

Item 6

REPORT TO CABINET

22ND DECEMBER 2005

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF
NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES.

Community Safety

AUTOMATIC NUMBER PLATE RECOGNITION (ANPR)

1. SUMMARY

ANPR technology has been successful in reducing crime, road casualties and increasing public reassurance in areas where it has been deployed. The Sedgefield Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership has supported Durham Constabulary in a successful bid to government to increase ANPR capacity in the southern force areas of Sedgefield and Darlington.

ANPR will be introduced in 5 key locations within Sedgefield Borough from April, 2006. Capital costs directly associated with the initiative totalling £85,000 will be met by Durham Constabulary supported by £7,000 from the Borough Council as part of a commitment under the 2005/06 Community Safety Capital Programme.

The introduction of ANPR within the Borough is seen as making a significant contribution to establishing Sedgefield as a Borough with Strong Communities by promoting safer neighbourhoods and in accordance with Corporate Plan Aim 35 will contribute to crime reduction.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) That the Council extends its partnership working with Durham Constabulary by the introduction of the ANPR initiative within the Borough.
- 2) That the sum of £7000 be allocated from the 2005/6 Community Safety Capital Programme to provide a wireless CCTV connection to the Chilton Bypass.

3. ANPR IN SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH.

Sedgefield Borough Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership has supported a bid by Durham Constabulary as part of a £15m national programme to roll out automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR). The Durham bid which covers the Southern Force Area including Sedgefield and Darlington has been successful with a target date for implementation of April, 2006.

Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras allow tracking of suspect vehicles and can determine within seconds whether a vehicle has been stolen, is known to be involved in a crime, or is untaxed.

Cameras scan and record the vehicle registration marks. The numbers are then cross-checked against a number of databases, including the Police National Computer, the DVLA databases and police intelligence records, both locally and regionally, to identify vehicles of interest to the Police.

If a registration plate is flagged up on a database, the system alerts the CCTV Control Centre with both a visual and audible signal, providing details of which database has triggered a hit. The Control Centre then coordinates with Police recognition, monitoring or interception of the vehicle by Police response vehicles.

ANPR cameras will be deployed at specified key locations throughout the Borough, building on the existing CCTV network with monitoring undertaken at the Council Control Centre at Chilton.

The capital cost of providing ANPR cameras at 5 sites throughout the Borough plus installation of ANPR technology in the Control Room together with additional hardware upgrades in the Control Centre will be some £85,000 which will be met by Durham Constabulary as will an annual cost of £10,000 with regard to an upgrade of the data line from the Control Centre to Bishop Auckland Police Headquarters. This funding will also support the Borough network of cameras by the addition of a new camera / location on the Chilton bypass. The Borough Council will support £7,000 capital for this site from the 2005/6 Community Safety Capital Programme to provide a 'wireless' CCTV connection which in addition to removing line rental costs will inform our thinking on technology options for the future of CCTV.

The ANPR agreement will be for 3 years. After year 1 maintenance of the ANPR equipment will be absorbed at minimal cost to our CCTV maintenance contract.

A Memorandum of Understanding has been developed between the Police and Neighbourhood Services Department with regard to operation of ANPR. This MOU places control over the overall CCTV / ANPR network and CCTV Operators involvement in monitoring with the Borough Council. This will ensure that ANPR monitoring is not undertaken to the detriment of our own CCTV monitoring function.

ANPR cameras will be located in Chilton, Ferryhill, Newton Aycliffe, Sedgfield, Shildon and Spennymoor.

ANPR has received significant positive national publicity over recent months and its introduction within Sedgfield Borough is seen as a key tool in reducing crime, road traffic accidents and increasing public reassurance.

The technology to be provided in the Control Room will

- include capacity to support further growth within the system.
- will gather and add valuable data to the database without operators actively monitoring which will result in arrests which would not otherwise have happened.
- will support dedicated joint operations with Police in relation to uninsured vehicles, disqualified drivers, travelling criminals and movement of drugs.
- Will increase the likelihood of the Sedgfield area becoming 'target hardened' to criminals and thereby reducing crime in the Borough.

3. **RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

Capital cost directly associated with ANPR in Sedgefield Borough totalling some £85,000 will be met by Durham Constabulary. £7,000 within the 2005/06 Community Safety Capital Programme will support the addition of a new camera / location at Chilton Bypass utilising new wireless technology.

After year 1, ANPR maintenance costs, which are minimal, will be absorbed within the CCTV maintenance contract.

Sedgefield Borough Council CCTV Control Room will undertake monitoring of ANPR as part of the Borough's commitment to shared community safety objectives. Although no income will be forthcoming to the Borough for monitoring ANPR this is considered to be more than offset by the contribution ANPR will make to reducing crime & disorder and fear of crime in the area. Additionally, detailed operational procedures which are in place will ensure ANPR monitoring will not be undertaken to the detriment of other CCTV monitoring.

4. **CONSULTATIONS**

Consultation has taken place with the Sedgefield C&DRP and is underway with Town and Parish Councils within those areas ANPR cameras will be deployed.

Opportunity will be given to Elected Members from the Borough and participating Town & Parish Councils to view ANPR in operation following its introduction in April, 2006.

5. **OTHER MATERIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

The proposal is consistent with the Crime & Disorder Strategy for the Borough and supports the Borough Council in meeting its responsibilities under Section 17 of the Crime & Disorder Act 1998.

6. **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY IMPLICATIONS**

None.

7. **LIST OF APPENDICES**

ANPR – Memorandum of Understanding.

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Wards:

Key Decision Validation: n/A

Background Papers:

Examination by Statutory Officers

	Yes	Not Applicable
1. The report has been examined by the Council's Head of the Paid Service or his representative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. The content has been examined by the Council's S.151 Officer or his representative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. The content has been examined by the Council's Monitoring Officer or his representative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. The report has been approved by Management Team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>