

<b>Agenda Item</b>	11 <b>(REISSUED)</b>
<b>Report No</b>	CIA/32/20

## THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

**Committee:** City of Inverness Area Committee

**Date:** 19 November 2020

**Report Title:** CCTV – Public Space City CCTV system

**Report By:** Executive Chief Officer – Environment and Infrastructure and Inverness Area Commander, Police Scotland

### 1. Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report updates the members of the City of Inverness Committee on operation of the public space CCTV system in Inverness and provides an update on the outcomes achieved by the Inverness cameras.
- 1.2 The also provides an assessment of the condition of the assets and a suggested timeline for future development (including presenting a report on the development of public space CCTV across the Highlands) to be presented to the City Area Committee.

### 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to:
  - i. Note the repair and improvement works undertaken to repair damage sustained by electrical storms and through works by statutory undertakers.
  - ii. Note the outcomes achieved by the Inverness CCTV System as reported by Police Scotland.
  - iii. Support the proposal that a report on the options for development of public space CCTV (both in Inverness and the Highlands), with updates on the operation of the City CCTV system is presented to the City Area Committee.

### 3. Implications

- 3.1 Resource – The ICF provides up to £90,000 of funding annually towards the operation and monitoring of the CCTV system across Inverness. Highland Council allocates an annual revenue budget of £111,000. Revenue funding provides for the annual monitoring and maintenance contracts covering the routine operation of the CCTV

system in Inverness and the other 8 locations within the Highlands.

- 3.2 Legal - The Public space CCTV system is operated in accordance with the relevant national legislation, to ensure compliance with the RIPS(A) Regulations our data management systems are inspected through regular inspections undertaken by the Office of The Investigatory Powers Commissioner, the most recent in July 2020.
- 3.3 Community (Equality, Poverty, Rural and Island) - The use of public space CCTV can provide improvements to public safety through improved crime detection rates, improved responses to incidents involving missing persons and general improvement in public perception of community safety.
- 3.4 Climate Change / Carbon Clever - There are no Climate Change/Carbon Clever implications in relation to this report.
- 3.5 Risk – There are no risk implications in relation to this report.
- 3.6 Gaelic - There are no Gaelic implications in relation to this report.

#### **4. Background**

- 4.1 The Inverness Public Space CCTV System is run as a partnership between The Highland Council and Police Scotland. Highland Council are responsible for operating and maintaining the system using specialist suppliers providing these services, Enigma undertaking operation and monitoring, whilst maintenance provided by a specialist maintenance contractor based in Inverness.
- 4.2 The Inverness CCTV system consists of 43 CCTV's out of 128 across the Highlands located in the 8 Highland communities; Dingwall, Fort William, Invergordon, Muir of Ord, Nairn, Tain, Thurso and Wick. Police Scotland provide secure office space for the primary monitoring site at Burnett Road Police Station and additional monitoring facilities across the Highlands.
- 4.3 In 2019/20 The Inverness Common Good Fund provided annual funding of £85,000 with Highland Council providing £111,000 of revenue funding. For 2020/21 similar budget allocations have been made.
- 4.4 Following an electrical storm in August 2020 the system was found to have sustained significant damage with 11 analogue cameras and several communication units requiring replacement. Inspections were undertaken within 24 hours. To maintain system operability emergency repairs were made to enable the cameras to continue to function in black and white. Orders for replacement digital cameras were placed and units installed in the following three weeks as they arrived from the manufacturers. At the same time repairs of some non-attributable damage caused by third parties such as statutory undertakers and road works contractors were completed. The recent development of a secure highspeed wireless Mesh network for control of the traffic signals enabled the cameras at Inshes and Young Street to be switched onto the Mesh system replacing the damaged hard wired linkages.
- 4.5 This report is provided in support of the Inverness CCTV partnership's review of CCTV provision.
- 4.6 Police Scotland support this partnership through the provision of secure accommodation for the operators, including all utilities for the running of the system and comfort facilities

for staff. The system stands alone from Police Scotland control and access for investigation relies an agreed information sharing protocol.

- 4.7 Police Scotland cannot direct camera operators, take over CCTV or access footage without proper authority and without due regard to Data Protection Act 1998 and the Regulation of Investigatory Powers (Scotland) 2000.
- 4.8 All evidence obtained through CCTV as an aid to investigation is used in support of other evidence and cannot be solely relied upon for criminal proceedings.
- 4.9 Neither Police Scotland or the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service collate data in relation to the use of CCTV evidence in criminal cases. Enigma, who operate the cameras on behalf of the partnership have provided figures for incidents involving CCTV during 2018- 2019 at all sites in Highlands. Figures below:

Count of Nature of Incident	Nature of Incident											
	Assault	Drink Related	Drug Involvement	Emergency Services	Mis/Per	Public Disorder	Sus. Person/Vehicle	Theft	Traffic related	Vandalism	Misc	Grand Total
Jan	16	15	3	13	65	131	19	20	40	4	202	528
Feb	11	12	6	10	39	88	8	18	22	2	168	384
Mar	15	28	2	23	59	118	25	21	44	0	179	514
Apr	11	24	10	20	59	137	27	34	51	1	230	604
May	27	33	8	17	88	149	33	49	61	3	210	678
Jun	21	39	8	11	92	139	26	24	62	5	160	587
Jul	34	26	4	23	62	128	20	31	57	1	192	578
Aug	20	27	10	16	52	137	28	41	47	3	198	579
Sep	21	32	7	12	52	119	15	30	37	0	173	498
Oct	34	21	7	26	52	123	33	50	49	5	251	651
Nov	31	26	17	19	66	130	28	34	47	4	256	658
Dec	13	42	17	30	55	166	24	43	54	1	205	650
Grand Total	254	325	99	220	741	1565	286	395	571	29	2424	6909

- 4.10 The figures shown in the table in para 4.9, cover any CCTV coverage incidents as complied by Enigma, the CCTV Monitoring/operating contractor. Figures are recorded either as a result of monitoring team observation or by contact from; the police control room, pub watch, shops or the Inverness City Police team as show in the table below.

Count of Nature of Incident	
CCTV Monitoring Team	2964
Police Control Room	2082
NIGHT (Pub watch etc)	654
DAY (shops, pub watch etc)	526
Inverness City Centre Poling Team	683
Total	6909

## 5. Assessment of Current Use

- 5.1 The objectives of the existing (2014) Inverness CCTV partnership, between Police Scotland and Highland Council, remain relevant;

Objective 1 The prevention and detection of crime and the apprehension and prosecution of offenders

Objective 2 To enhance community safety

- 5.2 With the outcomes continuing to be aligned to the Highland Outcome Improvement Plan 2017-2027;

- 5.3 Community Safety & Resilience – people in highland will benefit from living in stronger, safer and more resilient communities, while supporting the cross-cutting theme of Community Investment and Development.

- 5.4 The availability and proactive use of public space CCTV is undoubtedly an attractive incentive for business (including daytime and night time economies) seeking to operate in Inverness and across the highlands. In Inverness city centre police Scotland has teamed up the BID to support the use of shopsafe radios, where businesses can have direct contact with the CCTV to report crimes at the time they are occurring and the monitoring of victims/suspects until police arrive.
- 5.5 CCTV is a core investigative consideration for a wide range of crimes and enquiries. Its common uses include:
- Preventing antisocial behaviour, particularly drug or drink related
  - Preventing and detecting antisocial behaviour associated with the busy night-time economy
  - Reporting of live time incidents, e.g. assaults
  - Missing person investigations
- 5.6 Unfortunately, it is not possible to accurately analyse the Police or Procurator Fiscal use of CCTV as no figures have been gathered since its inception. However, a simple text search of Police crime management system, across Highland, from 01/01/20 to 28/09/20 shows 12,899 references to “CCTV”. This may be public or private CCTV but illustrates its benefits as an investigative tool and the reliance upon CCTV from an evidential perspective.
- 5.7 What cannot be quantified, through any analysis, are the qualitative benefits of CCTV, namely the preventative impact and obvious deterrent which CCTV offers, with significant enhancement of community and personal safety.
- 5.8 The following case studies illustrate common use and benefits of the CCTV system:

On the 21<sup>st</sup> March 2020 an incident occurred at Aspendos, 26 Queensgate, Inverness whereby two males were involved in an altercation that resulted in an assault on one person and damaged to the business premises window. There was limited witness evidence. CCTV was captured of the incident and used to identify the respective accused and a report was submitted to the Procurator Fiscal with the CCTV evidence downloaded. Two males were charged and a compensation order sought for the damage.

On the 7<sup>th</sup> August 2020 the CCTV operator at Burnett Road notified local officers that a male was causing a disturbance outside the Glenalbyn Bar. With the assistance of the operator the attending officers traced a male known to them who started to fight with the officers. He had already been released for a similar offence and was breaching his bail. Everything was captured by the operator on CCTV and submitted in evidence supporting the officers.

## **6. Limitations of Use**

- 6.1 There are some commonly encountered issues with CCTV which have been encountered since its introduction. They are noted below for consideration:
- When an operator is not on duty cameras are placed in a holding position and occasionally will not capture events in the area – the presence of a camera does not guarantee evidence captured
  - Analogue cameras do not zoom in well and there can be issues with identification

## **7. Future Use**

- 7.1 The recent increase and enhancement of public space CCTV, without doubt, has had a positive impact upon community safety and reduction of antisocial behaviour and any future improvements would continue to meet shared objectives of the partnership.
- 7.2 While Police investigations cannot wholly rely on CCTV evidence it remains an invaluable tool.
- 7.3 Given the issues faced in the past it would be considered prudent to look closely at staffing numbers, quality of cameras and a policy of benefits capture in any new system or upgrade.

## **8.0 Development**

- 8.1 The CCTV Partnership recognised that the general age of the CCTV systems along with recent and ongoing developments in digital technology provides an opportunity review how the system should be developed, operated and maintained.

Resultant to the recent electrical storm, replacement of analogue cameras and communications units with digital equipment delivered immediate benefits of improved camera resolution and increases in data transfer speeds.

- 8.2 An initial review of the Inverness and Highland CCTV systems has been undertaken, which has identified that there are several options for the next phase of development of the CCTV system. The availability of digital technology offers opportunity to implement an expansion of the CCTV system by adding data feeds from some of the Councils other CCTV systems in Inverness and across the Highlands. Such examples are the 48 CCTV cameras at Rose Street Car Park, the on street traffic control cameras, external Highland Council building security cameras covering public areas. Development of the CCTV system requires a strategic approach, it is intended to take a report on development options for the CCTV system to a strategic committee in the new year.
- 8.3 To increase familiarity with the CCTV system and provide further opportunity for members to have specific questions answered, all members of the City of Inverness Area Committee will be invited to visit the CCTV Monitoring facility based in Burnett Road Police Station.

Designation:

Date: 9 November 2020

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Background Papers: