

**Committee: SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**Agenda Item**

**Date: 28<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2010**

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**Title: CCTV**

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## Summary

1. This report was requested after a previous scrutiny committee meeting.

### Recommendations

2. Members review and note the report.

### Financial Implications

3. There are no additional costs associated with this report, which is as a request from a previous scrutiny committee meeting.

### Background Papers

4. The following papers were referred to by the author in the preparation of this Report and are available for inspection from the author.
5. Previous minutes of Scrutiny Committee and original CCTV contract.

### Impact

- 6.

Communication/Consultation	Communication/consultation with numerous local authorities in particular Great Dunmow Town Council, CCTV companies and Essex Police.
Community Safety	Provision for crime and disorder/anti-social behaviour, maintaining level of service.
Equalities	None
Health and Safety	None
Human Rights/Legal Implications	Possible implications regarding RIPA and/or data protection

Sustainability	None
Ward-specific impacts	Great Dunmow, Felsted, Saffron Walden, Stansted Mountfitchet.
Workforce/Workplace	None

## Situation

7. At the present moment in time there are a total of 27 public space CCTV cameras cross the Uttlesford district. The cameras are situated as follows: 17 in the Saffron Walden area, 4 in Stansted Mountfitchet and 6 in Dunmow (soon to be increased to 7).
8. Saffron Walden was the first town in the Uttlesford district in which a CCTV system was installed, approximately 10 years ago, starting with 3 CCTV cameras initially.
9. A couple of years later Uttlesford District Council was awarded unmatched funding for additional cameras in Saffron Walden and the installation of cameras in Great Dunmow and Stansted. The funding was to be used to counter car park crime and, as a result, a total of 7 District Council owned car parks were provided with CCTV coverage.
10. Additional cameras were located at various crime and disorder hot spots within the three aforementioned towns. Since then Saffron Walden has had an additional 9 cameras integrated into the system. Saffron Walden Town Council has taken ownership of this system and a further 5 CCTV cameras have been added to the system. There is also a stand alone system protecting the American war memorial at the Anglo American playing fields.
11. As some of the cameras in Saffron Walden were being run by UDC and others by the Saffron Walden Town Council, it was agreed that all of the CCTV cameras in Saffron Walden should be handed over to the Town Council who now run the system.
12. Newport Parish Council has a stand alone CCTV system covering the village playing field, hall etc.
13. Felsted Parish Council is currently considering installing a CCTV camera within the village to provide coverage of the new MUGA and play area. Representatives of the Parish Council have been advised that it is proposed to renew the system in Great Dunmow and that if the same company is being considered then there may be the opportunity to achieve a discount by linking together. This is also the case with Stansted Parish Council who have been advised that they may also link into the new Dunmow system with a possible total of 7 cameras, 4 replacements and 3 new.

14. The town and parish councils at Saffron Walden, Great Dunmow and Stansted all contribute to the annual running costs. It is intended that the current CCTV system in Great Dunmow will be replaced with a wireless system once all the necessary compliance issues have been resolved along with the agreed protocols, codes of practice and individual camera operational requirements etc. The reason for replacement at this time is that the monitoring/control room is being moved to the Great Dunmow Town Council Offices.
15. At a previous scrutiny committee meeting, members requested an update/more information on the following:
16. Data regarding the success rate of CCTV, including any prosecutions, any deterrent value. Officers have to report that having consulted with Essex Police regarding CCTV in this area, it has not been possible to identify any available data as to the success or otherwise of CCTV. Although frequently viewed, and in the case of Saffron Walden monitored, these activities are not recorded. However, Saffron Walden Police station has the ability to monitor 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, should they wish to do so as the monitoring facilities are in the Police control room. Both Great Dunmow Town Council and Stansted Parish Council inform me that the Police regularly review the CCTV system, usually 3 to 4 times a month. As far as burning off an image, this happens approximately 3 to 4 times a year, but records are not kept as to the reasons for this, i.e. they are not informed as to whether the viewing is for a burglary, anti-social behaviour etc. However, all parties believe that CCTV remains a real deterrent.
17. As the legislation regarding the use of CCTV system is changing, records regarding viewing and retrieval of information from the system will need to be updated and adhered to and stringently enforced. Further, it is recommended that a limited number of named personnel are involved in this process. In future, therefore, it will be much easier to identify the reasons for viewing requests and the contribution the system makes towards crime and disorder reduction.

## Risk Analysis

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
Failure to provide/maintain adequate CCTV coverage Risk of crime and disorder/anti social behaviour/evidence not being obtained	1. Failure to maintain system unlikely as full maintenance contract will be in force	2. If a serious offence occurred, failure to maintain CCTV system could result in vital evidence not being	Systems in place to prevent this occurring. UDC/Essex Police will regularly meet/check/appraise systems

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- 1 = Little or no risk or impact
- 2 = Some risk or impact – action may be necessary.
- 3 = Significant risk or impact – action required
- 4 = Near certainty of risk occurring, catastrophic effect or failure of project.