

ITEM 4(e)

**CRIME AND COMMUNITY
SAFETY PARTNERSHIP**

28 FEBRUARY 2000

Milton Keynes Crime and
Community Safety
Partnership

CCTV STRATEGY

INTRODUCTION

CCTV has been shown to be an effective measure in helping to tackle crime. This is particularly true when CCTV is installed in locations such as town centres and car parks. It is important however that the development of publicly owned CCTV systems is co-ordinated by a publicly accountable body. In Milton Keynes this responsibility has been given to the Milton Keynes Crime & Community Safety Partnership.

What is the Milton Keynes Crime & Community Safety Partnership?

The Partnership was formed under the duties of the Crime & Disorder Act 1998. The Act requires local authorities and local police to bring together key agencies from the statutory and private sector with the purpose of implementing a 3 year crime reduction strategy. (See Annex A for details of the Milton Keynes Crime & Community Safety Partnership's membership).

What is the purpose of this document?

The Partnership has produced this strategy document to:

- State the criteria that will be used for the development of CCTV in Milton Keynes.
- Provide guidance to those groups seeking backing from the Partnership to support local CCTV bids.

The introduction of Home Office funding opportunities has increased the request for CCTV systems in Milton Keynes. The Home Office however has made it clear that it will not consider bids that have not been approved by the local crime partnerships.

CCTV in Milton Keynes

There is currently one main publicly owned CCTV system. (The CMK System).

Milton Keynes has CCTV cameras located in the city centre monitored at Central Milton Keynes Police Station. By the end of the summer 2000 additional cameras will be installed in both the city centre and also in Wolverton.

Any further expansion of the system would require additional funding for more monitoring staff and the refurbishment of the existing monitoring room.

Milton Keynes Council owns the current system and funds the ongoing maintenance costs. The police funds the monitoring room and staff costs.

MAIN CRITERIA

The development of CCTV in Milton Keynes will be based on three main criteria. The Partnership will consider implementing a CCTV system if it can demonstrate the following:

(1) **It will help deliver the Milton Keynes Crime Reduction Strategy**

It is important that any plans to develop CCTV are linked to the Milton Keynes Crime Reduction Strategy. The strategy outlines the approach being taken to reduce crime and disorder. Proposals to develop CCTV will need to demonstrate how they would support the crime reduction strategy objectives and targets.

(2) **It demonstrates that CCTV is the most effective measure to address the problem**

CCTV is only one method of reducing crime and it may not always be the most cost-effective measure to take. The Partnership will consider whether CCTV represents the most effective solution for addressing the problem.

(3) **CCTV will monitor public open spaces**

The CCTV system should operate on the principle that it is installed for the benefit of the whole community and will therefore monitor areas used by the public. *Public open spaces include areas that everyone has access to.*

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

If proposals for the expansion of CCTV system satisfy the three main criteria then further issues will need to be considered.

a) **Police support**

Police support must be obtained before any new CCTV system can be developed. The police must firstly agree that a significant crime or community safety issue exists. Secondly they must agree that CCTV is the most suitable measure to take in order to address the problem.

b) **Funding**

There is a financial cost to both purchasing and installing CCTV systems and then funding the ongoing maintenance. Any new requests for CCTV should identify how **capital costs** for the purchase and installation of CCTV and longer-term **revenue costs** for maintenance of the system will be provided.

c) Technical specification

It is important that CCTV systems fulfil specific technical and quality standards. This is particularly important if they are to be connected to a police monitored system.

d) Code of Practice

Any new CCTV system should have a code of practice that is approved by the Crime & Community Safety Partnership.

e) Demonstration of public consultation

Requests for CCTV should demonstrate that public consultation has been undertaken to obtain community views about the proposals for CCTV in the area. This may be consultation with residents, community groups, parish councils etc.

The next step

Over the next few years The Milton Keynes Crime & Community Safety Partnership will consider how CCTV can help deliver the crime reduction plan