

Combined Surveillance/CCTV/Image recording technologies Policy

Overview and Scrutiny Panel 21 November 2023

Report Author	Eden Geddes
Portfolio Holder	Cllr Keen, Neighbourhoods
Status	For Recommendation
Classification:	Unrestricted
Key Decision	Yes
Reasons for Key	Significant effect on communities
Ward:	All Wards

Executive Summary:

The purpose of the Combined Surveillance/CCTV/Image recording technologies Policy is to combine and regulate the council's operation of digital image recording systems across all areas of the council for the purpose the policy "systems" relate to any form of data captured at a minimum of 24 frames per second which is the minimum speed needed to capture video while still maintaining realistic motion.

Recommendation(s):

Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel are asked to:

1. Note and scrutinise the report and consider any representations to Cabinet in advance of its meeting on 14th December 2023.

Corporate Implications

Financial and Value for Money

The implementation of the policy will not have an additional financial impact as budgets are already in place across the relevant areas of the council

Legal

- The use of council-owned CCTV systems in the UK is governed by several different laws and regulations. These include:

- Data Protection Act 2018: This law sets out rules for how personal data (such as images of people captured on CCTV) can be collected, processed, and stored. Councils must comply with the principles of the Act when using their CCTV systems.
- Human Rights Act 1998: This law guarantees the right to privacy and the protection of personal data. Councils must balance the need for CCTV surveillance with the privacy rights of individuals.
- Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000: This law regulates the use of surveillance by public authorities, including councils. CCTV systems must be used for a legitimate purpose, such as preventing crime or protecting public safety.
- CCTV Code of Practice: This code, issued by the CCTV commissioner, provides detailed guidance on the use of CCTV systems. Councils must comply with the code's requirements, which cover issues such as signage, image quality, and access to footage.
- Overall, councils must ensure that their CCTV systems are used in a lawful, transparent, and proportionate manner. They must also inform the public about the use of CCTV in their area and provide a way for individuals to access their personal data if it is captured on CCTV.

Risk Management

CCTV (closed-circuit television) risk management refers to the processes and strategies implemented to identify, assess, and mitigate risks associated with CCTV systems. It involves evaluating potential threats, vulnerabilities, and consequences, and developing measures to minimise or eliminate them.

The purpose of the policy is to mitigate risk by consolidating CCTV operations, data retention, release and disposal of gathered data.

Corporate

The following revised corporate priorities set out the things that the council will focus on over the next four years to get us closer to achieving our vision for Thanet. The new policy and minimum standards will support:

Priority one: To keep our district safe and clean

Priority three: To protect our environment

Priority four: To create a thriving place

Priority five: To work efficiently for you

Equality Act 2010 & Public Sector Equality Duty

The policy is grounded by relevant equality duties and therefore does not discriminate against those with protected characteristics.

Corporate Priorities

This report relates to the following corporate priorities: -

- Priority one: To keep our district safe and clean
- Priority three: To protect our environment

- Priority four: To create a thriving place
- Priority five: To work efficiently for you

1.0 Introduction and Background

The purpose of this report relates to the construction of a single policy covering the council's use of image recording systems (CCTV) and to provide clear guidance to departments utilising “systems” relating to any form of data captured at a minimum of 24 frames per second which is the minimum speed needed to capture video while still maintaining realistic motion.

The policy is broken down into 4 parts

- Public Space Surveillance Systems (PSS)
- Static CCTV Systems SCS
- In Cab/Car technology systems (CTS)
- Body worn recording systems (BWV)

Currently there are a number of separate policies relating to the different types of recording systems in place. Regulations governing the use of CCTV are robust when applied to public bodies therefore the adoption of a single overarching policy

2.0 The Current Situation

- 2.1 Current policies require updating and whilst valid may not reflect the changes within legislation and government guidance in what is a fast paced technological environment.
- 2.2 The development of a Combined Surveillance/CCTV/Image recording technologies Policy provides clear guidance to any department currently using these types of technologies around use, management (system and data) and provides a series of minimum standards that will apply across the council.

3.0 Options –

- 3.1 Consider any representations to Cabinet in advance of its meeting on 19 October 2023.

4.0 Next Steps


- 4.1 This will now be taken to the 14 December 2023 Cabinet meeting for adoption.


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Annex List

 DRAFT November 2023 Combined CCTV/ Image recording technologies Policy

Background Papers

 SCC_Councillors_Guide_-_February_2016.pdf

 Equality Impact Assessment Combined CCTV policy

Corporate Consultation

Finance:

Legal: