



Report of	Meeting	Date
Democratic Services	Overview and Scrutiny Task Group – CCTV provision in Chorley	15 May 2014

PARISH COUNCIL CONSULTATION

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- To inform members of the Group of representations made by those Parish Councils who responded to the recent consultation on CCTV provision in Chorley.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

- To note the representations made.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

- The Group requested that the 22 Parish Councils across Chorley be consulted upon and asked for their views on the review in relation to the following:
 - What value did they place on the current CCTV system and service?
 - What benefits, if any, did they receive from the service?
 - Did they currently make any contribution to the provision of the service?
 - What impact, did they feel there would be if the CCTV system was to be either reduced or upgraded?
 - Where they able to provide any anecdotal evidence of how the CCTV system and its service had benefited them.

Responses were received from the six Parish Councils of Adlington, Astley Village, Charnock Richard, Clayton-Le-Woods, Eccleston and Whittle-Le-Woods

Confidential report Please bold as appropriate	Yes	No

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- This report relates to the following Strategic Objectives:

Involving residents in improving their local area and equality of access for all		A strong local economy	
Clean, safe and healthy communities	√	An ambitious council that does more to meet the needs of residents and the local area	

BACKGROUND

- As part of Chorley Council's Overview and Scrutiny role, an Overview and Scrutiny Task Group has been established to look at CCTV provision in Chorley (Chaired by Councillor Robert Finnamore) with the aim of providing suitable options for future systems, taking into account the impact of surveillance for the Council, the police, its partners and residents, balanced alongside budget implications for the Council.

RESPONSES RECEIVED FROM PARISH COUNCILS

6. Adlington Town Council

Adlington Town Council considers that CCTV is necessary in the Adlington area as the village has frequently been the subject of criminal activity from outside Lancashire in the past due to its proximity to the county border and major road networks. Adlington residents benefit from the knowledge that the main centres of the village are being monitored and that information is available to the Police when incidents occur. The Town Council does not currently make a contribution to the service but would consider this in future if required in order to retain the facility.

Reduction of the service would negate the benefits listed above. If the system were to be upgraded to provide 360o and best quality coverage this would obviously improve identification of individuals and car registrations, and would avoid the situation, as reported in the past, where an incident occurs but the cameras are either pointing the wrong way or the definition is too poor for an identification to be made. The Town Council was able to recover the cost of a planter destroyed in a road incident in 2012 with information obtained via the CCTV cameras

7. Astley Village Parish Council

Astley Village Parish Council believes that the service is undermanned and has a lack of night vision and range. They are unaware of any prosecutions or preventions and never told. They would like to see any statistics available for the CCTV service. Astley Village Parish Council feel there would be greater impact if the system was improved and manned and had proof of reducing crime. They also added that the mobile service is effective, useful and know of prosecutions deriving from this service.

8. Charnock Richard Parish Council

Charnock Parish Council believes that the CCTV cameras in Chorley Town Centre are extremely valuable, beneficial and essential. The Parish Council do believe that improvements and upgrades to both the equipment used, and the extent of coverage of the Town Centre, could be justified and would assist with further cuts in crime figures. Cuts in this service provision would result in an increase in crime figures, particularly violent crime, thefts and drug related crimes.

The Parish of Charnock Richard do not have any financial input towards CCTV provision in the Town Centre nor do they benefit directly from the provision. They are however aware of the existence of the mobile CCTV unit but have not as yet taken advantage of this.

9. Clayton-Le-Woods Parish Council

Clayton-Le-Woods Parish Council would like the continued use of the CCTV provision at Clayton Brook as this is very effective. It was mentioned that perhaps in the future consideration could be given to an upgrade of the system.

10. Eccleston Parish Council

Eccleston Parish Council were very disappointed at the nature of the 'survey'. In the absence of background information of any description it feels unable to provide any meaningful responses to the questions.

The single question on line consultation was not felt to be worthy of the description 'consultation'.

11. Whittle-Woods Parish Council

Whittle-Le-Woods Parish Council organised a visit to the CCTV suite in Chorley. They were impressed with the CCTV suite which was obviously fit for purpose, though quite old at 15 years old. It was suggested that perhaps an additional camera could be installed at the Hartwood roundabout (A6).

It was also felt that the system required updating to a more modern high definition system with infra-red lighting for better night visibility. Perhaps this could be leased as an alternative to purchasing?

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