



## CABINET

**Subject Heading:**

Adoption of New CCTV Policy

**Cabinet Member:**

Councillor Barry Mugglestone, Cabinet Member for Environment

**ELT Lead:**

Helen Oakerbee – Director of Planning and Public Protection

**Report Author and contact details:**

Chris McAvoy  
Chris.mcavoy@havering.gov.uk

**Policy context:**

Updated CCTV Policy

**Financial summary:**

No direct financial implications arise from this decision should the CCTV Policy be adopted.

**Is this a Key Decision?**

Yes - new Policy decision covering the whole borough

**When should this matter be reviewed?**

Subject to service requirements/legislative updates

**Reviewing OSC:**

People (Crime and Disorder sits within People for scrutiny purposes)

### The subject matter of this report deals with the following Council Objectives

**People - Supporting our residents to stay safe and well – x**

Place - A great place to live, work and enjoy

Resources - Enabling a resident-focused and resilient Council

## **SUMMARY**

This report seeks the adoption of a new Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) and Body Worn Video (BWV) Policy. This is to primarily improve compliance of the regulation and administration of the Council's CCTV function.

The policy also underpins how the Council meets its statutory obligations. These obligations fall under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, which requires local authorities to consider crime and disorder reduction in all their functions, and under the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022, which places a duty on councils and their partners to address serious violence (Serious Violence Duty-SVD) in the borough by using the technologies legally and ethically.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

For Cabinet to note the contents of and agree to the publication of the new CCTV Policy, appended to this report at Appendix x.

## **REPORT DETAIL**

1. A CCTV Policy is required because the use of surveillance technology by a local authority must be carefully governed to ensure it is lawful, proportionate, and effective in meeting statutory duties. Without a clear policy, there is a risk of misuse, lack of accountability, and challenges to public trust.
2. CCTV and BWV are vital tools, helping to deter offending, provide evidence for investigations, and reduce the fear of crime among residents. By deploying these technologies, the Council can support the police and other agencies in tackling issues such as knife crime, anti-social behaviour, and other forms of serious violence, while also ensuring transparency and accountability in its own enforcement activities.
3. The CCTV Policy demonstrates Havering's commitment to a proactive, partnership-based approach to crime reduction, combining prevention, detection, and reassurance to create safer communities across the borough.
4. Examples of offences included in the Serious Violence Duty (SVD) are:
  - Homicide (murder and manslaughter)
  - Knife-enabled crime (stabblings, possession of bladed articles)
  - Firearms offences (shootings, possession of guns)
  - Grievous Bodily Harm (GBH) and other serious assaults
  - Robbery where violence or threat of violence is used
  - Additional offences that may be included depending on local context:
  - Domestic abuse (particularly where it involves serious injury or risk to life)
  - Sexual violence (rape, sexual assault)

- Child criminal exploitation (e.g., county lines drug trafficking involving coercion and violence)
  - Violence against women and girls
5. It is useful to outline these offences as defined by the SVD, as CCTV can clearly be used to tackle these issues and has been doing successfully since its inception. CCTV has also been outlined in our wider strategies as a key tool in fighting crime.
  6. Robberies, drug related violence, ASB, Assaults and VAWG all occur within our Town Centres and CCTV is one of the most effective strategies in deterring or detecting these offences.
  7. The CCTV team proactively record approximately 20,000 actions each year showing the highly proactive and tangible use of CCTV in contributing to our various duties.
  8. The Havering Community Safety Partnership (HCSP) analyses crime on an ongoing and regular basis. This is examined monthly at the Precision Crime Fighting (PCF) group and quarterly performance reports made to the HCSP. This data is fed into the annual Strategic Needs Assessment and the HCSP then creates three-yearly Community Safety Plans on how to address those issues. These figures are also reported to the public via publicly accessing website and at annual Crime Summits.
  9. The Policy is primarily aimed to cover the use of all CCTV which is installed and monitored by the Enforcement and Community Safety Teams and also covers BWV for any officer that wears it for the functions outlined in the policy.
  10. The intention as part of a longer term strategy is to review all outlying standalone CCTV systems that are not part of the network monitored from the Council's CCTV Control Room and to bring them in under one umbrella to ensure consistent standards are applied and compliance is achieved to the Surveillance and Camera Commissioners guidelines.
  11. The Policy will be published in line with our own Data Protection Processing policy, the Surveillance Camera Commissioners Code of Practice and the Nolan Principles of transparency.

## **REASONS AND OPTIONS**

According to the Home Office Surveillance Camera Code of Practice (2013) which references the Human Rights Act 1998, having a CCTV Policy is a requirement for those operating a surveillance camera system or processing related data.

### **Reasons for the decision:**

It is a requirement under the relevant legislation to operate a CCTV system under a CCTV Policy

**Other options considered:**

Not having a CCTV policy – this was rejected due to it being a requirement in the CCTV legislation mentioned above

|                               |
|-------------------------------|
| <b>IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS</b> |
|-------------------------------|

It is a risk not to operate a CCTV system in a compliant manner, and the CCTV Policy sets out how the requirements will be followed.

**Financial implications and risks:**

There are no direct financial implications associated with publishing the new CCTV Policy.

However, failure to adopt the policy could result in financial risks particularly in the event of a legal challenge.

**Legal implications and risks:**

It is best practice and a requirement to have a CCTV Policy as part of operating a Local Authority CCTV system.

Not adopting a policy could have legal implications through such challenge.

**Human Resources implications and risks:**

There are no HR implications concerning the implementation of this policy.

All relevant staff will be sighted on the relevant Policy once published

**Equalities implications and risks:**

An EQIA has been completed, this policy is noted to have a neutral effect across the borough with regards to equality impact.

It must be noted and explained that the main driving force behind the creation of a CCTV Policy is to ensure that the Council has due regard to the Human Rights Act 1998, the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, the Surveillance Camera Code of Conduct and ultimately the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 whose primary purposes are to safeguard everyone's rights to privacy, ensure the Council is doing all it can to reduce crime and disorder whilst ensuring the protection of data obtained and processed is paramount.

The main purpose of setting up a Surveillance Camera system is to prevent and detect crime, reduce the number of offences committed (and therefore victims) and to solve crime and reduce actual and perceived crime in an area.

It is therefore strongly felt that the implementation of a robust CCTV Policy will only enhance protection of all residents including those with vulnerable characteristics.

It is not envisaged that there are any negative impacts towards any group by implementing a sound CCTV policy.

It shows good governance and transparency to have a published Policy, especially one that impacts visitors to and residents of Havering.

## **EQIA**

[CCTV Policy EQIA 2025.docx](#)

### **Health and Wellbeing implications and Risks**

The main purpose of setting up a Surveillance Camera system is to prevent and detect crime, reduce the number of offences committed (and therefore victims) and to solve crime and reduce actual and perceived crime in an area.

It has been evidenced that the CCTV team witness on average 20,000 incidents each year and have a close working relationship with Police and other partners in order to proactively and reactively address crime and ASB.

Residents have commented frequently via social media, public surveys, crime and community safety surveys, letters to Councillors and at other forums that they feel strongly that the installation of CCTV across Havering should be prioritised in order to reduce crime and the fear of crime.

Therefore, by ensuring that any Local Authority CCTV is operated correctly and with good governance, it will inspire confidence and trust and positively contribute towards health and wellbeing.

There are no direct health and wellbeing implications arising from the adoption of the proposed CCTV policy.

Adoption of the policy supports the consistent, transparent and appropriate use of CCTV in public places, and can support improved public confidence in use of these surveillance measures. Being a victim of crime or experiencing fear of crime can have both physical and psychological implications for health and wellbeing, which the use of CCTV as part of wider crime prevention and reduction methods, can help to address.

|   |
|---|
| <b>ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS</b>                        |
| There are no Climate implications or risks from the implementation of the CCTV Policy |

|  |
|--|
|  |
|--|

|                          |
|--------------------------|
| <b>BACKGROUND PAPERS</b> |
|--------------------------|