

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **CUMNOCK AREA LOCAL COMMITTEE - 30 MARCH 2006**

#### **PUBLIC SPACE CLOSE CIRCUIT TELEVISION**

##### **Report by Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services**

### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To advise Cumnock Area Local Committee of the function and operation of the Public Space Close Circuit Television system in the Cumnock area.

### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 In 1998, 3 cameras were installed in the Cumnock Town Centre area, using funding obtained from the Scottish Office Challenge Fund. At that time, monitoring was carried out on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings between 6 p.m. and 2 a.m.
- 2.2 The system was extended in 2000 when cameras were installed at Mauchline Cross and Dalmellington Square.
- 2.3 In 2001, another 3 cameras were installed in the vicinity of the town centre. At the same time, other cameras were installed in Mauchline, Auchinleck and New Cumnock. Simultaneously, monitoring hours were increased with 2 operators working alternative weeks from 6 p.m. to 2 a.m. on a 7 day on, 7 day off basis.
- 2.4 In 2005, another 2 cameras were installed in Glaisnock Street and Craigens Road, Cumnock, as well as a further camera in Bellsbank, bringing the total number of cameras monitored at Cumnock Police Office to 14.
- 2.5 The system extensions over the years have been funded through Better Neighbourhood Services Fund and Community Regeneration Funds and the Council's Capital Programme.

### **3. DISCUSSION**

- 3.1 As a consequence of the foregoing, the 14 cameras that make up the Cumnock and Doon Valley Public Space Close Circuit Television System are proactively monitored, by civilian staff employed by Neighbourhood Services Department, for 56 hours every week between the hours of 6 p.m. and 2 a.m.
- 3.2 However, both during and outwith the proactive monitoring hours, camera images are recorded on video cassette recorders, on a 'real time' and 'elapsed time' basis.

- 3.3 The system at Cumnock Police Office has 1 'Real Time' video cassette recorder and 1 'Elapsed Time' video cassette recorder. 'Real time' cassettes are changed every 3 hours and the 'elapsed time' tape every 24 hours.
- 3.4 Police Officers have access to the stored tapes at all times. In the event of a situation developing outwith normal monitoring hours, police officers can also access the system and monitor incidents.
- 3.5 'Real Time' tapes are stored for a minimum period of 7 days before being used again. 'Elapsed Time' tapes are retained for a minimum period of 31 days before being used again. This is consistent with agreed protocols and best practice.
- 3.6 The construction and commissioning of the Risk Management Station at Council Headquarters, currently scheduled for completion by March 2007, will see all Public Space Close Circuit Television System monitoring housed under the one roof. A Progress Group under the chair of the Head of Protective Services has been established to consider all matters relating to the Risk Management Station and this will include hours of operation.

#### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 After the initial cameras were installed as a result of successful bids to the Scottish Office Challenge Fund, the development of Public Space Close Circuit Television throughout East Ayrshire has been funded primarily through bids to different funds and the Council's Capital Programme.
- 4.2 As the number of cameras controlled at Cumnock Police Office has increased, the number of operators has also increased from 3 day coverage to 7 day coverage.

#### **5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The Council has to comply with all relevant legislation (including data protection, public advice etc) when operating Public Realm CCTV Systems.

#### **6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The extension of Public Space Close Circuit Television throughout East Ayrshire contributes to The Community Plan objective of Improving Community Safety. It is specifically referred to within the Improving Community Safety Action Plan 2005-2007, Action 3.4 – promote the use of CCTV throughout East Ayrshire.

## **7. CONCLUSIONS**

- 7.1 Between 1998 and present date, the Public Space Close Circuit Television System in the Cumnock and Doon Valley Area has increased in size from 3 cameras to 14.
- 7.2 The monitoring hours have also increased from 24 hours over 3 days to 56 hours over 7 days.
- 7.3 The commissioning of the Risk Management Station will provide an opportunity to increase the monitoring hours of all cameras through East Ayrshire area to 24 hours per day.

## **8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 8.1 The Cumnock Local Area Committee is invited to note the comments of the report.

William Stafford  
**Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services**

WS/DJ

14 March 2006

### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Nil.

Implementation officer: [john.crawford@east-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:john.crawford@east-ayrshire.gov.uk)