

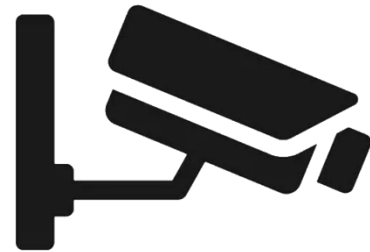


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Police & Crime Commissioner

Report to the Thames Valley Police & Crime Panel

REVIEW OF CCTV PROVISION AND ESTABLISHING A NEW CCTV PARTNERSHIP FOR THAMES VALLEY

THAMES VALLEY CCTV PARTNERSHIP



BACKGROUND

CCTV provision across Thames Valley is mixed. Each LPA and Local Authority have been working to provide CCTV as a joint approach. There is a mixture of ownership of the equipment, where it's housed, and who employs the staff. The previous Local Policing Dept. owned the CCTV strategy and negotiated a new Funding Formula signed off by CCMT (but not adopted in all areas). Internally, CCTV moved to Strategic Governance in 2019 where significant efforts were made to progress the Bucks hub and Oxon hubs.

The challenge remains a lack of clarity on who is responsible, and the fact that there is no statutory requirement to provide CCTV meaning that it is discretionary for all partners.

Whilst only one tool in the fight against crime it can be invaluable in gathering evidence, deterring offending and reassuring the public.

VISION FOR THE FUTURE

The PCC recognises that CCTV exists primarily (although not exclusively) for the benefit of policing and the wider interests of community safety. It does not generally form part of the core function of local authorities. Therefore it is right that policing shoulders the lion share of the responsibility for providing the capability. This is a significant strategic shift in thinking within the Thames Valley and will take some time to implement.

The long term vision is for CCTV across Thames Valley to be provided by Thames Valley Police. In this model the Force would own the equipment/contracts, be responsible for maintenance and employ staff to monitor the service. This "single owner" model will help to consolidate technology, drive savings through economies of scale, improve integration with police systems and provide increased resilience.

THAMES VALLEY CCTV PARTNERSHIP

Thames Valley Police cannot however deliver this vision alone. It will still require a contribution from local authorities, both financially and in kind. Whilst TVP would own and maintain the system the PCC seeks to establish a Thames Valley CCTV Partnership which would secure ongoing funding from local authorities and ensure that stakeholders were involved in the wider provision. The partnership would allow principle local authorities

(but also others such as parish/town councils; BIDs; private businesses) to contribute financially to increase coverage in their locality. As part of the partnership agreement local authorities would allow TVP to use appropriate street furniture for the placement of equipment.

Funding to the partnership is likely to be based on a funding formula (probably that used for the Community Safety Fund) to provide baseline coverage (effectively the legacy transfer from local authorities to the police) and additional charges based on extra provision that may be provided. It may also be possible to explore the charging of other CCTV services to local authorities, such as monitoring of private areas or traffic management, but this will need to be carefully considered.

With increased funding provided by TVP it is hoped that a new partnership funding agreement would at least cost local authorities no more, if not drive some savings as well as providing clarity around future costs.

ACHIEVING THE GOAL

Delivering this ambition will take time and most importantly the cooperation of each local authority in Thames Valley. It will inevitably need to be a gradual process taking each area at a time. Some discussions have already begun with Milton Keynes Council and councils in Oxfordshire. Each area is at a different stage and consideration will need to be given to novating contracts and the transfer of assets on each occasion.

Oxfordshire is the area that seems more likely to be able to make a change first, should all partners be willing. This could then be a model for the rest of Thames Valley.

Thames Valley Police currently has a capital budget of £472,000 available to support moves to a new model, and the PCC is creating an earmarked revenue reserve of £1m. A new CCTV manager is being recruited to the Strategic Governance team and once this person is in post it is hoped to push on with discussions in more detail.

OPTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED

There are a number of technical and contractual options to be considered. Fixed versus mobile cameras; SIM card, hard-wired, or SD card; outsourced, maintained or fully in-house. No assumptions have been made at this stage about such matters as the focus is on establishing the new strategic governance arrangements. Operational considerations will drive the technology choices. It is hoped that whatever solution is found it will be possible to drive integration with the Force's Digital Evidence Management System (DEMS). The physical estate for monitoring CCTV will also need to be considered and will be looked at by the PCC's Strategic Estates Group.