

Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Task Group – CCTV Provision and Infrastructure May 2014



CONTENTS PAGE

	Page No
1. PREFACE	3
2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	4-5
3. LIST OF RECOMMENDATIONS	6-7
4. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT	8-10
5. METHOD OF INVESTIGATION	11
6. FINDINGS	12-15
7. CONCLUSION	16
APPENDIX 1	

1. PREFACE

Under the requirement to undertake scrutiny of crime and disorder matters, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered a detailed report of the Director of People and Places on the current Chorley CCTV service and existing infrastructure and also information about CCTV systems in other authorities where systems had been reduced or decommissioned.

The report included information about provision in the South Ribble area where the system was much smaller and also in Blackpool where the Council had decided, due to budgetary pressures, to stop staffing the system.

Details about Chorley's CCTV system – the hours of operation, infrastructure, and staffing and maintenance issues were provided, along with overall comments on the impact of reducing CCTV coverage, cost implications and potential options for improvements in the future.

In discussion Members raised the public perception of safety provide by CCTV, how far cameras acted as a deterrent, the cameras role in preventing the escalation of crime or the prosecution of offenders including those involved in serious crime.

As the subject was a complex one, the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny suggested that a full scrutiny review on the provision of CCTV in Chorley be undertaken by a Task Group to inform future CCTV provision in the Borough.

In undertaking the review of provision, the Task Group engaged with both partners and customers to ensure that all perspectives were considered and to ensure the scrutiny was balanced. The system was perceived as being highly valued by the community and an effective tool used in the prevention of crime and disorder.

We would like to thank the Task Group Members for their deliberations, the officers and the external representatives and the residents of Chorley who made a contribution to this report. The representations we received have proved invaluable and enabled us to recommend a number of options for the Executive to explore to enable the Council to better serve our residents of Chorley.



Councillor Robert Fynamore (Chair)



Councillor Kim Snape (Vice Chair)

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee asked the Task Group to undertake a scrutiny inquiry to look at CCTV Provision and Infrastructure in Chorley.

Chorley Council's closed circuit television system (CCTV) is solely owned and operated by the Council and comprises a number of overt cameras located across the Chorley borough area. The infrastructure has been in place for 18 years with some upgrades and improvements to equipment during that time but is essentially analogue based whereas current technology has moved to a digital format.

There are three main areas to the system:

- CCTV suite with monitored screens
- Recording capability for images
- Image capturing hardware – cameras

Improvements over recent years have been to partially digitise recording capacity which is now at full capacity; upgrading of monitoring screens; and the replacement of some cameras when irreparable or requiring excessive maintenance.

Present monitoring operating times meet current periods of high demand and are regularly reviewed based on crime and other intelligence data. This element of the service has been the subject of a recent internal audit and several management actions arising out of the review are being implemented.

The CCTV equipment and infrastructure is supported by an external contractor on a fixed term procured contract. The current contract is due to expire at the end of March 2015 and any planned changes to the CCTV infrastructure would be timed to coincide with the drafting of a new contract specification.

Objectives

To review the current CCTV system and inform future provision with a range of options from gold plated, through to minimal/no CCTV provision – including impact and cost implications.

Outcomes

To recommend a level of CCTV provision for the future which balances the needs of stakeholders with affordability for the Council.

Members were keen to ensure that all seven equality and diversity strands were fully taken into consideration throughout the review and were keen to work effectively in partnership with the relevant stakeholders to facilitate any improvements to the service.

Task Group Membership

Councillor Robert Finnamore (Chair)
Councillor Kim Snape (Vice Chair)
Councillor Doreen Dickinson
Councillor Graham Dunn
Councillor Roy Lees
Councillor June Molyneaux
Councillor Rosemary Russell

Officer Support:

Lead Officers

Paul Lowe – Neighbourhoods Manager
Simon Clark – Head of Health, Environment and Neighbourhoods

Democratic Services

Dianne Scambler Democratic and Member Services Officer

Meetings

The meeting papers of the Group can be found on the Council's website www.chorley.gov.uk/scrutiny. This includes the inquiry project outline and other relevant information on policy and procedures.

Contribution of Evidence

The Task Group would like to thank all those who have provided evidence and contributed to the Inquiry. Section 4 contains the details of those involved

3. LIST OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Overall there is significant support for the provision a CCTV service from key partners such as police; from public response to a consultation; from local town centre business and from Parish Council.

The Group were satisfied that they had received the appropriate data that was required to evidence the continued need for CCTV in Chorley. (**Appendix 1**)

After considering the information obtained during the review of Chorley Council's CCTV service, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee has concluded that the provision of CCTV plays an integral role in the tackling of Crime and Antisocial Behaviour. Evidence suggests that Chorley Council's CCTV is a key tool which supports the reporting, detection and prosecution of crime and antisocial behaviour which occurs across the Borough. Additionally the results of a resident survey commissioned as part of the CCTV review, show that for the majority of residents, the presence of CCTV makes them feel safe. Furthermore it is evident that CCTV proves useful in helping to safeguard vulnerable residents, including those who go missing from home. As Chorley Council has made long term commitments in helping to ensure that Chorley has clean, safe and healthy communities and a strong local economy, it is recommended that the Council continues to support the provision of CCTV which aids the realisation of these commitments.

Therefore the option to decommission the service is not considered acceptable and the Task Group recommend the service is continued to be provided by the Council at some level.

The Executive Cabinet is therefore asked to consider the following options:

Infrastructure Provision

Option	Detail	Cost	Advantage/Disadvantages
Option 1	Do nothing and retain the existing system and seek to maintain it.	c. £20k per annum	Equipment will become obsolete and not maintainable at reasonable cost
Option 2	Replace key components to improve the system recording capability	c. £28k one off cost	Upgraded and digitised recording capacity provided
Option 3	Option 2 plus replacement of the current desktop operating system utilised to remotely switch camera	c. £48k one off cost	Improved operation and manoeuvrability of cameras

	views and manoeuvre cameras according to monitoring requirements		
Option 4	Option 3 plus the wholesale replacement of existing camera heads	c. £215k	The current suite of 50+ cameras would be replaced with new products and remove the current annual maintenance cost requirement of £20K
Option 5	Option 3 plus phased replacement of existing camera heads	c. £48k plus £4k per camera which could total in excess of £250k	Higher costs due to no economies of scale and maintenance cost of remaining cameras ongoing. However there is an advantage in terms of ability to consider relocation and addition of cameras in a phased way to meet changing demand.

The Group's recommendation would be for the Executive Cabinet to consider implementing Option 5. This would enable the Council to upgrade its cameras on a priority basis, using an intelligence led approach and allowing the authority to keep abreast with the latest technology.

In addition, the Task Group recommends that the Council explores any outsourcing opportunities for the service and the provision subscription service for businesses. This is to include exploring the possibility of asking Parish Councils to contribute to the purchasing of replacement or additional cameras.

In terms of the operation of the service, the Task Group recommend that current staffing levels are maintained but that the hours of operation are regularly reviewed using local intelligence to ensure periods of high demand are covered.

4. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

CCTV SERVICE

Chorley Council's closed circuit television system (CCTV) is solely owned and operated by the Council and comprises a number of overt cameras located across the Chorley borough area.

The system was first commissioned in 1996 and was initially introduced as a town centre system, linked to the Secured Car Parks scheme. It was subsequently extended throughout Chorley Borough and there are now a number of overt cameras located across the borough. All cameras are monitored from a central control room located at Chorley Police Station and are only accessible to view by Chorley Council appointed CCTV control room operators.

The CCTV service also has access and control over two stand-alone CCTV systems, which cover Astley Park and the Chorley covered market. Additionally the service also has direct access to live CCTV footage from a number of cameras, covering Chorley Railway Station, owned by the British Transport Police. However there is no facility to control these cameras.

The CCTV unit benefits from a direct link to the police radio system, ensuring real time communication and the appropriate deployment of police officers and PCSO's. This is further supported by the town centre radio system where the majority of pubs and retail businesses within the town centre, including Chorley Bus Interchange, have direct radio contact with the CCTV unit.

Chorley Council has CCTV equipment, maintenance and call outs contract in place that is due to expire at the end of March 2015.

The Council's CCTV system is regulated by the Surveillance Camera Code of Practice pursuant to Section 29 of the Protection of Freedom Act 2012. In recognition of this, the Council's CCTV Policy 2013/14 has been introduced and covers all twelve guiding principles of the Act. The Council's CCTV service is also compliant with all relevant legislation.

The CCTV service also benefits from having a CCTV operating policy, which was reviewed and refreshed on the 1 August 2013. The purpose of this policy is to support the regulation, management, operation and use of the CCTV system for Chorley Council.

The Council's CCTV system is aimed at preventing and detecting a wide range of crimes such as theft, burglary, violent crime, criminal damage and tackling anti-social behaviour. The system can also be used to locate missing persons.

In conjunction with Chorley Council's CCTV Policy 2013/14, the objectives of the CCTV system are:

- To protect residents, environment and the people who work and visit the borough of Chorley
- To improve feelings of safety
- To support Lancashire Constabulary in a bid to deter and detect crime
- To assist in identifying, apprehending and prosecuting offenders
- To protect members of the public
- To protect private and public buildings
- To support the Community Safety Partnership in relation to reducing and preventing crime and disorder
- To assist in the management of the Chorley town centre radio scheme in conjunction with the retail and business sector
- To monitor and safeguard town centre car parks to deter all aspects of auto-crime
- To help tackle and identify offenders of anti-social behaviour

STAFFING LEVELS/HOURS OF OPERATION

All staff that operate the CCTV system are employed by Chorley Council and work in the CCTV suite based at Chorley Police Station. The team consists of just under four full time equivalent posts including a team supervisor.

The CCTV unit operates 365 days a year and the system is monitored over a 6 week rota during the hours of 8.30am and 3.00am. Operational times vary to meet expected demand. Although the system is not monitored twenty four hours a day the system does record all the time, 365 days a year and recorded footage is retained.

Staffing levels have been the subject of a separate internal audit and several management recommendations are now being implemented as a result including:

- A regular review of operational hours to ensure periods of high activity/demand are covered.
- A review of camera locations to ensure infrastructure is effectively deployed in areas of high activity.
- A robust logging system for incidents to ensure the work and value of the service is effectively captured

CAMERA TYPE AND LOCATIONS

The CCTV cameras are commissioned on an intelligence led basis subject to consultation with partners and stakeholders.

The CCTV system is made up of two camera types, Shoebox type which are square shaped cameras and Dome type, which are multi directional cameras housed in a clear dome, both have the ability to pan, tilt and zoom.

The CCTV cameras relay images back to the control room using a number of

transmission mediums including coaxial, microwave transmission, radio transmission, Coded Orthogonal Frequency Division Multiplex (COFDM) and Fibre Optic.

The Task Group received information on the locations and numbers of cameras currently in operation over the Borough of Chorley.

CCTV EFFECTIVENESS

The use of closed circuit television cameras for the purpose of tackling crime has greatly increased over the last decade. It is estimated that nationally 80% of Councils operate and contribute to the provision of CCTV services.

The Group considered an analytical report that had recently been undertaken by the Community Safety Partnership's Analyst. The report sought to provide analysis of the Council's CCTV usage, crime and anti-social behaviour in the borough of Chorley, so that informed decisions could be made in relation to tasking and allocating resources effectively.

The report was prepared by utilising data from the Chorley CCTV Operator Log and Lancashire Constabulary's crime recording and intelligence based systems between 1 June and 31 December 2013. The report is appended to the Task Group's Final Report.

The group also received a report giving a brief summary of findings relating to a national study that had been undertaken by the Home Office to evaluate the effectiveness of Closed Circuit Television (CCTV).

5. METHOD OF INVESTIGATION

Evidence

The Group received the following reports:

Chorley's current CCTV system and existing infrastructure, along with information about CCTV systems in other authorities
The effectiveness of Chorley's CCTV system
Draft CCTV System Operating Policy 2013/14
Review of the Impact of Chorley Council's CCTV service – Internal Audit Report
Detailed Analyst of the current CCTV provision in Chorley undertaken by the Community Safety Partnership's Analyst (appended)
Home Office National Study on the effectiveness of CCTV

Interviews

Members interviewed various stakeholders to find out their views about the Council's CCTV system that included:

Malcolm Allen, Chair of Chorley Trader Alliance on behalf of the day time economy
Sam Wyatt, Community Safety Manager, Places for People
Cath Burns, Head of Economic Development, Chorley Council
Inspector Alison Barff-Lewis, Lancashire Constabulary
Andrew Hill, Environmental Protection and Community Safety Manager, West Lancashire Council

Written representation

The Task Group also received written representations from:

Peter Verhaege, Applejax Nightclub on behalf of the night time economy
The Parish Councils of Adlington, Astley Village, Charnock Richard, Clayton-le-Woods, Ecclestone and Whittle-le-Woods

Public Consultation

A public consultation survey was undertaken on the Council's website to determine how safe, residents of Chorley felt.

Site Visit

Members also attended Chorley Police Station to see the CCTV system in use and view footage of activity leading to police intervention/prevention of crime.

6. FINDINGS

Stakeholders Representation

The Group interviewed representatives of all relevant stakeholders to obtain their views on CCTV provision in Chorley. Representatives were asked a number of questions that included:

- What value they placed on the current CCTV system and service.
- What benefits, if any, they received from the service,
- If they made a contribution to the provision of the service, and
- What impact did they think there would be if the CCTV system was either to be reduced or upgraded.

In addition Members were keen to ascertain if they could provide any anecdotal evidence of how the CCTV system and its service had benefited them, their premises or organisation.

The CCTV service, including the radio service was considered an invaluable tool for the shopkeepers of Chorley. The service was used in helping to catch and deter shoplifters and assisting in the location of children who had wandered away from their parents. In the past a number of shopkeepers had originally contributed to the handheld radio service that is still in use in shops around the town centre. However, a few years ago, the Council had taken the decision to mainstream the funding of the service through the Councils budget. It was conveyed that shopkeepers would be willing to pay a contribution for this service if it meant it could be retained, although it was considered that any contribution should be on a sliding scale, with the larger stores who benefited more, paying a higher rate.

Feedback from both traders and staff of the market service stated that the CCTV provision was an invaluable resource for their business and work. There was also a greater feeling of security felt by visitors to our town.

It was however, felt that there were some areas of the town that were not presently covered, that needed to be and that some of the current equipment would benefit from being upgraded. Chorley has a low empty shop rate and although this is mainly attributed to the work of the economic development team, it does help that the town centre of Chorley is perceived to be a safe town, a fact that attracts new investors to the town.

The CCTV system was also considered highly when monitoring the activity of the night-time economy. The town's bars and club use the town centre radio communication to contact the CCTV control room and this provide reassurance and confidence to those businesses that are operating into the late hours. With the help of the CCTV monitoring system, the police can obtain a true and accurate picture of an incident to ensure a quick and effective response to the matter in hand. The use of CCTV also helps to track underage drinkers, helping to prevent children from harm.

Lancashire Constabulary considers Chorley's CCTV system provision priceless to their organisation. The monitored system assisted them in numerous ways and was considered paramount to helping with the detection and protection against crime. The service assists with the detection of burglaries, the obtaining of anti-social behaviour orders, building evidence in support of charges and surveillance of illegal activities for their CID target team. The system is used regularly as evidence in cases that are taken to court and has often been the difference in obtaining a conviction. Several examples of where CCTV footage had been used as evidence in securing criminal convictions were provided to the Group that included, successful conviction of drug dealing, the capture of offenders of vehicle damage, the apprehension of a large scale shoplifting, serious acquisitive crime and the finding of missing persons.

The current provision is invaluable but could always benefit from extra provision and any increase would see huge benefits for all the community. The system is currently monitored until 3am in the morning and is an integral part of the night time economy plans for the police service. The service provides reassurance for traders, taxi drivers, door staff, street pastors and PCSO's. The police would like to see the possibility of an increased 24 hour service to be considered. Although the police do not financially contribute to the provision of the service, the CCTV suite is accommodated within Chorley's Police Station at no cost to the Council.

Representations from our registered providers who have housing stock in the borough thought that their organisations would benefit greatly if Chorley's CCTV provision was to be extended. Although the current system is limited in some of their areas, the system helped when dealing with issues associated with anti-social behaviour especially around their community centres or other communal areas.

Parish Council Representation

As part of their willingness to consult with all relevant stakeholders, the group asked the 22 Parish Councils to give their views and opinions on the CCTV services available across the Borough.

Whilst it was accepted that fixed CCTV provision was varied across the Borough, all Parish Councils had access to the mobile unit that was deployed across Chorley as and when required.

Responses were received from six parish councils, who all agreed that they considered the use of CCTV an invaluable tool to be used to tackle crime and disorder. There were many examples provided of where CCTV had been used to either detect or prevent criminal activity and all felt that the service could be improved upon to cover other areas across the borough.

Public Consultation

A small web based public consultation was undertaken during the period the Task Group was operating and the broad findings were that over 61% of respondents felt safe or very safe in the knowledge that a CCTV service was operating. A further 32% reported neither safe or unsafe feelings.

Other Local Authorities CCTV Services

South Ribble Council

South Ribble operates a much smaller and less comprehensive CCTV service when compared to Chorley Council. Currently 12 unmonitored CCTV cameras are operated across the South Ribble Borough Council footprint. The CCTV service has an annual revenue budget of £15,000 to support its service and maintenance.

Whilst the system is not monitored, there is a member of staff who is employed on a part time basis to manage the systems service and maintenance contract and to review and download CCTV images for evidential purposes.

South Ribble has a similar population and crime profile to Chorley but they do not have an established Town Centre or night-time economy, unlike Chorley. Similarly to Chorley, South Ribble has experienced significant reductions in Crime and anti-social behaviour over the last six years.

Blackpool Council

Blackpool Council operated a 151 camera monitored CCTV system at an annual cost of £600,000. In 2013 a decision was taken by Blackpool Council to cease staffing CCTV operations completely. Lancashire Constabulary was keen to retain the service, however, because Blackpool Council produces a priority led budget; CCTV was deemed not to be a priority for the Council, therefore funding was withdrawn. Blackpool Council took the view that the CCTV service is largely utilised by the Police and not Council used and therefore not a Council priority.

The control centre and equipment are still operational, but not monitored and so it is feasible that the service could be re-established in future years. However, Blackpool Council have stated that even if crime levels increase, unless the funding gap can be closed by the police and local commercial sector, the staffed CCTV system will continue to be provided.

Similarly to South Ribble Council, Blackpool Council still employs a small team to manage the CCTV systems service and maintenance contract and to review and download CCTV images for evidential purposes. The effect on community safety issues of the decision to operate an unmonitored CCTV system across Blackpool has yet to be evaluated. Therefore further research would be required at a further date in order to accurately report on the impact of this decision.

West Lancashire Council

West Lancashire Council had recently undertaken a similar review of their CCTV provision and service. The Council has always operated a 24 hour, seven days a week service. Although the service had always offered up the reduction of monitored hours as a cost saving measure for the Council, this had never been taken up. Ormskirk is a busy town and although there are probably periods throughout the day that are less busy than others, the system was monitored at all times.

Their old system was 10 years old and was coming to the end of its practical working life. The Council had started to see an increase in maintenance costs and any potential new equipment had significantly advanced. The Council decided to renew the system and the service was increased by adding a further 50% of cameras to existing provision. Although the system was upgraded, the Council did not invest in the best or latest technology. They did however try to get as many cameras as they could that were the same type, to reduce maintenance costs, although some additional types were needed dependant on locations or required functionality. The Council now has some cameras that are capable of recording a 360° rotation and some that are fitted with a sensory light, aimed at dispersing.

The CCTV service is funded by West Lancashire Council's mainstream budget who had recently moved its CCTV suite to new premises to allow for the extension in service and upgrade of equipment. Originally some of the equipment had been funded by the Local Strategic Partnership grant, but since its cessation, all funding is now provided by the authority. No actual income is generated from the scheme but it is considered a vital service for the detection and prevention of crime in the town.

7. CONCLUSION

The CCTV system is highly valued by the community of Chorley and has been evidenced by the findings of the Group. The Group feel that the perception of crime and the confidence upon which Chorley residents place in its CCTV system is of paramount importance.

It was noted that there have been many research studies conducted which have aimed to evaluate the effectiveness of CCTV but that it was difficult to quantify its effectiveness with a broad brush approach. Advice given directly by the Home Office indicated that authorities were best to evaluate their need in response to local issues and concerns.

The impact on crime figures is hard to predict but should the CCTV service be decommissioned, it could be theorised that without the deterrent effect of the CCTV cameras, certain crime categories would be negatively affected. Theft, anti-social behaviour, criminal damage and violent offences could increase.

CCTV places a key role in both supporting the detection rates of crime and anti-social behaviour. The system is not only used to identify suspects and accomplices but serves to eliminate individuals from suspicion, which can reduce the length of the investigatory process. Reducing the CCTV service provision could see a reduction in the successful detection of cases and prosecutions.

CCTV Analysis

Chorley Borough Council



Author: CSP Analyst

Date: 17 March 2014

GPMS: Not protectively marked

AIM & PURPOSE

The report will seek to provide analysis of Council CCTV usage, crime and anti-social behaviour in the district of Chorley, in order that informed decisions can be made in relation to tasking and allocating resources. Inferences and recommendations will be made if necessary, based on the objective analysis provided.

SCOPE

The document has been prepared utilising data from Chorley CCTV Operator Log and Lancashire Constabulary crime recording and intelligence systems. The Operator Log covered a period of time between 1 June 2013 and 31 December 2013. This information has been obtained on 14th March 2014.

SECTION 1: KEY FINDINGS, INFERENCES, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- There were 1041 operator logs recorded during the period 1 June 2013 and 31 December 2013.
- There were 127 requests to provide retained evidence and 335 requests to review footage.
- The greatest number (n=134) of CCTV Operator logs related to assaults this accounted for 12.9% of logs; 63.2% of these were requested by police.
- The three hour period of the week when most logs were created was between the hours of 00:00 and 02:59 on Sunday (n=67).
- There were 1776 crimes recorded in the locations where a camera is situated during the seven month period.

SECTION 2: ANALYSIS REPORT

Operator Logs

There were 1041 operator logs recorded during the period 1 June 2013 to 31 December 2013. This includes 706 incidents recorded on CCTV Operator Logs and 335 footage review requests. The three hour period of the week when most logs were created was between the hours of 00:00 and 02:59 on Sunday (n=67). This is also the period when most arrests (n=15) were made at scene and most number of evidential CDs were requested for (n=5).

The busiest three hour period of the day was between 09:00 and 11:59 hours, this period of the day had the most logs generated; greatest number of arrests at scene, most review requests made and greatest number of evidential CDs burnt off. The busiest days of the week were Saturday and Sunday when 183 logs were created on each day.

Monday had the least number of logs (n=101) recorded; the least busiest times of the day was between 03:00 and 05:59 hours when only 4 logs were recorded over the seven month period. With the exception of Saturday and Sunday between 00:00 and 02:59 hours; there were less than 10 logs recorded during the hours of 00:00 and 05:59 during the whole seven month period.

Three hour period	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
0000-0259	1	0	2	0	2	22	67
0300-0559	0	1	1	0	0	1	1
0600-0859	0	6	3	7	2	3	1
0900-1159	35	36	31	41	37	33	21
1200-1459	17	25	30	32	24	23	25
1500-1759	22	37	32	32	32	37	20
1800-2059	15	14	17	19	28	32	22
2100-2359	11	17	16	14	33	32	26
Total per day	101	136	132	145	158	183	183

Table 1: Number of operator logs per three hourly intervals per day, highlighting busiest periods in shades of red.

Requests for Service

60.6% (n=630) of Operator Logs resulted from police requests for CCTV whilst operators transferred 77.8% of logs to the police. A few logs, 5.7% (n=59) were not police related. Of the logs not recorded as police related 51.7% (n=30) were town centre radio requested and 5.1% council requests; the remaining ones had limited details but some related to British Transport Police and Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service.

In 5.5% (n=57) of cases when requests had been made, operators have recorded that the incident could not be seen on camera, this could be due to requests where there is no camera coverage at all or the incident was hidden from camera view.

An action made by the CCTV Operator was recorded on 77.5% of logs. In 37.2% of these cases CCTV Operators were asked to provide assistance to the police; in 28.3% of cases CCTV Operators received information and passed details to the police and in 10.3% of the cases CCTV Operators were proactive in identifying incidents / potential incidents and reported it to the police. CCTV Operator assistance was given to other organisations in 10.7% of the logs these included local businesses and town centre radio requests.

Actions Taken by Operator	Number of logs
Police assistance	300
Police advised	228
Other assistance	86
Pro-active CCTV Police advised	83
Potential incident logged	36
More than one action taken	22
View footage of car incident	21
Public protection - vulnerable person	21
Advised Nightsafe to attend	16
Footage burnt off	10
Traders informed of issue	8
Subject Access Request	5
Public protection - observation for public event	2
CBC/ Police Officers protection	2
Advised caller to contact Police	2
Unknown	234

Table 2: Number of actions taken by the operator.

Impact of CCTV

Assault was the most prevalent incident type during the seven month period, this accounted for 12.9% (n=134) of all operator logs, followed by anti-social behaviour 11.0% (n=114). Theft accounted for 109 logs, concern for welfare 77 logs and missing persons 67 logs. A complete list of operator logs by incident type can found at Appendix 1.

Over the seven month period 9.7% of the logs related to 110 people who were arrested on the spot. A further 34 persons were known to be arrested later. 20.1% (n=21) of those arrested were arrested for assault.

A dip sample of the assaults established that CCTV was used to establish facts of the crime, establish incorrect information provided by the aggrieved, attributed to admissions from offenders and identified unknown offenders. For example, an assault occurred on a young person and the offender was unknown. CCTV footage provided verification of the offender after officers had made tentative links to identify the offender. This resulted in full admission of assault by the offender who received an adult caution.

CCTV Operators have contributed in obtaining evidence and alerting police of instances for Anti-social Behaviour Orders on five females who were persistently targeting vulnerable people in Chorley. The individuals had between them actively targeted; offered sexual services, stolen from, bullied and

intimidated over 30 very vulnerable individuals over the last 12 months. Victims included the elderly, the infirm and those struggling with quite severe disabilities and mental health issues. The weight of evidence put before the court resulted in full Orders being granted on first application.

CCTV evidence was important in a high risk Domestic Violence case when an offender threatened to kill a female and her new boyfriend in Chorley Town Centre, this was captured on CCTV; later in the day the offender attempted to enter the victim’s home and made further threats to kill. Having reviewed the CCTV footage the Crown Prosecution Service found that the course of conduct and the direct threats made in the street were clearly evidenced. The case resulted in the offender receiving a 4 week sentence of imprisonment and 12 month suspended sentence.

An offender, who had seriously assaulted and stolen a large sum of cash off a victim who was left, lying in the middle of the road, received a 45 months prison sentence. The offender was traced through CCTV, the clothing seen on CCTV was seized and the hidden cash found. This was a substantial result in that the victim of robbery had little recollection of what had happened and could only provide little evidence.

Other incidents resulted in seizure or disposal of alcohol, dispersal of groups or individuals, attendance at the police station or words of advice given. In five cases members of the public were taken to hospital. Two cases related to deaths in a public place, when CCTV assisted in deciding that one of cases was not suspicious when a body was found in the road.

CCTV is also used for protection of people and places when left in a vulnerable state prior to physical assistance getting to the scene. These cases can vary from watching Cash in Transit vans, monitoring local public events, to monitoring lone vulnerable females or searching for missing persons. A breakdown of the CCTV Operator logs by result can be found at Appendix 2.

Crime in Camera locations

There are 42 cameras monitored by Chorley Borough Council CCTV Operators. The locations of the streets which contained a CCTV camera were identified.

There were 1776 crimes in the incident locations that contained CCTV cameras owned by Chorley Borough Council. A breakdown of crimes by location is shown in Table 3 below.

Location	Number of cameras	Number of crimes
1	11	293
2	4	235
3	1	212
4	3	190
5	4	178
6	2	169
7	11	125
8	2	109
9	1	107
10	1	83
11	1	66
12	1	9
Total	42	1776

Table 3: Number of cameras and number of crimes in the locations containing CCTV.

One location recorded the most crimes during this time period. This location contains 11 of the 42 cameras. Assault with Injury was the most prevalent offence type during the seven month period, this accounted for 13.7% (n=244) of all crime, followed by shoplifting (n=195). Other theft accounted for 163 offences, criminal damage to vehicles 140 offences and assault without injury 126 offences.

The peak time when most crime occurred was Saturday between 21:00 and 23:59 (n=61).

37.2% (n=661) of the offences in these incident locations had a positive outcome, 33.2% (n=589) were undetected, 1.9% (n=34) of the offences were dealt with by restorative justice. 27.7% (n=492) of offences were closed or declared that a prosecution was not possible.

SECTION 4: APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Breakdown of CCTV Operator Logs by Incident Type

Incident Type	Number of logs	Number of logs as percentage
Assault	134	12.9%
ASB	115	11.0%
Theft	109	10.5%
Concern for Welfare	77	7.4%
Missing Person	67	6.4%
Criminal Damage	63	6.1%
Shoplifting	56	5.4%
Drugs	42	4.0%
Public Order	41	3.9%
Wanted Person	38	3.7%
Drunk and Disorderly	32	3.1%
Suspicious Circumstances	28	2.7%
Traffic Offence	19	1.8%
Unknown	18	1.7%
Driving under the influence	16	1.5%
Road Traffic Collision	16	1.5%
Burglary	15	1.4%
Breach of Conditions	14	1.3%
Dangerous Driving	13	1.3%
Intruder Alarm	11	1.1%
Robbery	11	1.1%
Harassment	10	1.0%
Domestic Abuse	9	0.9%
ASB Drinking in exclusion zone	8	0.8%
Fraud	8	0.8%
Begging	8	0.8%
Indecent Exposure	7	0.7%
Littering	6	0.6%

Breach of ASBO	6	0.6%
Stolen Vehicle	6	0.6%
Possession of Weapon	5	0.5%
Illegal Trading	5	0.5%
Underage drinking	3	0.3%
Making off without Payment	3	0.3%
Threatening Behaviour	3	0.3%
Racist Incident	3	0.3%
Sexual Offence	3	0.3%
Interfering with vehicle	3	0.3%
Death	2	0.2%
Fire	2	0.2%
Lost property	1	0.1%
Firearms	1	0.1%
Blackmail	1	0.1%
Complaint	1	0.1%
Dog Bite	1	0.1%
Truancy	1	0.1%
Total	1041	100.0%

Appendix 2: Breakdown of CCTV Operator Logs by result

Result of CCTV Incident	Number of incidents
1 Person Arrested	126
1 Person Arrested and 1 Directed to leave	1
2 Persons Arrested	4
3 Persons Arrested	3
Anti-Social Driving Notice	1
Alcohol seized / poured away	17
Banning Order	5
Body Search	2
Caution	5
Community Order	1
Community Resolution	4
Directed to leave the area	24
False Alarm	1
Group Dispersed	3
Issued Direction to Leave	2
Littering Ticket	5
No sanction issued / known	355
Sanction not applicable	359
Incident not on camera	57
Nuisance	1
Penalty Notice	7

Restorative Justice	11
Sectioned under Mental Health Act	1
Summoned to Court	6
Taken to hospital	5
Vehicle Seized	1
Voluntarily Attended Police Station	17
Words of Advice	13
Youth Referral	3
Grand Total	1041

Chorley
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