

Policy and Resources Committee Meeting	
Meeting Date	5 th February 2025
Report Title	Public Space CCTV Policy Review
EMT Lead	Emma Wiggins, Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods
Head of Service	Charlotte Hudson, Head of Housing and Communities
Lead Officer	Stephanie Curtis, Community Services Manager
Classification	Open
Recommendations	1. That the Policy and Resources Committee approves and adopts the refresh of the Public Space CCTV Policy.

1 Purpose of Report and Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report provides an overview of proposed changes made as part of a refresh of the public space CCTV policy and asks for Committee approval.

2 Background

- 2.1 The first Swale Public Space CCTV Policy was adopted in April 2020, following the upgrade of the CCTV service, and bringing the monitoring of the service back in-house to our purpose-built control centre; and was refreshed in 2022.
- 2.2 The Policy discusses the objectives of the system; the policies it must comply with; responsibilities within the Council; deployment of cameras; monitoring and access to images; maintenance; transparency; security; and health and safety. The Policy is also underpinned by a series of operational procedures embedding the principles of the policy in the day to day running of the service. It also discusses third party monitoring contracts.
- 2.3 Key amendments have been made as follows:
- General amends to some wording/terminology throughout the document to ensure it is current.
 - The addition of section 5.8 – due to the recent external monitoring contracts taken on for two borough/district councils within the control centre, the control centre has largely reached its capacity for larger external contracts. Options are being considered as to whether the control centre could be expanded, however this section puts forward the priorities for consideration of any future external monitoring contracts.

- Section 6.16 has been added to confirm the funding necessities for installation of new camera systems in public spaces.
- Section 6.17 has been added to agree the type of new system to be installed and stipulations around manufacturers of equipment to factor in any government guidance around specific manufacturers, as well as best value procurement considerations. This has been added due to national concerns raised around a specific Chinese equipment manufacturer (HikVision) having been used by local authorities (including Swale). Following these concerns guidance has been issued by the Government that they would not be using this supplier in high-risk sensitive locations, but this doesn't apply to public space CCTV used by LA's and the risk is felt to be very minimal for Swale.

3 Proposals

- 3.1 That the Policy and Resources Committee approves and adopts the refresh of the Public Space CCTV Policy.

4 Alternative Options

- 4.1 To not approve the refreshed policy – this is not recommended as although the current policy is still valid, this amended version of the policy includes some updates that would be beneficial for the operation of the Control Centre.

5 Consultation Undertaken or Proposed

- 5.1 No consultation has been undertaken or is proposed.

6 Implications

Issue	Implications
Corporate Plan	This Policy supports the Corporate Plan priority 'Community - To deliver an effective public space CCTV service and town centre radio scheme, and to grow wider service delivery by the control centre'.
Financial, Resource and Property	There are no additional finance, resource or property implications in implementing this refreshed policy.
Legal, Statutory and Procurement	There is no Statutory Duty to deliver CCTV. However Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places an obligation on local authorities to consider the crime, disorder and environmental issues affecting the local area and ensure their activities do all they reasonably can to prevent them. The implementation and monitoring of CCTV is one such activity delivered by Swale Borough Council that ensures this obligation is met.

	The Surveillance Camera Code of Practice provides guidance on how all public space CCTV services should be managed. This needs to be borne in mind along with the Data Protection Act.
Crime and Disorder	The policy details the main objectives of the Public Space CCTV service. This are principally to prevent and deter crime and Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB).
Environment and Climate/Ecological Emergency	No environment and sustainability implications have been identified at this stage.
Health and Wellbeing	The delivery of the Public Space CCTV service seeks to create safer communities - not only in a sense of feeling safer, but also by reducing the risk of physical injury. It also provides a service to protect vulnerable members of the community e.g. those that go missing. The latter is identified as one of the objectives of the service within the Policy.
Safeguarding of Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults	The delivery of the Public Space CCTV service enables the safeguarding of children, young people and adults through the daily operation of the control centre.
Risk Management and Health and Safety	A risk assessment and other health and safety procedures are in place within the control centre.
Equality and Diversity	No specific implications on groups with protected characteristics have been identified.
Privacy and Data Protection	A privacy notice is in place for the CCTV Service and a DPIA was completed at the time the service was brought back in house.

7 Appendices

7.1 The following documents are to be published with this report and form part of the report:

- Appendix I: Swale CCTV Public Space CCTV Policy 2025 – 2028

8 Background Papers

No background papers.