

Equality Impact Assessment

Service Area: CCTV, Place, Property and Regeneration

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Date of Assessment: 21/08/2024

Name of policy/function/project/service area to be assessed: North Devon Public Space CCTV system – annual review

Brief description of proposal to be assessed: Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) is an effective tool in tackling crime and anti-social behaviour, helping to safeguard vulnerable residents and anyone living, working or visiting North Devon. North Devon Council (NDC) has operated public open space CCTV cameras since 1998 covering Barnstaple Town Centre and surrounding areas. The original scheme in Barnstaple has been added to and there are now 37 cameras operational across North Devon including 1 deployable camera, with the vast majority within Barnstaple Town Centre. There are 17 cameras that cover Ilfracombe Harbour that are monitored by the Harbour Master.

The cameras are permanently recording 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and actively monitored for the majority of that time by fully trained SIA (Security Industry Authority) licensed operators. The operators are required to adhere to security measures put in place such as secure access to systems and maintaining appropriate audit trails. The CCTV Supervisor carries out regular inspections, thereby mitigating the risk of misuse of data.

North Devon Council's code of practice for CCTV sets out how the Council and its partners ensure the operation of our CCTV systems comply with the law, including the Data Protection Act 1998, Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA 2010) and the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012. The code also describes the rules that will be followed so that the system is operated in a way that ensures privacy, integrity and fairness.

CCTV is primarily used to facilitate crime detection and reduction, however it is also known to assist in; reducing the fear of crime, supporting the prosecution of offenders through the provision of CCTV evidence and the Criminal Justice System; supporting key stakeholders such as Devon and Cornwall Police in their day to day activity, physical presence of the cameras throughout our town centres also acts as a deterrent.

The operatives are in close contact with the Police at all times and the businesses within Barnstaple Town centre through Storenet. The principal partners in this CCTV scheme are North Devon Council, Devon and Cornwall Constabulary and Devon County Council.

For the reasons outlined above, it is clear that CCTV has an overall positive impact on all the protected characteristics contained within the Equality Act 2010.

The CCTV team is currently fully resourced to ensure effective management and delivery of the service and any associated contracts with its providers. This EIA has considered the impact of general and targeted surveillance on members of the public from the protected groups.

Proposed implementation date of project/proposal: Ongoing

Brief description of the anticipated outcomes of the proposal:

Proposal	Current Arrangement	Proposed Arrangement	Comment
The ongoing provision of a public space CCTV service	There are 37 cameras in North Devon operated by NDC to prevent disorder or crime and to reduce the fear of crime	Ongoing	Ongoing overt public surveillance

Consultation:

Regular reviews (at least annually) of CCTV are undertaken including protocols, procedures and information sharing agreements to ensure the council remain fully compliant. As a result of these, no issues relating to equalities have been identified as areas of concern. An annual review is undertaken to identify and action any changes to the system, this includes reviewing the justification for each camera, in each locality to ensure they are still necessary and proportionate; and do not have an adverse or negative impact on any community or individual – for example all site inspections and reviews consider privacy intrusion.

Demographic Data by protected characteristic:

Within the North Devon District area the population is: 48.7% Male and 51.3 % Female.

Age: 16.7% aged 15 and under; 4% aged 16 to 19; 31.4% aged 20 to 49; 35.6% aged 50 to 74; 12.3% aged 75 and above

Race: The population of North Devon identifies as: Asian, Asian British, or Asian Welsh 1.2%; Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African 0.3%; Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups 1.2%; White 97%; Other 0.3%

Religion or Belief: According to the 2021 Census, 46.7% stated they were Christian, with 45.1% stating they were not of a specific religion. 6.5% did not answer the question. The remainder (1.7%) include Buddhist, Muslim, Jew, Hindu, Sikh and 'other'.

Sexual orientation (*asked of those over 16): 90.3 % identified as Straight or Heterosexual, 1.1% Gay or Lesbian, 1% Bi-sexual, 0.3% Pansexual or Asexual, 7.4% did not answer.

Gender (*asked of those over 16): 94.1% identified as the same sex as registered at

birth. 0.3% identified as a different sex to that registered at birth, 5.6% did not answer.

Disability / Long term health: 72.7 % stated they were not disabled under the Equality Act – with no long term physical or mental health conditions. 11.6 % stated they were disabled under the equality act –with day-to-day activities limited a little. 8 % stated they were disabled under the equality act –with day-to-day activities limited a lot. 7.8 % stated they were disabled under the equality act – having a long term physical or mental health condition but day-to-day activities were not limited.

Impact:

CCTV has the ability to have a positive impact across all equality groups as its main purpose is to prevent and reduce crime; and reduce the fear of crime for anyone living, working in North Devon.

Characteristic	Impact	Scale of Impact (High/Med/Low)	Can it be mitigated?
All	The annual review and ongoing monitoring of equality related issues in respect of the CCTV system have not given rise to any concerns and additionally confirm the benefits to all protected characteristics as set out in this impact assessment. The impact of the service is therefore considered to be positive.	Medium	Continue to deliver a fully functioning CCTV system, which will protect all residents and visitors to North Devon.

Consideration of Alternatives:

The alternative is to not provide a service which would have a negative impact on all characteristics

Funding Considerations:

Funding for the service is within the Council’s revenue budgets

Monitoring Arrangements:

The Scheme Manager will regularly review the EIA, in line with legislative changes or good practice. The system is reviewed at least annually to ensure the system remains necessary, proportionate and effective.

Date on which you will be re-considering the project/report and submitting a further EIA if applicable.

Annually

EIA's should be further reviewed for significant changes or projects within 12 months or as part of a project close down. If after completing a review material changes are identified, these should be reported to the Senior Management Team for consideration. This is to assess the true impact in the delivery.

Reporting and Publication:

Corporate and Community Services Use Only: Date of publication to NDC

Website: Click or tap to enter a date.