



Required for:	PCC Public Accountability and Performance meeting January 2022
Security Classification:	
Handling information if required:	
Suitable for publication:	Yes
Title:	Public Place CCTV in Surrey
Version:	V3
Purpose:	To provide an update on the Surrey 5-year public place CCTV strategy
ACPO / Strategic Lead:	T/ACC Alison Barlow
National Decision Model compliance:	Yes
Date created:	January 2022
Date to be reviewed:	

AUTHOR:	
Name:	Supt Tim Shaw 2156
Job Title:	Head of Surrey Police Contact and Deployment
Telephone number:	Ext 3889
Email address:	Tim.Shaw@surrey.pnn.police.uk



1.0 Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the 5-year Surrey public place CCTV strategy which was set out in 2018, current CCTV provision across the county and Surrey Police's position on the future of public place CCTV.

2.0 Background

2.1 Public place CCTV is overt surveillance and is required to have a legitimate aim such as to prevent disorder or crime and to maximise public safety. Each camera installation needs to be shown to be necessary, proportionate, and lawful with the relevant safeguards and reviews. All CCTV operations should follow the Surveillance Camera Code of Practice as defined in the National Surveillance Camera Strategy (2017) for England and Wales.

2.2 The strategy outlines that whilst it is reasonable for the public to have a right to expect surveillance camera systems as one measure to help keep them safe, it is only possible where *"systems are fit for purpose, operated effectively, transparently and in compliance with any relevant legal obligations."* The strategy also describes the challenge regarding public place CCTV with local authority funding having been in decline for some time with a report in 2016 (Big Brother Watch) showing a 46% decrease in funding spent on the installation, maintenance and monitoring of CCTV by local authorities across the country since 2012.

2.3 In September 2017 a CCTV Summit was held between Surrey Police and the 11 boroughs and districts as a first step in exploring the possibility of having a county-wide public CCTV operation as seen in other counties such as Sussex. Due to differing priorities, finance and starting positions no joint consensus could be reached on a future Surrey-wide CCTV roadmap with each borough/district having already worked independently to purchase and implement their own systems over many years. In respect of police contribution to these operating models, this varied widely across the county with historic decisions/agreements having been reached on a local geographic basis. This meant that there was inconsistency of contribution across the county with some monitoring of local authority-owned CCTV undertaken by Surrey Police staff within police stations (Woking, Guildford and Reigate) with differing financial contributions made to others (e.g. Runnymede, Elmbridge etc).

2.4 Following the Summit, and in order to bring about a level of consistency across Surrey, a 5 year CCTV Strategy was set out (2018-2022 inclusive) which would see the three remaining police CCTV monitoring suites (Woking, Guildford and Reigate) transition to being monitored by staff from the relevant borough/district council with Surrey Police contributing to the cost of CCTV provision using a defined funding formula. [The formula is based on the number of cameras installed in a borough or district along with relevant service provision e.g. hours of monitoring, access to Police Airwave radio, ability to download material etc]. A graphic showing the strategy can be found at Appendix A.

2.5 Since the launch of the strategy (which has been overseen since 2018 by Superintendent Contact and Deployment maintaining dialogue with Chief Executives) a better level of consistency has since been achieved in terms of the financial contribution made by Surrey Police, but the strategy has not yet been met in full. The transition (Tupe) of Surrey Police CCTV staff has been completed in Woking but staff still remain in the CCTV rooms at both Guildford and Reigate police stations with the future less clear. Where Surrey Police do not monitor cameras then the funding formula is applied.

Current county wide position

2.6 Not all 11 borough and districts in Surrey own or operate public place CCTV equipment and some of the equipment currently owned is end of life (analogue) and will need significant investment to upgrade or replace.

2.7 The way that public place CCTV in residential areas is accredited means that new cameras can only be added where there is an evidential case brought by a neighbourhood problem. Many of the Surrey local authority cameras require reviews of their accreditation, and it is anticipated that some will need to be decommissioned in the coming few years when this has been completed.

East Surrey

2.8 Reigate and Banstead have recently taken a decision to decommission their public place CCTV (other than unmonitored CCTV in their car parks and 6 amenity parks) on the basis of cost of replacement. Mole Valley, who have 53 cameras and Epsom and Ewell who have 20 and are unlikely to meet the relevant levels of accreditation at their next review. (See appendix C for a summary of camera outcomes during 2021). Both Mole Valley and Epsom and Ewell continue to review their options in respect of CCTV

provision which includes considerations about scoping a new joint strategy with other local authorities working together in the procurement of equipment and monitoring of public place CCTV.

2.9 Tandridge does not have any monitored public place CCTV.

2.10 Surrey Police CCTV staff remain at Reigate police station and monitor the cameras for Reigate and Banstead, Mole Valley and Epsom and Ewell and have access to Airwave. When the cameras are decommissioned in Reigate and Banstead they will only remain monitoring the cameras of the other two boroughs reducing their workload significantly.

West Surrey

2.11 Woking has well-established public place CCTV provision with Surrey Police staff having been Tupe'd across to the local authority in 2020 with the existing monitoring equipment in Woking Police Station decommissioned. Woking Borough Council staff have access to Airwave and therefore can communicate with officers and staff. Woking also monitors the CCTV cameras for Surrey Heath and Surrey Police provide a financial contribution based on the funding formula.

2.12 Guildford, with its busy night-time economy, has 64 cameras (Guildford Town and Ash) with many of these having tangible law enforcement outcomes (see appendix C). Guildford CCTV is monitored by Surrey Police staff from a dedicated suite in Guildford Police Station who also have access to Airwave along with access to the town link radio system which connects businesses (retail) within the town. With a small team operating the cameras, staffing has been very challenging over the past couple of years (in part due to the pandemic) which has meant there has been inconsistent monitoring of CCTV in Guildford often with periods of no staff available at all. This has resulted in a number of concerns being raised by key stakeholders to Surrey Police, Guildford Borough Council and OPCC.

2.13 Guildford Borough Council, along with other key stakeholders such as Experience Guildford, has indicated a desire to retain Town Centre CCTV as have volunteers such as the Street Angels, who support the night time economy in keeping the town safe. Guildford Borough Council is currently reviewing its future CCTV provision and are considering a number of options which include undertaking their own monitoring,

sharing with another provider or having a retrospective monitoring facility only. No timescale has yet been set nor firm decisions made.

- 2.14 Godalming Town CCTV ceased operating in September 2018 with no clear evidence of impact on crime levels.

North Surrey

- 2.15 Runnymede has a long-established public place CCTV monitoring system (Safer Runnymede) with local authority staff also responsible for monitoring the cameras in Spelthorne. They have access to Airwave radio and like Elmbridge (below) Surrey Police contributes funding according to the formula.
- 2.16 Elmbridge outsource their CCTV monitoring to a private company in Luton and therefore do not have access to Airwave.

4.0 The case for CCTV

- 4.1 As can be seen from the summary of provision across the county, there are differing approaches in each borough with some areas investing heavily in public place CCTV and others less so.
- 4.2 It is recognised that public place CCTV can provide a feeling of public safety, but research has shown that this is hard to quantify. Analysis last updated in October 2021 by the College of Policing (examining the results of more than 75 CCTV reviews in the UK, USA and elsewhere in the world), suggests that there is some evidence to show CCTV in car parks does deter some vehicle crime but is less effective in deterring impulsive crimes of violence. CCTV was found to be more effective when used alongside other complementary interventions such as improved lighting or fencing. When implemented without these it was found to not result in a significant reduction in crime.
- 4.3 It is also the case that due to the widespread availability of modern technology – mobile cameras, body worn video, “Ring” doorbell footage, dash cameras etc, there is less reliance on the need for public place CCTV in efforts to prevent and detect crime. That said, in respect of areas with vibrant town centres and a night time economy, the case for public place CCTV can be argued, particularly where volunteers such as Street Angels support efforts to keep the area and its visitors safe.

5.0 Surrey Police position

Surrey Police as part of its statutory obligations under section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 will continue to support any local authority owned public space CCTV through relevant funding contribution where there is a clear business need to support the prevention and detecting of crime and feeling of public safety, particularly in the larger town centres. The existing staffing model at Reigate and Guildford police stations is not robust and any new staff (where vacancies arise) are currently recruited on a fixed term contract basis whilst the decision around CCTV provision in the relevant local authority areas is finalised. This is not a position we would wish to continue indefinitely, and the Force remains committed to the strategic direction of removing police responsibility for CCTV service provision (staff monitoring cameras) as set out in 2018.

Surrey Police would welcome a county wide approach to CCTV or groups of boroughs/districts coming together to collaborate on CCTV as we recognise the benefits of the economy of scale and standardisation in purchasing modern digital equipment along with the sharing of monitoring costs. CCTV equipment must be up to standard in order to be compliant with the national codes of practice and the footage should be capable of being downloaded and shared.

Whatever outstanding decisions are reached by Surrey's borough and district councils as to the future of their public place CCTV, specifically the investment in or upgrading of equipment Surrey Police will continue to be a key stakeholder and would be keen to contribute to (but not lead) any further work in this regard.

Superintendent Tim Shaw 2156

Head of Surrey Police Contact & Deployment Department.

January 2022.

Appendix A - 5-year CCTV Strategy



Appendix B – CCTV reports


E&E 2021 CCTV
Report.xlsm


Mole Valley 2021
CCTV Report.xlsm


Western Guildford
2021 Yearly Report.xl: