

**CCTV**

**EXE260705  
ITEM**

**LEAD MEMBER:** Cllr G Clements, Portfolio Holder

**LEAD OFFICER:** Toni Magean, Open Spaces Manager  
**REPORT AUTHOR:** Jane Murray, Scrutiny Support Officer

**SUMMARY:** This is an **interim report** from the working group set up to review CCTV provision in Copeland, led by the Portfolio Holder and supported by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for Social Well-being.

<p><b>RECOMMENDATION:</b> That Copeland Borough Council agrees to work with Allerdale Borough Council to explore whether there are areas where joint working would be beneficial, leading possibly to the development of a joint CCTV strategy for West Cumbria.</p>
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Impact on delivering the Corporate Plan: It is envisaged that effective provision of CCTV will have a measurable impact on crime and disorder objectives. Community safety, CCTV included, was rated highly by residents in the Simalto Consultation exercise.

Impact on other statutory objectives: As Above

Financial and human resources: Were Allerdale Borough Council and Copeland Borough Council able to agree a joint strategy, this would put both Councils in a stronger position to bid for funding, particularly with respect to monitoring of CCTV. Approximately £62,000 has been set aside in the Council's budget for this year to upgrade cameras and associated costs.

Project & Risk Management: There is a risk that the aspirations of both Councils may not be entirely compatible, but there are sound common sense reasons to work together and a willingness to co-operate.

**Key Decision Status**

-Financial: No – The decision to spend any money in respect of CCTV would be subject to a further Executive Decision.

-Ward: Not at this stage

Other Ward Implications: None

## **Introduction**

- 1.1. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee for Social Well-being has taken a keen interest in CCTV for over a year, and following a meeting with the then Portfolio Holder regarding concerns as to how the £62,000 earmarked in this year's budget was to be spent, a joint working group was established, comprising:

Portfolio Holder:	Cllr G Clements
OSC Social Well-being:	Cllr Mrs M Woodburn (Chair)
	Cllr R Cole (Deputy Chair)
	Cllr J Jackson

- 1.2 The two main concerns that Overview and Scrutiny had were the current positioning of cameras and more importantly, the monitoring of the images. There was concern about the amount of proactive monitoring which had been taking place. As a result, Members had begun to note a lack of confidence in the system in certain areas and were raising the issue accordingly.
- 1.3 To date, the Scrutiny Committee has visited the monitoring set up at Allerdale Borough Council, and the working group has individually met with both Whitehaven and Egremont police, and are shortly to meet with police in Millom, to get their buy-in at an early stage and listen to the 'on-the-ground concerns'.

The Open Spaces Manager and his counterpart at Allerdale held an initial exploratory meeting, together with the Crime and Reduction Partnership Co-ordinator, and more recently the equivalent Scrutiny sub group at Allerdale Borough Council invited the working group to a meeting, at which the recommendation of joint working emerged.

## **Benefits**

The potential benefits of developing a joint working would be:

- 2.1 There is the potential to share a monitoring operation, which would reduce overheads and allow for the more efficient use of resources, allowing for co-operation in seeking funding rather than competition.

This would put both Councils in a stronger position to bid for revenue funding for a joint monitoring operation from the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership.

- 2.2 The police operate at a West Cumbria level, with both their despatch centre and video viewing (evidence) suite located at Workington. They are currently moving to a very high tech (and expensive) communications system into which arrangements have already been made to patch Allerdale's monitoring operation. A joint approach would help streamline police involvement and communication.
- 2.3 Feedback from the police would suggest that a set up such as Allerdale's would significantly aid their operations during peak times (particularly a Friday and Saturday night). They seem to be willing to co-operate in devising a monitoring system to measure the effectiveness of any new CCTV system, the lack of which is a weakness of the current system.

### **Recommendation**

- 3.1 The recommendation, supported by Overview and Scrutiny, is for both Councils to work together to establish whether there are areas where joint working would be of mutual benefit and with the eventual aim of developing a West Cumbria Strategy, which would return to this Executive for adoption.
- 3.2 The Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership and local police will be continue to be fully involved in the investigation work currently taking place. It is recognised by both authorities – and the CDRP - that performance monitoring of the effectiveness of a CCTV system will be crucial to any strategy or improvements to the system.
- 3.2 A decision to co-operate at this stage flags up a willingness to co-operate, but does not necessarily eliminate other partners becoming involved in the eventual delivery of the Council's CCTV operation or a West Cumbria strategy.

Consultation: Overview and Scrutiny Committee for Social Well-being  
Monitoring Officer  
Head of Finance and Business Development