

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Subject: CCTV – FUTURE OPTIONS
Meeting: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Date: 29 SEPTEMBER 2015
Author: DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE AND HOUSING SERVICES

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Executive considered a report in October 2014 which outlined a range of options for the future provision of local CCTV monitoring services. Members agreed to the establishment of a local CCTV service, hosted in Falkirk Police Station, which became operational on 1 April 2015.
- 1.2 Members also agreed to continue the monitoring arrangements on a temporary basis but on a like for like basis, as had operated under the Forth Valley CCTV Partnership until 31 March 2015. As a result a temporary contract was agreed with Enigma CCTV for the provision of full time monitoring services at Falkirk Police Station, until 31 December 2015.
- 1.3 This report asks Members to consider future options for the continuing provision of CCTV Services, from 1 January 2016 onwards. These options will focus on securing Best Value for the Council, and are as follows:
- Continuing the provision of full time CCTV monitoring – the current service:
 - Operating a peak-time CCTV monitoring service, subject to demand and risk analysis. This is a service model, similar to that operated by Highland Council;
 - Operating a recorded-only service, with no live monitoring. This is the service model currently operated by Clackmannanshire Council; and
 - Discontinue the service.
- 1.4 This report will consider the benefits, disadvantages, risks and challenges associated with each service delivery model.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Members will recall that we needed to establish a local CCTV Services, as a result of Stirling and Clackmannanshire Council's respective decisions to withdraw from the Forth Valley CCTV Partnership. Up until 31 March 2015, partnership CCTV monitoring facilities were hosted in Alloa. The termination of the Forth Valley CCTV Partnership required the relocation of CCTV equipment from Alloa to Falkirk, within a very compressed timescale. This was to allow the commencement of our new service on 1 April 2015.

- 2.2 Apart from one or two minor technical issues at the start, the new service has bedded in well. Enigma CCTV staff have successfully relocated from Alloa to Falkirk. The temporary contract we have with Enigma CCTV is also working well.

3. FULLY MONITORED SERVICE

- 3.1 Enigma CCTV currently provides monitoring services, 24 hours per day, 365 days per year. The allocated staff resource is sufficient to service these hours of operation, as well as cover all sickness, annual leave etc. Resources are also sufficient to meet peak requirements, such as covering major incidents.
- 3.2 In addition to this Police Scotland support staff undertake an annual inspection of all our 82 public realm CCTV cameras, undertaking repairs as required. The maintenance of our monitoring equipment is provided by Maintain Vision Ltd, on an on-call basis. Call out rates were agreed at the start of the 2015/16 financial year. All of these arrangements run concurrently until 31 December 2015. The projected 2015/16 annual costs for the provision of local CCTV services is as follows:

List of Services	2015/16 Projected Costs (£)
The provision of monitoring services	150,000
Camera maintenance & repair etc	36,754
Monitoring equipment maintenance & repair	10,000
Total Expenditure	196,754
Falkirk Council's Allocated Budget	203,720

- 3.3 Police Scotland make an annual contribution of £50,000 to support CCTV provision in the Falkirk Council area. The funding arrangement operates with the Council funding the service up front and then recovering the £50,000 from Police Scotland. This therefore results in the Council's net expenditure being £146,754 per annum. Part of a police sergeant's time has also been allocated by Police Scotland to act in a co-ordination capacity at Falkirk Police Station. This resource liaises with Enigma monitoring staff on site and also helps to co-ordinate maintenance and repairs.
- 3.4 The CCTV system also supports the Shop Safe system which provides a live radio link between a number of shops in Falkirk Town centre. The system allows shops to share information on shoplifting and is particularly valuable if a child becomes lost, since it also allows CCTV operators to focus cameras on a particular area to assist in the search.
- 3.5 Police Scotland has provided a background report, attached at Appendix 1, which outlines the number of crimes which occurred in areas monitored by our public realm CCTV cameras. This report covers the period 1 April to 31 August 2015. This has been analysed by crime group, and highlights that the largest occurrence of incidents was with regard to crimes of dishonesty. A map has been provided depicting the prevalence of crime by area. Further analysis shows incident distribution for each day of the week and by time of day.

- 3.6 This option continues with the current service and therefore would provide continuity of service. We will however be required to retender the service to ensure we secure Best Value. One disadvantage of this option is that although Police Scotland make a financial and resource contribution towards the running of the service, the vast majority of the financial cost is borne by the Council. A further factor that we will need to bear in mind is that the current cameras we deploy across the area are based on analogue technology. If we are to continue operating this service we would need to consider investing in digital technology, the costs of which are unknown at this stage.

4. PEAK-TIME MONITORED SERVICE

- 4.1 This option envisages reducing the monitoring service from a 24 hour services to a peak-time service based on 50% of the current hours. If this option is selected the exact hours of operation will need to be based on evidence and risk to determine an optimum operational pattern. This may not be a fixed pattern, but more flexibly organised on peak demand each day. A similar service to this is operated by Highland Council and this example can be used as a foundation to help design our own peak-time service. The following table demonstrates how this could be achieved. The table shows the distribution of incidents across the Falkirk Council area, by the time of day for the total number of incidents between 1 April 2015 and 30 July 2015.

Time	Number of Incidents	Time	Number of Incidents
0000 - 0059	72	1200 - 1259	53
0100 - 0159	66	1300 - 1359	59
0200 - 0259	56	1400 - 1459	57
0300 - 0359	34	1500 - 1559	57
0400 - 0459	22	1600 - 1659	54
0500 - 0559	19	1700 - 1759	52
0600 - 0659	6	1800 - 1859	52
0700 - 0759	7	1900 - 1959	41
0800 - 0859	23	2000 - 2059	57
0900 - 0959	25	2100 - 2159	46
1000 - 1059	48	2200 - 2259	55
1100 - 1159	39	2300 - 2359	79
Total Number of Incidents - 1079			

Source: Police Scotland

- 4.2 This option would realise a saving of £75,000 per annum to the Council, based on a 50% reduction in the budget allocated to monitoring. Care will have to be taken in ensuring that peak-time pattern we implement matches greatest need. The hours of operation for this service would not be published. This avoids the potential misuse of such information. The experience of Highland Council is that this service model is successful. This would have the advantage of retaining part of a staffed resource, although the service will need to be retendered to ensure we secure Best Value. The projected costs for this option are as follows.

List of Services	Projected Annual Costs (£)
The provision of monitoring services	75,000
Camera maintenance & repair etc	36,754
Monitoring equipment maintenance & repair	10,000
Total Expenditure	121,754

5. RECORD ONLY SERVICE

- 5.1 This option encompasses the cessation of live monitoring and would see this replaced by a 'record only' service. This would still allow evidence to be collated, but after the event has occurred. Clackmannanshire Council has operated on this basis since 1 April 2015, on an equal partnership with Police Scotland. Equipment can be maintained to allow the resumption of live monitoring in the future, or for a special event or occasion.
- 5.2 This option would realise a significant saving for Falkirk Council (£150,000 per annum) and move the partnership with Police Scotland onto an equal footing. We would still incur maintenance costs however. The main impact of this option would be the loss of 7 Enigma posts, currently involved with the provision of live monitoring services.
- 5.3 Colleagues in Clackmannanshire Council report the successful operation of the 'record only' service. The projected costs of this option are as follows:

List of Services	Projected Annual Costs (£)
Camera maintenance & repair etc	36,754
Monitoring equipment maintenance & repair	10,000
Total Projected Expenditure	46,754

6. DISCONTINUE THE CURRENT SERVICE

- 6.1 This option envisages the Council discontinuing support for the current service entirely. This would realise a significant saving for Falkirk Council (£203,000 per annum), as we would no longer monitor or maintain a CCTV system.

7. CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 If we opt to retain a full or part-time monitoring service then this will have to be retendered. If we choose to implement a recorded only service then notice will have to be given to Enigma CCTV of our intention to do so, with the resultant staff implications which will arise as a result. We will also need to advise partners with a stake in this service on what option we propose to implement. In considering the future of the service we need to additionally consider the future investment needed to change from analogue to digital technology.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- 8.1 Note the information provided on the various options for the future provision of CCTV Services in the Falkirk Council area; and**
- 8.2 Agree a preferred option from those available as listed below:**
 - **Fully monitored service;**
 - **Part-time monitored service;**
 - **Record only service; and**
 - **Discontinue the current service.**

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DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE AND HOUSING SERVICES.

Date: 01 September 2015
Ref: ABB0915AW– CCTV – Future Options
Contact Name: Andrew Wilson

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 1. None**

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers listed above should telephone Falkirk 01324 506046 and ask for Andrew Wilson



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Appendix 1

FALKIRK AREA COMMAND

CCTV

1st April 2015 – 31st August 2015

**Analytical Unit
August 2015**

Introduction

This report has been compiled following a request made by Falkirk Council to examine crime / incident data with a view to establishing if a business case is justified for resourcing a monitored CCTV resource in the Falkirk Council Area, either on a 24/7 or peak time basis.

Aim

The aim of this report is to provide temporal analysis to ascertain if there are any day or time peaks or seasonal patterns to crimes/incidents occurring within the areas covered by CCTV cameras, and also quantitative analysis to provide an indication of the volume of crime occurring within the range of these cameras out of the total number of crimes and offences reported.

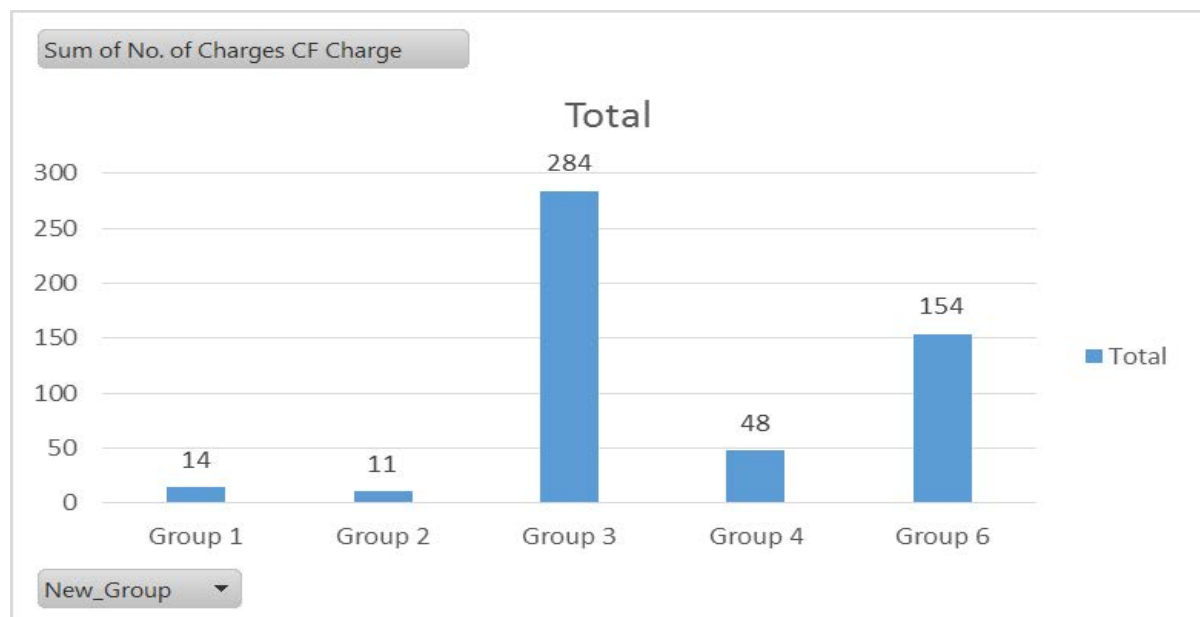
Methodology

Data was extracted using Business Objects for Group 1 – 4 crimes and also common assault and breach of the peace for the period 1st April 2015 and 31st August 2015 for the Falkirk area command. This data was then plotted onto ArcGIS mapping and overlaid with the locations of the public space CCTV cameras. A buffer of 100 meters was placed around each of the CCTV cameras and the crime which occurred within these buffers was extracted for analysis.

Overview

Between the 1st April 2015 and 31st August 2015 there were 3,058 charges relating to Group 1 – 4 crimes and also common assault and breach of the peace (Listed in Group 6) reported. Of these charges, 511 (16.7%) occurred within a 100 meter radius of a public space CCTV camera in the Falkirk Council area – this is not including the crimes which have occurred at Forth Valley Royal Hospital (17 charges).

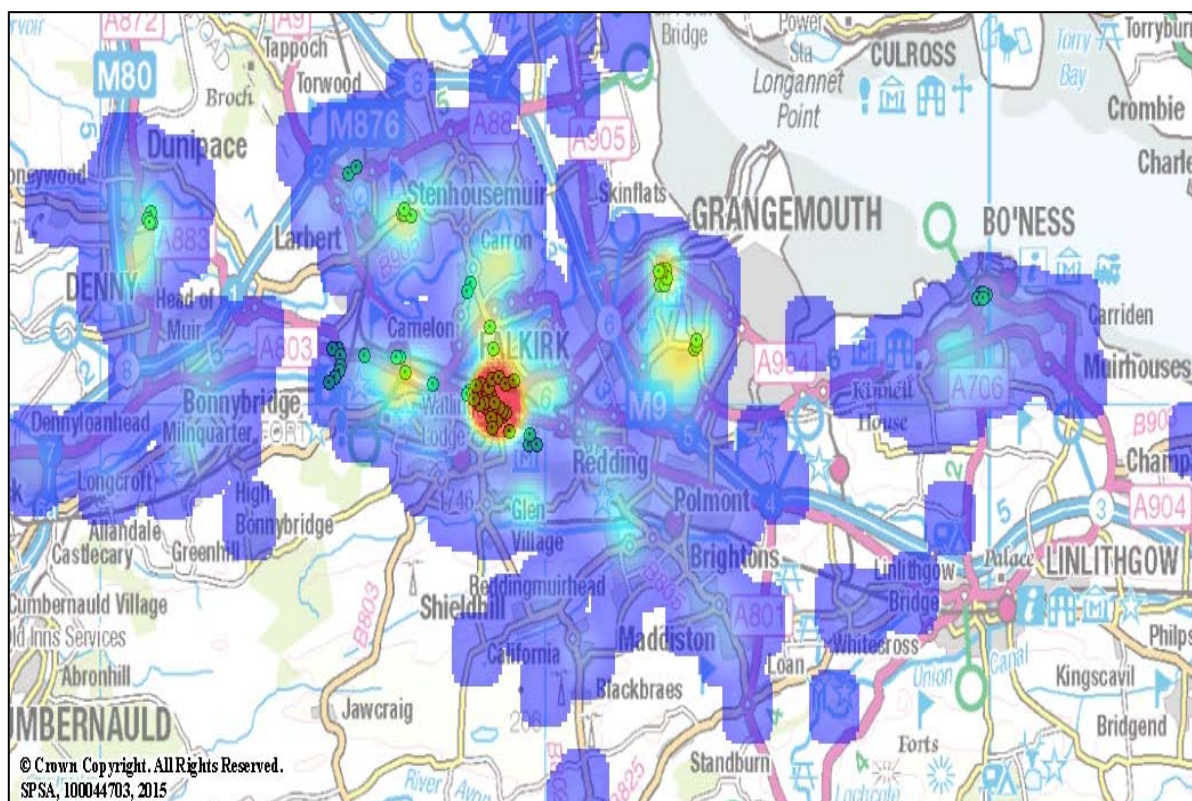
The table below shows the number of charges by crime group;



- Group 1 – Crimes of Violence
- Group 2 – Public Protection/Sexual Offences
- Group 3 – Crimes of Dishonesty
- Group 4 – Fire-raising, malicious Mischief etc.
- Group 6 - Common Assault and Breach of the peace/S.38 (for the purpose of this report)

Spatial Analysis

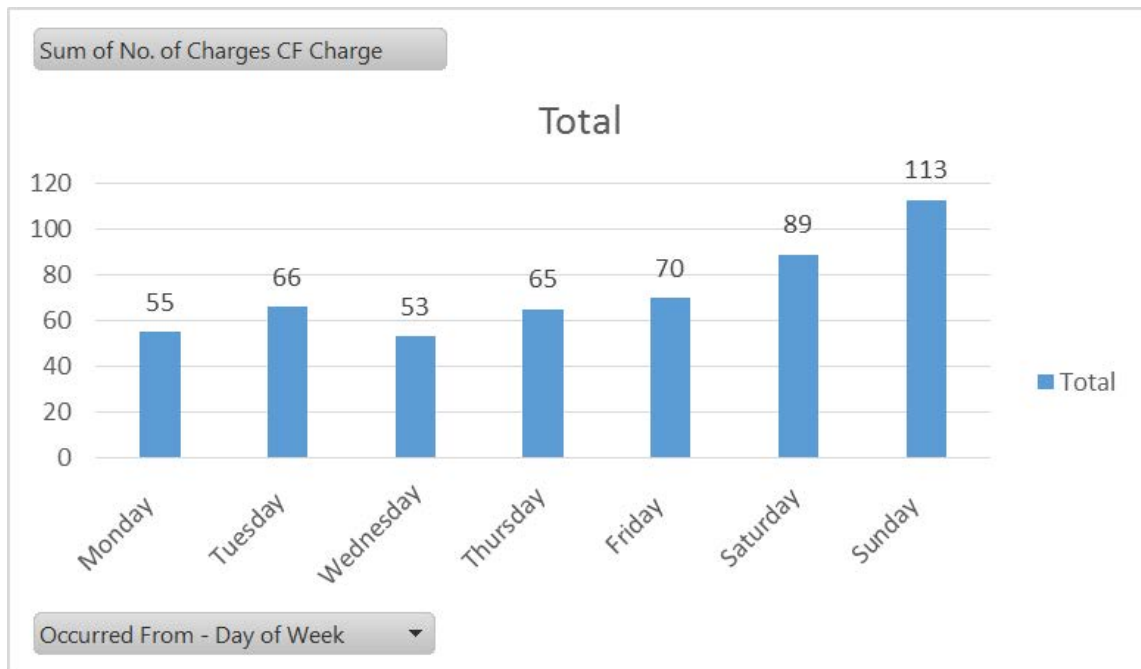
The following hotspot map shows identifies the most prevalent locations for crime in the Falkirk Area Command and the locations of the public space CCTV. As can be seen there is good CCTV coverage in the peak locations for crime, specifically in and around the Falkirk Town Centre area.



Of the charges which have occurred within the 100 meter radius of a camera, the majority (283 charges or 55.4%) occurred at a commercial loci and generally related to theft by shoplifting (145 charges). A further 108 charges (21.1%) occurred in a public place with most charges relating to common assault (51 charges) and also breach of the peace (25 charges).

Temporal Analysis

Group 3 crimes accounted for over 50% more charges than the next most common group (group 6). The graph below shows the number of charges by day of the week;



Overall, the volume of charges remained steady between Monday and Thursday before gradually increasing on a day by day basis over the weekend – this is the same for all crime within the Falkirk area command during this date period.

The table below show the number of charges per day broken down by group type;

Day of Week	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4	Group 6	Grand Total
Monday			39	2	14	55
Tuesday	1	1	49	4	11	66
Wednesday		1	43	1	8	53
Thursday		2	45	4	14	65
Friday	2	1	41	11	15	70
Saturday	2	1	41	7	38	89
Sunday	9	5	26	19	54	113
Grand Total	14	11	284	48	154	511

*blank space means no charges recorded for that day.

When looking at times of the day these crimes have occurred, the early hours of Sunday morning (between midnight and 0400 hours) stood out as particular note. Sunday morning between 0300 – 0400 hours recorded the most charges (20) compared to any other point in time over the date ranged analysed – assault and breach of the peace accounted for 19 of these 20 charges. The table shows, as expected, group 1 crimes of violence, common assault and BOP/S38 offences increase over the weekend period from Friday to Sunday.

Between 0700 – 2000 hours the majority of crimes were group 3, however from 2000 hours until 0400 hours the number of crimes of violence and ASB (group 1 and 6) increased. There is no great variations in the number of charges recorded per month. August recorded the lowest number (92 charges) and June recorded the highest number (112 charges).

The table below shows the number of charges by time of the day;

Time of day	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4	Group 6	Grand Total
0000 - 0100	3	2	7	1	14	27
0100 - 0200	2	3	2	3	12	22
0200 - 0300	2	1	1		18	22
0300 - 0400			2	1	20	23
0400 - 0500			2		2	4
0500 - 0600				1	1	2
0600 - 0700			2		2	4
0700 - 0800			5	1	1	7
0800 - 0900			9	1	1	11
0900 - 1000			19	1	1	21
1000 - 1100			24	5		29
1100 - 1200			21	1	8	30
1200 - 1300			22	2	2	26
1300 - 1400			26	3	2	31
1400 - 1500			20	1	8	29
1500 - 1600			25	3	5	33
1600 - 1700		1	26	2	9	38
1700 - 1800			28	4	4	36
1800 - 1900	1		10	1	7	19
1900 - 2000			9	1	6	16
2000 - 2100		1	6		10	17
2100 - 2200			9	7	6	22
2200 - 2300		3	1	7	10	21
2300 - 0000	4		7	2	4	17
No time provided	2		1		1	4
Grand Total	14	11	284	48	154	511

*blank space means no charges recorded for that time.

In total over 67.5% of the charges which occur in these areas are detected compared to 51.5% across the whole area command. It is however, impossible to say how many are as a direct result of CCTV due to CCTV checks being requested in the majority of offences reported as part of the enquiry for every reported crime.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the public space CCTV cameras located in the Falkirk area command provide good coverage of the most prevalent areas for crime data. The number of charges increase gradually throughout the week, peaking on Sundays mornings (in particular between 0300 – 0400 hours). The detection rate is higher in areas covered by CCTV compared to the rest of Falkirk area command, however it is impossible to attribute this directly to the CCTV cameras.