

Minutes

Economic Scrutiny Panel

27th November, 2007, Newton Hall Community Centre

Present: Councillor Hopgood (in the Chair)
and Councillors Bartle, Colledge, Kelly, Lightley, Marsden, Simpson and Stoddart

Also Present: Chief Inspector Ivan Wood
Inspector Dick Dodds,
Inspector Ian Proud
Mr Keith Davis – Community Safety Officer
Councillor Kellett and Portfolio Holder for Communities,
Councillor Thomson

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Plews, Simmons and Wilkes

2. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 30th October, 2007 were agreed as a true record, subject to the record of Councillor Thomson's attendance being included.

3. Scrutiny of CCTV

Members had attended a tour of the control room and had signed a declaration of secrecy, they had witnessed the cameras at work, the storage of discs and how the photographic evidence is used.

The Community Safety Manager informed the Panel that separate deployable cameras are used in areas identified as hot spots. These cameras are funded by the Partnership, it costs £5000 to update the camera system onto the 3G network. While the images are good they are not of the same quality as those used by the control room.

Covert cameras require different lenses and two cameras are required, this type of camera is excellent for acquiring evidence of fly tipping or anti social behaviour.

How valuable is the CCTV service to the Police?

CCTV is an excellent preventative tool, but how can this be proved. Some towns in the County do not have CCTV systems and there were increases in retail crime and other crimes. The Police use the evidence to prove offences have been committed.

The Police Officers in attendance were asked about funding issues.

The Police will use CCTV but will not fund it, the Police do not fund any CCTV. Partnership funding is obtained through Government Office for mobile CCTV.

Are Police happy with where the cameras?

There are communications could be better, there are also training issues of control staff concerning what resources should be used. The Police are appreciative of CCTV but in some cases this costs the Police in terms of personnel deployed to an incident.

Inspector Proud informed the Panel that a draft report had been sent to the Executive Director for comments and that there were various recommendations. Once the report has been finalised a copy will be sent to the Panel.

Councillors suggested that there was an emphasis on the City rather than the villages. The Community Safety Officer informed the Panel that every Councillor wanted to use the cameras but the fairest system was based on the numbers of calls received, this is intelligence lead. A village has the use of the camera for twelve weeks, but this is not set in stone and should the camera be needed elsewhere it would be moved.

Members asked about the problems at the Bus Station, the Police Officers advised the Panel that the dispersal order had worked but as it had now elapsed problems were returning. The Police advised that the County Council had been proactive but if no progress were made another dispersal order would be made.

The police advised that it is impossible to have 100% coverage that there would always be some blind spots.

The Police Officers explained that covert cameras are the way forward as using the overt cameras just moves the problem somewhere else.

The Chair and Members thanked the Police Officers, Community Safety Officer and Portfolio Holder for Communities for their attendance.

4. Any Other Business

There was no other business to discuss.

The Meeting terminated at 6.15 p.m.