

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND ANALYSIS (EqIAA)

CCTV – February 2020

SECTION 1 – INTRODUCTION

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 South Gloucestershire.

South Gloucestershire Council's ASB and Community Safety Team has responsibility for the day to day management and development of a variety of community safety CCTV systems. These include:

- 38 PTZ (Pan, Tilt, and Zoom) and 6 Static public space cameras are located throughout our town centres and adjacent neighbourhoods. The areas covered by these CCTV cameras include Kingswood, Staple Hill, Thornbury, Hanham, Filton, Chipping Sodbury and Cadbury Heath.
- 25 cameras situated along the South Gloucestershire Metrobus route
- 4 Bodyworn cameras used by the Councils commissioned Taxi Marshal Service on Friday and Saturday night to assist in the management of the night time economy in Kingswood and Chipping Sodbury
- 3 Deployable cameras, which are used for the purpose of tackling locality based ASB as and when requested

The Council has an agreed cyclical replacement programme, which ensures the CCTV system is current and up-to date, utilising the latest technology resulting in excellent quality of images in bringing offenders to justice. The 71 community safety cameras are integrated onto a fibre optic network of which 65 facilitate the usage of pan, tilt, zoom, which allows the field of view to be moved as and when required.

CCTV Monitoring

South Gloucestershire Council is the 'Data Owner' for all its CCTV functions, however, currently has arrangements with Bristol City Council to proactively monitor its 44 Town Centre Cameras. These cameras are monitored 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year

The CCTV Monitoring Contract with Bristol City Council was renewed on the 1st April 2018. Due to the implementation of Metrobus an additional 25 community safety cameras were added to this contract.

In addition to the arrangement with Bristol city Council, the Council, in partnership with Avon and Somerset Constabulary also operate a review suite at Kingswood Civic Centre, which can be used to proactively monitor activity throughout South Gloucestershire; and where evidential footage from our CCTV cameras can be viewed and investigated by authorised officers. A separate protocol exists between the Council and A&S Police to ensure the appropriate use of this facility, which is managed and overseen by the Councils CCTV Officer.

Officers authorised to use this facility are all SIA (Security Industry Authority) trained; and are required to adhere to security measures put in place, such as signing in and out, access to systems and maintaining appropriate audit trails. This facility is subject to regular weekly inspections by the CCTV Officer, thereby mitigating the risk of the misuse of data.

South Gloucestershire Council's [code of practice](#) for community safety 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 Avon and Somerset Constabulary in their day to day activity, assisting in multi-agency operations enabling the efficient deployment of Officers and resources. (South Gloucestershire Council commission Bristol City Council to monitor the CCTV system 24 hours a day. Bristol City Council receive approximately 70 requests per annum from the Police for downloads of footage to support them in bringing offenders to justice and in support of operations).
- The physical presence of the cameras throughout our town centres also acts as a deterrent.

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. It is not anticipated that the expansion and renewal of the contract with Bristol City Council will result in any adverse equalities impact on any group or individual due to this being a continuation of service delivery.

The Safe, Strong Communities Division ASB and Community Safety Team has responsibility for this contract and is currently fully resourced to ensure the robust, effective management and delivery of the service and any associated contracts with its providers.

Information sharing agreements are in place to support and facilitate the process of information sharing and this EqIAA has considered the impact of general and targeted surveillance on members of the public from the protected groups. South Gloucestershire Council ensure that their covert surveillance and monitoring complies with RIPA (Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act) and human rights legislation. Up to date policies and procedures are in place to ensure the necessary RIPA applications are completed correctly and within the guidance of the law.

SECTION 2 – RESEARCH & CONSULTATION

Regular reviews 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 for concern.

Common Minimum Standards are agreed and implemented for all CCTV equipment and 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 the risk of any collateral intrusion.

Prior to the implementation of any overt deployable CCTV a consultation process is carried out with all residents who live within close proximity to the cameras location; and residents are informed, as a matter of course, when the camera is removed.

SECTION 3 - IDENTIFICATION AND ANALYSIS OF EQUALITIES ISSUES AND IMPACTS

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

The Council has invested significantly in ensuring the CCTV community safety infrastructure is maintained, and enhanced, including the more recent move to upgrade town centre CCTV from analogue to digital. A rolling programme has been completed work to ensure systems are kept up to date with changes in technology; and are operational at all times will help to ensure there is no adverse or negative impact on any individual or community.

To date, 25 IP CCTV cameras have been installed along the South Gloucestershire Metrobus route. In addition, a further 44 CCTV cameras in Kingswood, Staple Hill, Cadbury Heath, Hanham, Chipping Sodbury, Thornbury and Filton have all been upgraded from analogue to IP.

SECTION 4 – EQIAA OUTCOME

Outcome	Response	Reason(s) and Justification
Outcome 1: No major change required.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Neither consultation nor ongoing monitoring of equalities related issues in respect of CCTV have given rise to any concerns and additionally confirm the benefits to all protected characteristic groups as set out in this EqIAA. As a result the continuation of the contract with BCC raises no negative equalities impact and positive impacts that are in place. This continues to be the case in the advent of 23 new cameras along the Metrobus route.
Outcome 2: Adjustments to remove barriers or to better promote equality have been identified.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Outcome 3: Continue despite having identified potential for adverse impact or missed opportunities to promote equality.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Outcome 4: Stop and rethink.	<input type="checkbox"/>	

SECTION 5 – ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN AS A RESULT OF THIS EQIAA

- To continue to communicate with residents living near to proposed CCTV cameras and more widely with residents in regard to broader issues concerning community safety in order to closely monitor equalities related issues emerging.
- To continue to deliver a fully functioning CCTV system, which will protect all residents and visitors to South Gloucestershire to:
 - Reduce crime and disorder
 - Reduce the fear of crime
 - Support the Police in their day to day activity and specialist operations
 - Provide evidence for Court proceedings and prosecutions, securing convictions to bring offenders to justice

SECTION 6 – EVIDENCE INFORMING THIS EQIAA

The View Point Survey is undertaken annually by the Council to understand: % of people feeling safe outside.

Results for the February to March 2018 survey found that after dark 69% felt very or fairly safe; and during the day 90% felt very or fairly safe.

CCTV is known to make a positive contribution in terms of helping to reduce the fear of crime and help people to feel safe.