



CCTV in Buckinghamshire Our Strategic Approach 2023 - 2028



Background

- Buckinghamshire Council inherited several CCTV and electronic surveillance portfolios from the legacy councils. These systems cover public spaces, council buildings, facilities and include body worn video, ANPR, traffic management cameras, and covert surveillance.
- An independent review has identified that the various systems and equipment, which are between 10- 15 years old, are at the end of life in terms of operability and in need of modernisation.

CCTV Strategy 2023 - 2028

- Buckinghamshire Council is committed to helping the police in their work to prevent and detect crime and disorder in Buckinghamshire. CCTV can be a useful tool in this work and can help to reduce crime and contribute to a greater feeling of safety among residents.
- The vision of this Strategy is to achieve the best possible results from public space cameras in Buckinghamshire.
- The aim is to ensure that the CCTV network has the capability and the capacity to detect and prevent crime and disorder in areas which need it most.
- The CCTV Strategy will set out the Council's plan for running an effective public space overt camera surveillance service. The Council will lead on the Strategy, but to be successful it will need to continue to work closely with Thames Valley Police and other partners to deliver its aims over the next three years.

Aims and Principles

Our aims for CCTV in Buckinghamshire are to:

- ✓ enhance public safety by preventing and reducing crime, public disorder and anti-social behaviour, and violence against women and girls
- ✓ improve the quality of life in our town centres
- ✓ improve the safety of our car parks
- ✓ improve traffic management
- ✓ support the Council's civil enforcement and regulatory functions
- ✓ help the police track people suspected of committing crime; provide evidence to assist in criminal proceedings
- ✓ Support staff safety and protect the Council's buildings

Aims and Principles

Our approach to CCTV is underpinned by six key principles that will guide the implementation of this strategy and measure its success:

- 1) The Council's public space CCTV network should be used solely for the purpose of prevention and detection of crime and disorder.
- 2) The Council is supportive of appropriate CCTV investment. All Council investment should focus on locations that experience the highest volumes of crime and disorder.
- 3) The Council should invest in deployable or temporary cameras to allow for flexibility in responding to changing and emerging crime patterns.
- 4) The Council should outline a plan for continued investment in CCTV, including a policy on business and resident group private investment.
- 5) The Council will aim to ensure that its CCTV resources across its directorates are coordinated and joined up.
- 6) The CCTV system should have regular performance reviews to ensure it is as effective as possible.

The Role of Local Government in CCTV

- According to the College of Policing, there is a 13% crime reduction and a 20% reduction in drug related crime in places with CCTV.
- For 2022, the Buckinghamshire Council CCTV control room was directly involved in the arrests of over 200 individuals and dealt with nearly 20 thousand incidents of a public safety nature.
- The majority of public space CCTV is owned, monitored, and managed by local authorities.
- Between 1994 and 2003, Home Office funding was made available to local authorities via challenge funding and the crime reduction programme. As a consequence, local authorities have procured different systems at different times and with a range of different specifications, leading to a mix of schemes across the country.
- Given that most were installed around 20 years ago, many councils are currently experiencing the need to upgrade to modern digital platforms and different approaches are emerging.

CCTV Strategy Governance

- A CCTV Advisory Group will be established to monitor all CCTV development work and performance.
- This group will include members from across the County, police and other stakeholders, and will be led by the Cabinet Member for Communities (Cllr Arif Hussain).
- The work of this group will ensure complete transparency on the installation and use of overt CCTV by Buckinghamshire Council.
- The Safer Buckinghamshire Partnership Board is the multi-agency strategic body accountable for the response to crime and community safety issues in Buckinghamshire.
- Overt CCTV camera surveillance is one of the approaches that has proven to be effective at tackling crime and disorder and is supported by the Community Safety Plan. The Council holds a primary role in the Safer Buckinghamshire Board as it has responsibility and ownership of the public space camera network in the County.
- Thames Valley Police and the police and Crime Commissioner fully support the upgrade of the public space CCTV system in Buckinghamshire.

CCTV in Buckinghamshire

- Buckinghamshire Council currently hosts over 500 public and non-public space electronic surveillance cameras operated by 11 different service areas. This includes 222 CCTV cameras covering public spaces and car parks.
- The Council has a control room in High Wycombe monitoring cameras in the south of the county. In addition, we have separate control rooms monitoring cameras for our buildings and for traffic management.
- All the public space cameras are recorded 7 days a week, all year round, and they are proactively monitored by CCTV Operators between the hours of 8am and 4am on Fridays and Saturdays and between 8 am and 11pm The remainder of the week.
- The CCTV control room is connected to police by radio so that incidents can have a coordinated live response between police officers and the CCTV cameras.

CCTV in Buckinghamshire – Public Space CCTV

- Public Space cameras fall into two categories: fixed and temporary location cameras.
- Fixed CCTV cameras are installed in response to long term problems that are unlikely change. They can also be installed on routes to and from those areas, to pursue criminals after they have committed offences.
- They are also installed to support traffic management across the county.
- Public space CCTV is most effective at tackling crimes that occur on the street in the vicinity of the camera but can also be helpful for police investigations for many types of crime. Town centre systems have proved to be the most cost effective and efficient.
- In order to ensure that the Council's cameras are in the locations with the greatest need and will benefit from proactive monitoring during the control room hours a model of crime analysis has been developed.
- The Council will adopt this approach for all future fixed camera installations.

CCTV in Buckinghamshire – Public Space CCTV

- This model considers the crime location from long term trends (3 years). Secondly locations that have highest volume of high harm offences are considered. High harm offences are those which cause physical injury or threat of violence towards an individual such as Violence with Injury, Sexual offences and Burglary.
- To ensure that all new fixed cameras can mitigate displacement and are flexible, consideration should be undertaken to install one or more deployable cameras as part of the design for each new location. This will support the system to be adaptable and flexible in response to crime and antisocial behaviour. Each site would benefit from the same number of cameras, but one or more will have the added benefit of deployable technology, allowing their relocation to address any change to the crime and ASB profile.
- Temporary or deployable CCTV cameras can be a useful tool to help the police and the Council deal with problems they expect to be resolved as part of a local problem-solving process. They can also be used when there is a concern of displacement of crime or antisocial behaviour and allow proactive monitoring to understand the local crime pattern.

Future developments

- As of 1/10/2023, we are establishing a single control room at Wycombe. This will initially cover public space CCTV, but over time there will be the ability to absorb the monitoring of other council CCTV.
- A combined control room may provide the Council with the opportunity to consider other services such as intruder alerts, responding to lone worker alarms, fire and panic alarms. Like the existing CCTV control room for public space cameras a combined service with access to highways cameras could also have direct radio communication between Police and Council Officers with an enforcement role. The Council will benchmark the existing CCTV services with other councils to consider ways in which camera technology can be used to improve safety of residents across Buckinghamshire.

A Proportionate and Ethical Approach

The legitimate aims of the public space CCTV system for processing data are:

- To help prevent and detect crime and anti-social behaviour.
- Supporting emergency services respond to a serious incident including in the interests of national security/terrorism
- To help reduce the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour.
- To provide evidential material for Police and the Court proceedings for the prosecution of offenders.
- To aid in the overall management of safety within covered areas and improve community safety.

A Proportionate and Ethical Approach

The Council is compliant with the Surveillance Commissioner's codes of practice and has completed the best practice self-assessment tool. The Council completes the Surveillance Camera Commissioner's Data Protection Impact Assessment Template, which is recommended to be completed when:

- cameras are added or removed from systems
- cameras are moved or change position
- whole or parts of systems are upgraded
- new systems are installed

Measuring Success

The Council will measure its success of delivering our CCTV at delivering our six commitments:

Core Principles of CCTV Strategy		What will the Council do	How will the Council measure outcomes?
1	The Council's public space CCTV network should be used solely for the purpose of prevention and detection of crime and disorder.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quality assurance of control room management. Intelligence led proactive monitoring. Collaboration of enforcement services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Surveillance Commissioner's Self-assessment tool annual review. Audit of incident logs. Data Protection Privacy Impact Assessment annual review.
2	The Council is supportive of appropriate CCTV investment. All Council investment should focus on locations that experience the highest volumes of crime and disorder.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborate with Planning (NCIL, section 106), Capital Programme Board and Highways colleagues for investment opportunities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The amount of successful new investment from Council sources (NCIL, Capital projects and Council budgets).
3	The Council should invest in deployable or temporary cameras to allow for flexibility in responding to changing and emerging crime patterns.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deployable cameras are used in the areas with highest need through regular engagement with police neighbourhood teams. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The number of locations that have had temporary CCTV cameras. The effectiveness of CCTV temporary cameras evaluated by arrests made and use of data images to investigate and prosecute perpetrators.

Measuring Success

Core Principles of CCTV Strategy		What will the Council do	How will the Council measure outcomes?
4	The Council should outline a plan for continued investment in CCTV, including a policy on business and resident group private investment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produce a Toolkit for private investment in CCTV. Agree a local policy for Housing associations, <u>businesses</u> or residents. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The amount of successful new investment from external sources.
5	The Council will aim to ensure that its CCTV resources across its directorates are coordinated and joined up.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Project Board will review how the public space and <u>Facilities</u> Management Systems operate and agree joint protocols for the separate systems. It will also conduct a technical review to assess the feasibility of providing a single camera network. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> During first year of the Strategy complete a review of the current CCTV Control Room operating hours and management arrangements. This review will examine other operating models to ensure the quality and cost of the system is the best option for resident, with recommendations to be implemented by year two. Efficiency savings in administration of different systems across council?
6	The CCTV system should have regular performance reviews to ensure it is as effective as possible.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular reporting to CCTV Advisory Group and Safer Buckinghamshire Partnership Board. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effectiveness of individual cameras and whole system. Performance management of maintenance contract.