

Minutes

Economic Scrutiny Panel

18th December, 2007, Newton Hall Community Centre

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

Also Present: Councillors Bell, Kellett, Thompson and Turnbull

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Plews and Stoddart

NOTE: 5.31 p.m. Councillor Thompson joined the meeting

2. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 27th November, 2007 were agreed as a true record.

3. Scrutiny of CCTV

The Chair advised the Panel that she had sight of Durham Police draft report on Durham City CCTV system recommendations. The recommendations were as follows:-

It is recommended that a quarterly meeting be established between Durham Constabulary and Durham City Council to maintain common objectives review strategic plans and deal with real or anticipated problems.

It is recommended that Durham Constabulary investigate the possibility of establishing an appropriate and effective feedback procedure on cases where CCTV System product has been provided.

It is recommended that consideration be given to establishing a programme of visits for new and experienced officers so that awareness of procedures is built up and communication processes enhanced.

It is recommended that as part of a wider information strategy a wider ranging survey be carried out with stakeholders in the retail, commercial, academic and residential sectors within the boundaries of the CCTV System.

It is recommended that consideration be given to having a decision maker in the CCTV Control Room during busy times or special events who can advise on the evidence during live incidents or immediate review to assist in the arresting of offenders and detection of offences.

It is recommended that consideration be given to promoting the use of the system by private sector interests within the geographical area of coverage.

It is recommended that consideration be given to reviewing staffing levels for the CCTV to limit the cross abstraction with Careline.

Members discussed the recommendations of the Police report and agreed that a recommendation of the Panel be to support the police report.

Councillor Colledge gave a précis of the Panel visit to the Control Room. Members agreed that the quality of the images from the CCTV was excellent.

Members discussed the compatibility of the mobile cameras and the quality of the images they produced and recommended that mobile cameras purchased should be compatible

Members agreed that training should be given to control room staff but this should be a joint training session with Police Officers.

At no time had any person involved with the scrutiny had asked for additional cameras therefore, it was agreed by the Panel that a budget be made available to upgrade existing cameras.

Members were concerned with incidents at the Bus Station had suggested that another camera may be required. Also it was suggested that if the problems continue, then petitions to the County Council for another dispersal order would be required.

Meeting terminated at 6.03 p.m.