

Committee(s): Police Authority Board – for decision	Dated: 13 December 2023
Subject: Next steps on Barbican CCTV	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation’s Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	1 – People are safe and feel safe
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain’s Department?	N/A
Report of: Town Clerk	For Decision
Report author: Charles Smart, Police Authority team	

Summary

The Police Authority Board earlier this year revived the question of whether police-monitored CCTV should be installed on the Barbican estate. Having reviewed crime and ASB rates in the Barbican, the City Police and Corporation officials believe there is not a clear case for installation, and recommend that the issue is kept under review by the Safer City Partnership.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to endorse the recommendation not to pursue installation of CCTV at this point, and for the Safer City Partnership to keep the matter under review.

Main Report

Background

1. There is an existing “police CCTV” network covering the City’s streets that is run and monitored by the City Police. It is important to note that this is a distinct system from the many other networks used by businesses or private premises, and where this report refers to “CCTV”, unless stated otherwise, this means the City-Police-run network.
2. In 2016-17 the Corporation considered whether to extend the City Police CCTV network across the Barbican residential estate as part of a wider security review (the Barbican Centre, i.e. the arts and culture venue, already has CCTV coverage overseen by City Police, and Barbican car parks also have CCTV and 24-hour on-site security teams). The City Police conducted a privacy impact assessment

which concluded – largely on the basis of low crime rates – that CCTV installation in residential areas was not appropriate or proportionate.

3. A decision was taken to review the question once the Moorgate Crossrail development was completed, on the basis that the associated higher footfall might increase crime and disorder on the Barbican estate. Earlier this year a Police Authority Board Member recalled this decision noting Crossrail / Elizabeth Line was now open (as of May 2022), so the question has been revived.

Current Position

4. The City Police have reviewed crime and disorder data on the Barbican estate from June 2018 to September 2023 – a timeframe which includes a ‘pre-Covid baseline’ and 15 months of Crossrail / the Elizabeth line being open. Their report (*see appendix*) concludes there is not evidence to suggest a crime and disorder problem in the Barbican – all crime has risen by 4% since 2018 (equivalent to 38 more crimes a year), and all recorded anti-social behaviour has fallen by 22% (a fall of 49 reports a year).
5. While no formal consultation has been undertaken, the Corporation has not received any representations from Barbican residents about now installing CCTV on the estate (and, indeed, residents were predominantly against installation in 2016-17). Nor have there been any other calls from other quarters for CCTV on the estate.
6. As such – with no clear case for the proposal and no explicit support for it – the City Police and Corporation officials agree installation should not be pursued at this point.

Options

7. Option 1, the recommended option, is to place the question with the Safer City Partnership for ongoing review. The SCP includes representatives from the City Police and from across the Corporation including Barbican estate officials, and currently has a sub-group dedicated to the issue of ASB in the City. It conducts annual reviews of crime, disorder, ASB and safety in the City, and these would identify if there were a substantive change in volumes on the Barbican estate that might justify considering CCTV as an option. The SCP is overseen by the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee so Members will have sight of this work.
8. Option 2 would be to take further steps to exploring CCTV installation. This would entail opening discussions with the Chamberlain’s about funding (for which, as above, there is not clear justification) and a range of administrative work potentially including a resident’s consultation and production of another privacy impact assessment.
9. Members should also note that the Corporation is subject to audits by the Biometrics and Surveillance Camera Commissioner on compliance with CCTV regulations, and that other external bodies take an interest in the proliferation of

cameras without good cause, both of which may raise issues in pursuing the option further on the basis of current evidence.

10. Lastly, while not an option for the Police Authority Board it remains open to the City Corporation to install its own CCTV network across the residential estate, in its role as landlord. It would be likely that a large proportion of the cost of such an approach would be recharged to residential leaseholders. This would be a matter for Community and Children's Services committee, although we do not recommend a formal referral to that committees from PAB.

Proposals

11. This report proposes Option 1, as set out above.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

Option 1 has limited-to-no implications, as keeping the matter under review by the SCP minimises any risk or reputational issues.

Option 2 has, initially, resource implications of further administrative work and a range of financial, legal, and risk implications if CCTV installation were to be pursued to implementation. The estimated cost in 2016 was £215,000.

Conclusion

12. Having reviewed the evidence, City Police and Corporation officials have concluded that there remains no clear case for installing CCTV on the Barbican residential estate. Members are asked to agree the recommendation that installation is not pursued further, with the matter kept under review by the Safer City Partnership who will continue to monitor crime and ASB volumes in the Barbican.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 (**non public**) – City Police overview of Barbican Crime (*NB – typo in heading for this, the report covers crime and ASB up to 31 August 2023, not 2022*)

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