

Appendix 1

AREA COMMITTEE REPORT– SHORT FORM

1. Item of business and issues for consideration

The Central Area Committee is asked to consider a funding request of £2,500 to install two temporary CCTV cameras within areas of the Westgate Ward that have seen ongoing, historical issues with anti-social behaviour, drug related crime and paraphernalia, and fly-tipping. All CCTV applications must take into consideration the Council's responsibilities under the Data Protection Act 1998, the Human Rights Act 1998, the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000, and existing CCTV's Codes of Practice. Please see attached information regarding the deployment of CCTV cameras. An application has been submitted and is currently being reviewed, and if successful, the requested £2,500 will be committed to install two of these cameras.

These issues have been long term concerns for the Central Neighbourhood Partnership Group (NPG), the Police Central Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT), local residents and the Central Area Committee. Positive initiatives, such as community cohesion events, the changing of trade access to flats in order to restrict access, Operation Volcanic (police led initiative to tackle drug related crime) have already been put in place to try to combat and manage these issues with some success, but evidence suggests that due to the nature of the area it is difficult to identify, catch, and prosecute persistent offenders, leaving local residents frustrated and lacking in confidence with local services.

Ipswich Borough Council (IBC) Housing Services has had ongoing concerns with anti-social behaviour in the communal areas of the blocks it manages in the Westgate Ward and has worked with tenants to restrict access times to non-residents, but there is still activity being reported and Housing Officers and Community Caretakers regularly witness evidence of drug use within communal areas, including discarded needles, blood and human excrement. It has also seen an increase in the number of vulnerable tenants being targeted by organised drug gangs. Once access has been gained to a tenant's property, it is then used as a point of contact for users to obtain class 'A' drugs. Current tenants include families with young children who have to live with these conditions.

Jubilee Park is an area with historical anti-social behaviour related issues. Damage to the children's play equipment occurs on almost a weekly basis and is used as an area for groups to gather resulting in empty alcohol cans and general litter being discarded throughout the play area. This type of activity discourages families with young children from accessing the equipment. One Permanente camera has already been installed to monitor the play area and this will be reviewed when identifying suitable locations for the two temporary cameras being requested.

The neighbourhood also suffers from high levels of fly-tipping activity. There are a number of passage ways that run behind and along several properties, sometimes owned by private landlords who take little or no responsibility resulting in tenants and neighbours using these passage ways to abandon old unwanted furniture. Cultural differences, a lack of understanding and education on how to dispose of waste correctly also results in furniture and bags of rubbish being left on the side of the road in residential areas. Without evidence of who is doing this, it is very difficult for any enforcement action to be taken.

The difficulty faced by all services, as stated above is being able to identify and prosecute those responsible. The neighbourhood and surrounding area is made up of no through roads and interlinking passage ways making evading a police response car easy. CCTV would

enable police to track perpetrators through the area or review pictures at a later date. The installation of CCTV within the area would also increase the opportunity of identifying those responsible for anti-social behaviour and consistent fly-tipping, which may result in more prosecutions as well as becoming a future deterrent for criminal activity.

The two cameras proposed will be installed on a six month trial basis to support and provide evidence as to whether the area would benefit from further cameras to help tackle ongoing concerns. Cameras will be placed high up on lampposts already in place to ensure against vandalism.

2. List of supporting documents for consideration

CCTV Application Criteria
Parks and Open Spaces damage report for Jubilee Park
Supporting evidence provided by Central SNT

3. Summary of any other consultation carried out and outcomes

[Note - It's not necessary to include any consultation referred to in documents listed in Box 2]

IBC Community Safety, Housing Services, Videcom, Central SNT and Ward Councillors have all been involved in the process of identifying areas of concerns and suitable locations for cameras.

4. Links to Area Action Plan or other adopted policies

Central Area Committee Action Plan priority One: Reduce ASB in key areas.
Central Area Committee Action Plan priority Three: Proud of our Environment.

5. Financial implications

£2,500 funding with contribute towards the installation of two mobile cameras, programming & configuring on Vemotion Server and connecting to the Synectics system, plus CCTV signs.

6. Proposed Date of Decision

Wednesday 11th March 2015

7. Recommended Decision

That the Central Area Committee approves funding of £2,500 from the Central Area Committee budget for temporary CCTV cameras in Westgate Ward on a trial basis.

8. Reasons for decision

To trial CCTV cameras situated in key areas to help tackle and deter anti-social behaviour and examine, if successful, whether there is a need for further cameras to be added at a later date.

9. Alternatives considered and reasons why rejected

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10. Conflicts of interest

Name of all members who were consulted AND declared a conflict of interest	Nature of interest	Did the Audit & Governance Committee give a dispensation for that conflict of interest? (if yes give details and date of dispensation)

11. Risks considered

Risk	Impact of risk, if it occurred* (Scale of 1-4) 1 – Catastrophic 4 - Negligible	Probability of risk occurring* (Scale A-F) A- Very likely F- almost impossible	What is the council doing (or what has it done) to avoid the risk or reduce its effect?
Funding not approved resulting in continued high level of anti-social behaviour, environmental issues such as fly tipping and a negative living environment for local residence.	2	B	By approving the proposed funding risk can be reduced and assist central SNT to tackle this issues.

*taking account of the proposed mitigation measures.

12. Record of Decision taken

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13. Exemption from call in (if applicable)

I certify that this decision is urgent and therefore exempt from call-in for the following reasons:

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Signed.....
[This must be signed by the Chair of the Area Committee]

This is a public document.
