

Cheltenham Borough Council

Council – 22 June 2015

Petition to place security cameras on areas vulnerable to violent crime in Cheltenham

Accountable member	Cabinet Member Development and Safety, Councillor Andrew McKinlay
Accountable officer	Director of Environmental and Regulatory Services, Mike Redman
Ward(s) affected	All
Key Decision	No
Executive summary	<p>The following petition was received by Democratic Services on 14 May 2015: “Place CCTV on Brunswick Street, St Paul’s North Street, Swindon Road, Honeybourne Line, The High Street, The Promenade and other areas vulnerable to violent crime in Cheltenham.”</p> <p>As the petition had in excess of 750 signatures it is entitled to a debate at Council.</p>
Recommendations	The Council notes the request for additional CCTV in the St Paul's area. Council resolves to consider the request as part of the overall review of current CCTV provision within the Borough

Financial implications	<p>None directly from this report as the financial implications will be considered as part of the overall review of CCTV provision within the Borough.</p> <p>Contact officer: Nina Philippidis, Business Partner Accountant nina.philippidis@cheltenham.gov.uk, 01242 264121</p>
Legal implications	<p>The petition must be considered in accordance with the Council’s Petition Scheme made pursuant to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009. The petition will be considered in accordance with the Council Procedure Rules varied in so far as necessary to comply with the attached process.</p> <p>Contact officer: Peter Lewis, Head of Law (Regulatory) Peter.lewis@tewkesbury.gov.uk Tel:01684 272 012</p>
HR implications (including learning and organisational development)	<p>There are no HR implications arising from this report.</p>

Key risks	None identified
Corporate and community plan Implications	Supports our Corporate Strategy objectives of strengthening our communities by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing anti-social behaviour • Tackling crime • Communities feel safe and are safe
Environmental and climate change implications	None arising from this report.
Property/Asset Implications	Currently none arising from the report as the location of the additional equipment is not known Contact officer: david.roberts@cheltenham.gov.uk

1. Background to the Petition Scheme

- 1.1** The petition provisions in the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 aim to address the perception nationally, as revealed in the results of the Place survey, that the community is unable to influence local decisions.
- 1.2** The Council's Petition Scheme (based on the national model scheme) is designed to ensure that the public has easy access to information about how to petition their local authority and they will know what to expect from their local authority in response. Included within the Scheme is the requirement to have a full Council debate should a certain number of signatures be achieved. Cheltenham Borough Council has set that threshold lower than that recommended by the legislation at 750 signatures.
- 1.3** The legislation also recommends a 15 minute maximum period for the debate and recognises that the issue may be referred to another committee where the matter is not one reserved for Council. The purpose of the requirement for Council debate therefore, is not to ensure that the final decision relating to the petition issue is made at that Council meeting but to increase the transparency of the decision making process, ensuring that debates on significant petitions are publicised with sufficient notice to enable the petition organiser and public to attend. It also ensures that local people know that their views have been listened to and they have the opportunity to hear their local representative debate their concerns. The outcome of debates will depend on the subject matter of the petition.

2. The petition

- 2.1** Democratic Services received a petition on Thursday 14 May 2015. The wording of the petition is set out in the Executive Summary to this report.
- 2.2** Mr Zachary Bromfield was nominated as the petition organiser.
- 2.3** The Council is therefore required to debate the petition for a maximum of 15 minutes in accordance with the Petitions Scheme approved by Council on the 13 May 2010. A process for dealing with a petition was produced by officers and is attached as Appendix 1 as a process to be followed for the debate at this meeting. The debate should conclude with one or more decisions taken pursuant to the Petition Scheme as follows
- taking the action requested in the petition (provided the matter is reserved to full Council for decision)

- referring the matter to Cabinet or an Appropriate Cabinet Member or Committee (including Overview and Scrutiny) for further consideration
- holding an inquiry into the matter
- undertaking research into the matter
- holding a public meeting
- holding a consultation
- holding a meeting with petitioners
- calling a referendum
- writing to the petition organiser setting out our views about the request in the petition
- taking no further action on the matter

3. Background Information

- 3.1** The council owns and maintains a total of 61 Town Centre CCTV cameras which are monitored from a central policing control room in Lansdown Road. The council have no direct input into their operational use.
- 3.2** Our annual CCTV Revenue budget is £131,400 which includes running costs such as maintenance and electricity. £245,700 has also been allocated in the coming year's capital budget for new investment in our car parks and £50k for the Town Centre. This has to cover the costs of cyclical replacement as existing cameras reach the end of their useful life.
- 3.3** CCTV cameras play an important role in detecting and dealing with a range of crimes and the evidence they record is of great value to the police because it increases the chances of securing a conviction. They are also viewed as a visible deterrent to anybody who might be looking to commit an offence.
- 3.4** The cost of installation of one additional new camera would be in the region of £10 k for the capital installation, with a 5 year fixed rental cost of around £800-£900 per annum.

4. Consultation

- 4.1** The police have been consulted in terms of the petition and their views are as follows:
- 4.2** "Based on the last 5 years crime statistics for St Pauls & Pitville communities the statistics show crime is generally falling in the area. I would support cameras in St Pauls but not at the expense of other areas in the town.
- 4.3** Taking St Pauls alone I see no statistical reason to have CCTV if it was a response to an increase in crime. There hasn't been an increase and I am confident that the excellent work from the community together with the partnership work between ourselves and others will prevent any increase in the future.
- 4.4** However, CCTV around the town in general is a different matter. Without doubt, a properly working CCTV system is a very effective tool in detecting crime. Many serious crimes have been detected in Cheltenham by interrogation of CCTV systems. Whether CCTV is now a deterrent is debateable. Certainly it was when introduced many years ago but I have my doubts now as professional criminals will use disguise or hoods to evade being identified and non-professional offenders don't seem to notice. What we have found of late is that the CCTV captures evidence away from the offence when offenders are less on their guard, such as a recent hand bag theft where we located the offender having followed them around the system until they felt confident enough to remove their disguise. So, in short, I am an absolute advocate of an effective CCTV system and the more cameras we can add to the system the better."
- 4.5** The police also supplied some crime statistics which are set out in Appendix 2.

5. Reasons for recommendations

5.1 To decide a course of action as required by the Petition Scheme.

Report author	Barbara Exley Head of Public Protection barbara.exley@cheltenham.gov.uk Tel: 01242 264220 Rosalind Reeves, Democratic Services Manager rosalind.reeves@cheltenham.gov.uk 01242 774937
Appendices	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Crime statistics2. Process for dealing with a petition at Council
Background Information	Council's petition scheme – report to Council 13 May 2010

Appendix 1

Crime Statistics - St Pauls and Pittville

Period : 19MAY2014 - 19MAY2015 and period 2015/ 2016 YTD [01APR 2015 - 19MAY2015]

Offence Class/Banding	Period : 19MAY2014 - 19MAY2015			2015/ 2016 YTD [01APR 2015 - 19MAY2015]		
	Crimes	Detected	%Detn Rate	Crimes	Detected	%Detn Rate
VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PERSON	105	39	37.14	23	10	43.48
SEXUAL OFFENCES	15	4	26.67	3	1	33.33
ROBBERY	6	2	33.33	0	0	0
VIOLENT CRIME	126	45	35.71	26	11	42.31
Burglary Dwelling	62	10	16.13	3	1	33.33
Burglary Non Dwelling	37	4	10.81	4	1	25
BURGLARY TOTAL	99	14	14.14	7	2	28.57
Theft From Motor Vehicle	36	0	0	1	0	0
Theft Of / TWOC	25	0	0	3	0	0

AUTO CRIME TOTAL	61	0	0	4	0	0
Other Theft & Handling	123	22	17.89	17	3	17.65
THEFT & HANDLING	184	22	11.96	21	3	14.29
FRAUD & FORGERY	1	0	0	0	0	0
CRIMINAL DAMAGE	79	14	17.72	10	6	60
Trafficking Of Drugs	3	5	166.67	1	0	0
Possession Of Drugs	12	11	91.67	3	2	66.67
Other Drug Offences	0	0	0	0	0	0
DRUG OFFENCES TOTAL	15	16	106.67	4	2	50
OTHER NOTIFIABLE OFFENCES	12	3	25	1	0	0
GRAND TOTAL	516	114	22.09	69	24	34.78

Period : 19MAY2013 - 19MAY2014 and period 2014/ 2015 YTD [01APR 2014 - 19MAY2014]

Offence Class/Banding	Period : 19MAY2013 - 19MAY2014			2014/ 2015 YTD [01APR 2014 - 19MAY2014]		
	Crimes	Detected	%Detn Rate	Crimes	Detected	%Detn Rate
VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PERSON	68	29	42.65	16	4	25
SEXUAL OFFENCES	11	4	36.36	2	0	0
ROBBERY	7	1	14.29	1	0	0
VIOLENT CRIME	86	34	39.53	19	4	21.05
Burglary Dwelling	69	3	4.35	4	0	0
Burglary Non Dwelling	41	1	2.44	6	0	0
BURGLARY TOTAL	110	4	3.64	10	0	0
Theft From Motor Vehicle	46	0	0	3	0	0
Theft Of / TWOC	15	1	6.67	2	0	0
AUTO CRIME	61	1	1.64	5	0	0
TOTAL						

Other Theft & Handling	150	28	18.67	14	1	7.14
THEFT & HANDLING TOTAL	211	29	13.74	19	1	5.26
FRAUD & FORGERY	4	1	25	0	0	0
CRIMINAL DAMAGE	88	9	10.23	8	2	25
Trafficking Of Drugs	8	3	37.5	1	0	0
Possession Of Drugs	13	14	107.69	4	4	100
Other Drug Offences	0	0	0	0	0	0
DRUG OFFENCES TOTAL	21	17	80.95	5	4	80
OTHER NOTIFIABLE OFFENCES	5	4	80	0	1	0
GRAND TOTAL	525	98	18.67	61	12	19.67

Period : 19MAY2012 - 19MAY2013 and period 2013/ 2014 YTD [01APR 2013 - 19MAY2013]

Offence Class/Banding	Period : 19MAY2012 - 19MAY2013			2013/ 2014 YTD [01APR 2013 - 19MAY2013]		
	Crimes	Detected	%Detn Rate	Crimes	Detected	%Detn Rate
VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PERSON	64	38	59.38	7	4	57.14
SEXUAL OFFENCES	9	4	44.44	3	0	0
ROBBERY	2	0	0	0	0	0
VIOLENT CRIME TOTAL	75	42	56	10	4	40
Burglary Dwelling	53	5	9.43	8	2	25
Burglary Non Dwelling	25	3	12	2	0	0
BURGLARY TOTAL	78	8	10.26	10	2	20
Theft From Motor Vehicle	28	0	0	7	0	0
Theft Of / TWOC	12	0	0	4	0	0
AUTO CRIME TOTAL	40	0	0	11	0	0
Other Theft &	89	18	20.22	16	7	43.75

Handling

THEFT &HANDLING	129	18	13.95	27	7	25.93
FRAUD & FORGERY	8	9	112.5	0	1	0
CRIMINAL DAMAGE	74	10	13.51	15	0	0
Trafficking Of Drugs	5	2	40	1	0	0
Possession Of Drugs	20	18	90	2	0	0
Other Drug Offences	0	0	0	0	0	0
DRUG OFFENCES TOTAL	25	20	80	3	0	0
OTHER NOTIFIABLE OFFENCES	9	7	77.78	1	1	100
GRAND TOTAL	398	114	28.64	66	15	22.73

Period : 19MAY2011 - 19MAY2012 and period 2012/ 2013 YTD [01APR 2012 - 19MAY2012]

Offence Class/Banding	Period : 19MAY2011 - 19MAY2012			2012/ 2013 YTD [01APR 2012 - 19MAY2012]		
	Crimes	Detected	%Detn Rate	Crimes	Detected	%Detn Rate
VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PERSON	70	35	50	10	5	50
SEXUAL OFFENCES	8	1	12.5	0	0	0
ROBBERY	4	0	0	2	0	0
VIOLENT CRIME Total	82	36	43.9	12	5	41.67
Burglary Dwelling	141	11	7.8	6	0	0
Burglary Non Dwelling	21	1	4.76	0	0	0
BURGLARY TOTAL	162	12	7.41	6	0	0
Theft From Motor Vehicle	40	1	2.5	1	0	0
Theft Of / TWOC	16	1	6.25	1	0	0

AUTO CRIME TOTAL	56	2	3.57	2	0	0
Other Theft & Handling	111	12	10.81	18	1	5.56
THEFT & HANDLING	167	14	8.38	20	1	5
FRAUD & FORGERY	8	2	25	4	1	25
CRIMINAL DAMAGE	122	12	9.84	13	3	23.08
Trafficking Of Drugs	4	3	75	1	1	100
Possession Of Drugs	22	19	86.36	1	1	100
Other Drug Offences	0	0	0	0	0	0
DRUG OFFENCES TOTAL	26	22	84.62	2	2	100
OTHER NOTIFIABLE OFFENCES	11	6	54.55	0	0	0
GRAND TOTAL	578	104	17.99	57	12	21.05

Period : 19MAY2010 - 19MAY2011 and period 2011/ 2012 YTD [01APR 2011 - 19MAY2011]

Offence Class/Banding	Period : 19MAY2010 - 19MAY2011			2011/ 2012 YTD [01APR 2011 - 19MAY2011]		
	Crimes	Detected	%Detn Rate	Crimes	Detected	%Detn Rate
VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PERSON	91	49	53.85	7	4	57.14
SEXUAL OFFENCES	13	0	0	2	0	0
ROBBERY	7	2	28.57	0	1	0
VIOLENT CRIME TOTAL	111	51	45.95	9	5	55.56
Burglary Dwelling	136	12	8.82	8	1	12.5
Burglary Non Dwelling	39	1	2.56	6	0	0
BURGLARY TOTAL	175	13	7.43	14	1	7.14
Theft From Motor Vehicle	136	2	1.47	26	0	0
Theft Of / TWOC	17	1	5.88	1	0	0

AUTO CRIME TOTAL	153	3	1.96	27	0	0
Other Theft & Handling	170	31	18.24	19	3	15.79
THEFT & HANDLING	323	34	10.53	46	3	6.52
FRAUD & FORGERY	7	3	42.86	0	0	0
CRIMINAL DAMAGE	182	19	10.44	23	1	4.35
Trafficking Of Drugs	6	8	133.33	0	1	0
Possession Of Drugs	36	33	91.67	1	0	0
Other Drug Offences	0	0	0	0	0	0
DRUG OFFENCES TOTAL	42	41	97.62	1	1	100
OTHER NOTIFIABLE OFFENCES	10	7	70	1	1	100
GRAND TOTAL	850	168	19.76	94	12	12.77

Process for dealing with petitions at Council

The following is the recommended process to be followed for the debate of a petition at the Council meeting in accordance with the Council's Petition Scheme. The Council Procedure Rules shall be suspended in so far as necessary to facilitate this process.

1. The Mayor will remind members of the procedure to be followed

2. Statement by the petition organiser

The Mayor will invite the petitioner organiser or their representative to come to the microphone and speak for up to 5 minutes on the petition.

There will be no questions and the petition organiser/their representative will take no further part in the proceedings.

3. Clarification on the background information in the officer's report

Members will be invited to ask any questions for clarification as to the facts in the officer's report.

4. Statement by the relevant Cabinet Member

The Cabinet Member whose portfolio is most relevant to the petition will be invited by the Mayor to speak for a maximum of 5 minutes on the subject of the petition. They may wish to refer to the background report from officers circulated with the papers for the meeting.

They may also wish to propose a motion at this point; if so, the motion must be seconded.

5. Debate by members

Where a member has proposed a motion (which is seconded), the usual Rules of Debate (Rule 13) will apply.

If there is no motion, the Mayor will invite any member who wishes to speak on the petition to address Council for up to a maximum of 3 minutes.

When the 15 minutes set aside for the debate (as laid down in the Council's Petition Scheme) is up, the Mayor may decide to extend the time allowed for the debate but will bring it to a close when they feel sufficient time has been allowed.

6. Conclusion of Debate

The debate should conclude with one or more decisions taken pursuant to the Petition Scheme as follows:

- taking the action requested in the petition (provided the matter is reserved to full council for decision)
- referring the matter to Cabinet or an Appropriate Cabinet Member or Committee (including Overview and Scrutiny) for further consideration
- holding an inquiry into the matter
- undertaking research into the matter
- holding a public meeting
- holding a consultation
- holding a meeting with petitioners
- calling a referendum
- writing to the petition organiser setting out our views about the request in the petition
- taking no further action on the matter