also Insurance Companies could apply to access images.

The Assistant Director of Corporate Resources (Customer Services) indicated that other organisations as well as the Sedgley Control Operations Centre also monitored CCTV images.

He also reported that the 750 CCTV cameras referred to in the report submitted did not include cameras in situ at schools.

He advised that in accordance with the provisions of the Protection of Freedoms Bill the Council would undertake a review of their operation.

In responding to a question from a Member the Principal Information Security Officer advised that for audit purposes all CCTV cameras would be subject to scrutiny in order to ensure that controls were in place as far as Data Protection issues were concerned.

He also advised that schools were separate legal entities as far as data protection issues were concerned.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the information contained in the report submitted, providing an overview of the Council's CCTV responsibilities within the Borough, with a particular focus on the role of the CCTV control room in Sedgley, be noted.

- (2) That the Director of Corporate Resources be requested to submit a further report to a future meeting of the Committee detailing the new and amended requirements arising out of the Protection of Freedoms Bill and the findings of the internal CCTV review.
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25. TO CONSIDER WHETHER TO REQUEST THE ATTENDANCE OF ANY SAFE AND SOUND BOARD MEMBER OR THE PROVISION OF ANY INFORMATION AT A FUTURE MEETING IN RELATION TO THE COMMUNITY SAFETY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME.

Following discussion on this issue it was:

RESOLVED

That the attendance of any Safe and Sound Board Member or the provision of any information at the next meeting be not pursued.

26. CLOSING REMARKS OF THE CHAIRMAN

The Chairman wished all Members of the Committee and Officers a Happy Christmas.

The meeting ended at 7pm.

CHAIRMAN