

Committee(s):	Date:
Police Committee- For information	20 th September 2018
Subject: River Cameras Project	Public
Report of: Commissioner of Police Pol 72-18	For Information
Report author: Inspector Lorenzo Conigliaro – Crime and Counter Terrorism	

Summary

Members will recall that during the July 2018 Committee the subject of river based cameras to aid suicide prevention was discussed after receipt of a resolution from the Health and Wellbeing Board of the City of London Corporation. This was with reference to the 'River Cameras Project' which was part of the Ring Steel Programme during 2016.

The Rivera Cameras Project was part of the larger Ring of Steel Programme, which included the Barbican CCTV project and IMS/DRS as other headline projects. The River Cameras Project had reached a fairly advanced stage, with agreement in principle at Gateway 3/4 and proof of concept completed.

At the beginning of this year the Ring of Steel Programme was shut down, in order to review the management of the programme to ensure better and more effective outcomes. The only element of the programme taken forward at that time was the IMS/DRS project and this was maintained as a standalone project. The ambition was to relaunch the Ring of Steel in a more structured and effective way under Secure City, of which CCTV and Infrastructure would be a central strand.

The work that has been completed to date on the River Cameras Project remains valid and the work will be within scope of the CCTV and Infrastructure strand of Secure City. Suicide prevention and the protection of vulnerable people remains a key priority for City of London Police, along with ensuring we have the most robust and innovative counter terrorism measures.

The delivery of the IMS/DRS project remains a dependency on the feasibility of the River Cameras Project, as well as holding a large amount of resource and expertise needed to drive the River Camera Project forward. The next steps are to restart the River Camera Project as a strand within the CCTV and Infrastructure strand of Secure City and review all previous work completed with an ambition of developing the project at pace.

Recommendation(s)

For members to note the report.

Main Report

Background

1. The River Cameras Project was part of the Ring of Steel Programme and had been set up in response to the increased number of vulnerable people committing suicide from the City Bridges. It followed an innovation suggestion from one of our control room operators who documented the benefit of instant thermal imaging in order to help save people who had fallen into the River Thames. Their first-hand experience in managing the initial response highlighted how valuable this technology could be in helping to save lives.
2. In June 2016 a Gateway 1/2 paper entitled 'River Cameras Project' was presented to the Project Sub Committee. The paper outlined the ambition of the project and requested £30,000 in staff funding, with relevant rationale and confirmation that the funding had been agreed from Bridge House Estates. This paper was approved.
3. The project team began the necessary work in order to prepare and submit a Gateway 3/4 paper, outlining cost and rationale for the installation of cameras. This included but not exclusively;
 - Privacy Impact Assessment screening phase.
 - Operational Requirement and assessment.
 - User Requirement and functionality.
 - Feasibility study and proof of concept.
4. In November 2016 a Gateway 3/4 paper was drafted for Policy and Resources Committee providing the full operational requirement for the project and providing three options with costing. Option three, which was the installation of fixed thermal imaging cameras along with advanced analytics which came with an estimated cost of £1,388,000.
5. The rationale was largely weighted towards the ability to quickly identify and track people in water to assist with search and rescue operations and mobilisation of water assets. The paper also highlighted the benefit to the City in terms of Counter Terrorism. To quote the paper; 'The number one priority of both the City of London Police and the Safer City Partnership is Counter Terrorism. The proposals in this paper will assist the police in pre, during and post investigations and there is no doubt that they will result in a fundamental improvement in security. The technology will also support and improve the deployments of Project Servator on the bridges to help detect and deter criminal behaviour'. This extract was written prior to the terrorist attacks on Westminster Bridge and London Bridge.
6. The Gateway 3/4 report was submitted and agreed in principle by Policy and Resources Committee.

7. At the beginning of this year, the Ring of Steel Programme was re-organised in order that the whole programme could be reevaluated, assessed and relaunched with more strategic direction, support and importantly measurable outcomes. This change was communicated to Members at the Committee in a report to your January 2018 Committee (Pol 01-18 refers) and this report also went to the Project Sub Committee, Policy and Resources Committee and Resource Allocation Sub Committee. This included the subsuming of the One Safe City Project. The IMS/DRS element remained in motion due to the advanced position of the project and investment to date. However the River Cameras Project was paused awaiting the refresh of the programme.
8. It should be noted that the delivery of river based cameras as set out in the original Gateway 3/4 cannot be achieved without the successful implementation of IMS/DRS. The technology behind IMS/DRS is the enabling factor for advanced technology such as tracking CCTV cameras, thermal imagery and analytics. Hence the push to continue with IMS/DRS despite rebranding of the Ring of Steel programme.
9. In January 2018 the Secure City Programme was launched. One of the strands of Secure City was defined as CCTV and Infrastructure. This was a broad strand with the aim of reviewing the CCTV technology in the City *holistically*, and setting a vision for the future, with innovative and creative ways to make the City more secure. Firmly within this strand was the river cameras, albeit not a project in its own right from the outset.

Current Position

Secure City Programme

10. This new joint programme with the City of London Corporation is about creating a secure environment, using the most up to date technology now and in the future, to make the City an attractive place to visit and locate business. The programme consists of a number of strands:
 - Physical Infrastructure
 - Future Technologies
 - CCTV and Hardware
 - IMS/DRS (digital upgrade of CCTV back office system)
 - Joint Command and Control Room
11. The project team have provisionally identified the River Cameras Project as within scope of the CCTV strand and are now awaiting staff funding to move this strand forward. Much of the foundation work for river cameras has been completed however the team will need to review the operational requirement, location feasibility and funding requirements/agreements, as would be expected given the time period between the original Gateway 3/4 and now. The only funding spent on the River Cameras Project remains the initial staffing costs to get the project to Gateway 3/4.

12. As mentioned previously in this report, river cameras are entirely dependent on the delivery of IMS/DRS. This is true for much of the advanced technology that would be within scope of the CCTV strand of Secure City. Many of the team working on the IMS/DRS project possess the skills and knowledge requirement for the CCTV strand of Secure City and therefore the team await the release of staff to move this part forward. This is a key dependency.
13. What is not in question is the pressing need to address two priorities for the City of London. Protecting people from harm and ensuring the City is a safe place for everyone who visits it. The addition of intelligent river cameras that can support search and rescue in the river, but also provide enhanced counter terrorism capabilities will place the City in an advanced position in terms of capability and investment into security and safety.

Recommendation

14. It is recommended that Members note the contents of this report.

Contact:

Lorenzo Conigliaro

Inspector – Crime and Counter Terrorism

Crime Directorate

T: 07803 305 364

E: lorenzo.conigliaro@cityoflondon.pnn.police.uk