



PCC
Office of the Police and
Crime Commissioner
Devon and Cornwall

Safe, resilient, connected communities

The role of CCTV

The PCC's Police and Crime Plan 2017-2020 'Safe, resilient and connected communities' sets out a commitment to support local authorities that wish to invest in CCTV systems. This commitment is part of the 'Supportive' element of the Local Policing Promise. The Plan sets out the PCC's broad approach to CCTV investment and includes a commitment to publish an overarching CCTV Investment Strategy.

This document presents the Investment Strategy for CCTV, outlines the PCC's view of the contribution which CCTV can make to community safety and resilience, and the support the PCC is offering to local authorities.

Background

The Police and Crime Plan 2017-2020 'Safe, resilient and connected communities' sets out a commitment from the PCC to support local authorities that wish to invest in CCTV systems.

The Plan states clearly that the PCC's approach will be to provide a contribution to capital investment costs (not revenue) and that the focus will be on supporting the creation of interconnected, high quality and sustainable systems. The PCC has committed to providing 'up to £200,000' over the lifetime of the Plan.

The PCC's intention to support capital investment in CCTV has been clear for some time. Initial investigative work began on the CCTV landscape and a potential role for the PCC in

summer 2016 following the previous PCC's decision to provide a capital contribution to support CCTV development in Launceston and Bude in late 2015.

A detailed landscape review of current CCTV provision in Devon and Cornwall has been carried out – working closely with external partners and practitioners, including local councils and the Cornwall Fire and Rescue Service.

For the purposes of this report “local authorities” refers to whichever tier of local government has responsibility for CCTV systems, including district and town councils. The PCC's decision to support local authorities in this area through a small capital fund is in recognition of the broader role that CCTV can play in keeping communities safe and the importance of supporting local communities as set out in the PCC's Local Policing Plan.

The PCC's approach to CCTV

In the Police and Crime Plan 2017-20 the PCC has outlined her approach to CCTV as follows:

“Helping local authorities who wish to make better use of CCTV to keep communities safe.

High quality and interconnected CCTV systems can play a role in community safety. CCTV provision is not the responsibility of the PCC or the police, but the PCC recognises they can benefit the police, in particular aiding investigation and detection of crime. The PCC understands the challenges local authorities face in establishing and maintaining local CCTV systems – in particular the capital purchase of equipment, the complexities and costs associated with monitoring CCTV and regulatory compliance. The PCC has seen, with interest, the establishment of a centralised CCTV monitoring hub and service at Cornwall Fire and Rescue, and considers this development by Cornwall Council to present opportunities for other local authorities.

The PCC has held exploratory discussions with local councils in Devon about potential for a similar centralised monitoring service. There is considerable interest. The PCC wishes to support local authorities – helping bring them together to explore opportunities and provide some contributory capital funding in support of developing interconnected, sustainable hubs for CCTV monitoring.

From 2017-2020 the PCC will allocate capital funding, up to £200,000, to support local authorities. The PCC will publish a CCTV investment strategy by February 2017 – focused on supporting capital investment (not revenue costs) in interconnected, high quality and sustainable systems and the development of shared local authorities monitoring hubs.”

The PCC considers that CCTV has a role to play in supporting community safety in the following ways:

- Providing reassurance for the local community, including the public and people/officers working in those areas – especially in the Evening and Night-time Economy areas
- Supporting police in investigations and detection
- Contributing to the evidence base for civil actions – such as Public Space Protection Orders, premises closure notices and other orders to prevent asb
- Safeguarding vulnerable people – including lost children, individuals with mental health problems, elderly people who may have gone missing, individuals who have been drinking with friends and have become detached from them.

The PCC has set out her intention to work with local authorities who are seeking to develop high quality, sustainable and interconnected CCTV systems as part of their wider approach to community safety.

An interconnected hub model

The PCC has been impressed by the benefits coming from the Cornwall model of a centralised monitoring and support hub provided by Cornwall Fire and Rescue Service. The Tolvaddon ‘hub’ provides a modern, high quality and interconnected system that allows for images to be beamed into the police control room (and to council emergency contingencies control rooms) With 9 Cornish towns currently connected in and the capacity to extend this significantly, this initiative has gone a long way towards rationalising CCTV provision in Cornwall.

A move to monitoring hubs could provide real value for local authorities of all sizes in terms of reduced procurement and running costs, lower regulatory compliance costs and shared best practice. The OPCC’s engagement with stakeholders to date has confirmed that smaller towns which are looking to install or upgrade stand-alone CCTV systems face significant challenges due to the complexity and cost of the compliance requirements of the legislation covering data handling, the cost of monitoring a small number of cameras in one town and the capital costs associated with upgrading or installing high quality kit. Access to centralised monitoring hubs across the region could bring significant savings costs in addition to connectivity and shared use of data.

A ‘hub’ based model also offers wider benefits – in particular the opportunity to ‘connect’ into other infrastructure– like police control rooms and County Council contingencies bases in order to improve responsiveness and operations. Expert advice is that further

opportunities are expected to emerge over the coming years – with live streaming of CCTV footage to hand-held devices to aid searches for offenders or vulnerable people a real possibility. The delivery of such opportunities are far more realistic when ‘secure interconnection’ needs to be established with a small number of hubs than with a large number of disparate CCTV systems across the peninsula. The PCC’s approach to investment will reflect the different landscapes

- Devon - the focus will be on delivering ‘monitoring hub’ capability across Devon and then supporting local authorities who wish to connect their CCTV systems into a ‘hub’. A range of options are being considered with partners – including the expansion of capacity at the existing CCTV centres and the creation of new monitoring hubs.
- Cornwall, the existing ‘hub’ at Tolvaddon has capacity and so the focus in Cornwall will be on supporting local authorities who wish to connect their CCTV systems into the ‘hub’. If demand levels require an expansion of existing infrastructure at Tolvaddon then PCC contributions will be considered.

The PCC and the OPCC have engaged with a large number of local authorities over the past few months to understand the current CCTV landscape and develop the PCC’s approach. The PCC has been clear that any investment in CCTV needs to focus on delivery of high quality and sustainable systems. Local authorities have expressed significant support for the ‘hub’ model and some preparatory work to understand any potential ‘hub’ structures has been taking place.

The OPCC (and Devon and Cornwall Police Estates Department) are currently helping North Devon Council to carry out a baseline audit of the CCTV systems which are in place in North Devon and to support them in building a clear costing model for a ‘hub’ in Barnstaple which could serve the network of towns in North and Mid Devon. A similar exercise is due to be discussed with Exeter and Plymouth city councils who have expressed interest in the ‘hub’ model. In Torbay a restructuring of the CCTV systems is planned and there may be further “hub” capacity as a result.

Micro systems

An interconnected ‘hub’ system may not be the right solution for all areas. In particular small towns and villages or areas which have a significant uplift in population for a short period over the summer are unlikely to find it a financial viable prospect. The proposed principles do not address the case of small towns and villages who might seek support for a simple ‘un-connected’ CCTV system. It is proposed that the focus for the CCTV Investment Strategy in Year 1 remains on the ‘hub’ model and that the potential to provide any wider support is considered at the end of 2017/18.

Volunteer-run systems

Professional monitoring services will be a requirement for newly created CCTV hubs. The Commissioner is not opposed to independent, volunteer led systems but these will not receive financial support as there are long term question marks over their sustainability and resilience at this stage.

The PCC's Investment Strategy

A budget of up to £200,000 has been allocated. The PCC's Investment Strategy does not set out a 'cash' allocation for CCTV in any location. A set of principles have been agreed which will be used to inform investment decisions and a clear process is being put in place by which the decisions will be taken. While considerable engagement with local authorities and stakeholders has already taken place to understand their needs and develop the hub approach, a formal process will now be run to allow local authorities to formally express a view of their needs.

Proposed CCTV Investment Principles

Investment decisions will be made in line with the following 8 principles

1. Capital funding is only available for local areas where the community, council and police have a clear and strong business case – low quality and/or unsustainable systems will not be supported
2. No PCC funding will be provided for ongoing revenue costs.
3. The PCC will not meet 100% of capital investment costs – the PCC will be looking to local authorities to contribute capital funds and for businesses to be involved in a partnership approach.
4. The PCC's investment in CCTV will be focused on the establishment and/or further development of 'hub' based monitoring systems – to make local systems more sustainable and to better exploit the opportunities provided by technological advancements. The PCC's capital investment will be focused on costs associated with:
 - a. Infrastructure required to develop a 'hub'
 - b. Connecting a local area into an operative 'hub'.
5. A 'hub' based system will normally involve more than one local authority – with either multiple local authorities joining together to develop a 'hub' or a single local authority providing 'hub' services to other local authorities.
6. The PCC's role is to provide some support to a local authority if it is seeking to invest in CCTV – the PCC will not seek to influence an area's decision about whether it wants to install CCTV.

7. The PCC investment will be in the form of a grant of funds – and will be accompanied by clear grant conditions as developed (which will include data collection, reporting, access arrangements for other local authorities and sustainability commitments). The PCC will not own CCTV infrastructure.
8. The PCC will make investment decisions through a clear process – advised by a CCTV Investment Advisory Board. All local authorities will be given a further opportunity to express an interest in becoming a ‘hub’ and/or taking services from a hub.

Connection into a monitoring hub will involve ongoing revenue costs that the local authority will need to meet locally.

Next Steps

- March 2017. Publication and circulation of the PCC’s CCTV Strategy to all local authorities in Devon and Cornwall, including an invitation to submit expressions of interest along with a brief overview of the current position regarding any CCTV system which may already exist, and an indication of current thinking, as far as it exists, on possible future CCTV development
- April 2017. Submission of the initial EOIs (expressions of interest).
- May 2017:
 - Work to begin with local authorities to draw up detailed costings of CCTV options, both for authorities seeking to develop individual project plans and for those seeking to work in locally connected systems.
 - Work with “hub” providers, local authorities and Police Estates department to develop fully costed connectivity and monitoring service options.
- We will contact authorities again after the May elections to check whether there have been any significant changes to local intentions regarding CCTV as a result of the elections.

Governance Arrangements for the CCTV Investment Project

1. An advisory board will be established, including an external advisor, to provide advice to the CCTV Project Manager.
2. Recommendations regarding investment options will be brought to the PCC.
3. The PCC will make investment decisions, advised by the Chief Executive Officer and the OPCC.
4. Contacts for further details:

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