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Sedgemoor DC CCTV – Privacy Impact Assessment

Using CCTV can be privacy intrusive, because it is capable of putting law-abiding people under surveillance and recording their movements as they go about their day to day lawful activities. Careful consideration should be used whether to use it, or not; the fact that it is possible, affordable and has public support should not be the primary motivating factor. The authority should take into account what benefits can be gained, whether better solutions exist, and what effect it may have on individuals.

Sedgemoor District Council considers these matters objectively as part of an assessment of the scheme's impact on people's privacy.

Impact Assessment

Sedgemoor District Council owns and operates a CCTV surveillance system in its town centres of Bridgwater, Burnham-On-Sea and Highbridge. The system was installed in 1994 and has expanded since then to form the large system it is today. In 1996 Sedgemoor District Council formed a partnership with South Somerset District Council, and again in 2005 it formed a partnership with Taunton Deane Borough Council. These partnerships are still active at the time of writing this impact assessment, so I will therefore include those schemes in the assessment. There are various questions that need to be answered to successfully provide a privacy impact assessment; those questions are outlined below in a table format.

Where the system will be operated by or on behalf of a public authority, the authority will also need to consider wider human rights issues and in particular the implications of the European Convention on Human Rights, Article 8 (the right to respect for private and family life).

If this is not the case then it would not be appropriate to use CCTV

Privacy Impact Assessment for CCTV in the towns of Bridgwater, Burnham-On-Sea, Highbridge, Taunton, Wellington and Yeovil

Date: August 2018

Review Date: March 2019

Manager conducting Assessment: Barry Donbavand

DPA 1998	
<p>What organisations will be using the CCTV images? Who will take legal responsibility under the Data Protection Act?</p>	<p>Sedgemoor District Council and Avon and Somerset Constabulary are the main users of the CCTV system. Sedgemoor District Council will be the Data Controller at the point of images being recorded, however, if these images are seized by the Constabulary or any other statutory body then the legal responsibility will be transferred to that body as the data controller for the images that have been seized</p>
<p>What is the organisation's purpose for using CCTV? What are the issues that the system aims to address?</p>	<p>The Council's CCTV Service was created in 1994 to combat public order offences and vehicle crimes in Bridgwater Town Centre. The introduction of the initial 12 cameras to cover Bridgwater's car parks proved an overwhelming success - within just seven months there was an 82% reduction in incidents recorded. This success, coupled with central government funding, resulted in expansion soon after. Cameras were added in Burnham-on-Sea during 1995/96.</p> <p>The introduction of the Crime and Disorder Act placed a direct responsibility on local authorities to combat crime and anti-social behaviour through Section 17, which states:</p> <p><i>"Without prejudice to any other obligation imposed on it, it shall be the duty of each authority to which this section applies to exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area".</i></p> <p>Section 17 was intended to provide the impetus for authorities to consider how their services could contribute to reducing crime and disorder, as well as their impact on social and community factors that affect crime levels. To deliver against these requirements, further government funding was made available and most</p>

	authorities chose to expand their CCTV services.
What are the benefits to be gained from using CCTV	CCTV is a proven tool in detecting crimes, and the perpetrators of it. Using CCTV can significantly reduce the time and cost on the police service in investigating allegations. It is also known that false allegations are made and CCTV is a useful tool in disproving some allegations. CCTV captures actual events and is not influenced by interpretation, or events, as seen by people who are under the influence of alcohol or drugs
Can CCTV realistically deliver these benefits?	Yes, and consistently do
Can less privacy-intrusive solutions, such as improved lighting, achieve the same objectives?	There is a general agreement and belief that other solutions could help. This is certainly the case for smaller confined areas where lighting or fencing could be a more productive solution than CCTV. However, for town centre areas CCTV is still the best solution. We do inform members of the public that CCTV is in use by installing signs detailing the scheme and its purpose, along with a contact telephone number.
Do you need images of identifiable individuals, or could the scheme use other images not capable of identifying the individual?	It is of paramount importance that the system is capable of identifying individuals. Footage from the system will be used in court. If the persons were not identifiable then the system would not be fit for purpose.
Will the particular equipment/system of work being considered deliver the desired benefits now and remain suitable in the future?	Sedgemoor District Council's method of work is unlikely to change. The service will remain a 24 hour one for the foreseeable future and will be provided by dedicated and trained, SIA licenced CCTV operators. We are always looking at new technologies and how these will help us to deliver a service in the most productive and cost effective manner. Being up to date on new technology and legislation is very important to us. We have recently (2017) invested in a new IP system. We are also in the process of renewing our cameras from analogue to IP HD ones
What future demands may arise for wider use	Legislation can and does change. We will therefore comply with all future regulations placed upon us.

<p>of images and how will you address these?</p>	<p>As populations increase, it is realistic to assume that pressures will be put on the department to supply images to wider audiences. These include blue light services solicitors, insurance companies and law enforcement agencies such as HRMC, and the Environment Agency.</p>
<p>What are the views of those under surveillance?</p>	<p>The general feeling is that people who are not involved in crime are happy to be in an area that is monitored by CCTV cameras. There are some members of society both law abiding and those who are not, who have issues with being in areas covered by CCTV cameras. By abiding with current legislation, we aim to show that the CCTV system is only used for crime reduction/detection purposes and those activities that assist the public either by locating vehicles or giving out traffic reports, etc.</p>
<p>HRA</p>	
<p>What could we do to minimise intrusion for those that may be monitored, particularly if specific concerns have been expressed? Is the system established on a proper legal basis and operated in accordance with the law?</p>	<p>Most cameras have installed into them electronic privacy zones that can be used when there is a need. Sedgemoor District Council activates these zones where it is obvious that privacy is at risk of being breached. These are where cameras are close to properties and could potentially invade privacy. We also install privacy zones when members of the public have legitimate concerns over their privacy in their home. The system has been established on a proper and legal basis and we comply with the DPA and HRA. There is a new protection of freedoms act in force as of 1st May 2012. Sedgemoor District Council will comply with this new legislation.</p>
<p>Is it necessary to address a pressing need, such as public safety, crime prevention or national security?</p>	<p>Yes. Most town centres suffer high instances of crime and ASB and we are no different. When the system was installed in 1994, Bridgwater had exceptionally high rates of crime and the CCTV system was installed to combat the rise in crime, working in partnership with the police. Since the scheme was a huge success the system has grown to help combat crime on some of the housing estates that have above average crime rates.</p>
<p>Is it justified in the circumstances?</p>	<p>Yes,</p>

Is it proportionate to the problem that it is designed to deal with?	Yes. CCTV is used to detect crime and complies with the current legislation.
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