



## Report of the Police and Crime Panel

**Report title:** Update on Thames Valley CCTV Partnership

**Date:** 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2023

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**Purpose of the report:** As requested by the Panel

**Recommendations:** Information only

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### Executive Summary

In April 2022, the Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) set out his strategic vision for a Thames Valley CCTV Partnership. In this model, Thames Valley Police (TVP) would own the system and equipment for public space CCTV, would be responsible for the maintenance, and would employ the staff.

Since this time, there has been considerable progress made. Phase 1 of delivering the Thames Valley CCTV Partnership is currently underway and involves upgrading the CCTV systems for Slough and Milton Keynes City, with both areas to be monitored from a Milton Keynes Command Suite. The supplier CDS has been awarded the contract to undertake this upgrade with the works due to commence imminently. From 1 January 2024, the Milton Keynes Command Suite will be responsible for monitoring the cameras across Milton Keynes City and Slough.

Phase 2 of delivering the Thames Valley CCTV Partnership involves Oxfordshire local authorities and over the Summer months, a consultation took place to gather feedback on the operating model to be delivered (whether Oxfordshire will have its own Command Suite or whether their cameras will also be integrated into the Milton Keynes Command Suite) and the funding formula to be used to calculate the annual local authority revenue contributions. The feedback from local authorities is currently being collated and will be included in a paper that will go to the TVP CCTV Programme Board in December 2023 so that recommendations can be made to the Chief Constable and PCC.

In the meantime, the CCTV Project Team will continue to engage with Buckinghamshire Council who have decided not to join the Thames Valley CCTV Partnership at this time and will now be monitoring all CCTV for Buckinghamshire from their Control Room in High Wycombe, as well as local authorities in Berkshire who will be included in Phase 3 of this programme.

### 1. Background

1.1 In April 2022, the Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) set out his strategic vision for a Thames Valley CCTV Partnership. In this model, Thames Valley Police (TVP) would own the system and equipment for public space CCTV, would be responsible for the maintenance, and would employ the staff.



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1.2 The PCC recognises that CCTV exists primarily (although not exclusively) for the benefit of policing and the wider interests of community safety, and that it does not generally form part of the core function of local authorities. It is therefore considered appropriate that policing shoulders the lion's share of the responsibility for providing the capability for CCTV.

1.3 However, TVP cannot achieve this vision alone. The PCC is therefore in the process of establishing a Thames Valley CCTV Partnership to deliver an improved, more consistent provision for CCTV across the Thames Valley, supported by ongoing financial contributions and engagement from local authorities.

## **2. Benefits of a Thames Valley CCTV Partnership**

2.1 The Thames Valley CCTV Partnership is expected to bring a number of benefits for participating local authorities including:

- A newly refurbished CCTV Hub which will house a fully IP system to improve the evidential quality of CCTV footage.
- A public space CCTV system that is fully compatible with the police Digital Evidence Management System (DEMS) enabling frontline officers to spend more time delivering investigative outcomes for victims of crime and having a community presence rather than attending control rooms to access footage.
- A maintenance contract that is overseen and managed by TVP reducing the administrative burden on local authorities and enabling service continuity.
- CCTV staff who are employed by TVP enabling a consistent approach to connections with local schemes such as PubWatch, direct access to police intelligence to support operational activity, and a focus on risk locations and people.
- Subject matter expertise from TVP's CCTV Operations Manager (in post since June 2022) to ensure that there is a comprehensive understanding of the system, that it continues to be fit for purpose, and is compliant with GDPR, DPA and other legal requirements, as well as being a single point of contact for legislative changes or national calls for evidence
- Improved integration of CCTV with wider TVP capabilities in the future such as Body Worn Video (BWV), Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) and drone technology to support evidential capture for investigations.
- Bi-annual reporting for local authority partners on the impact of CCTV and how investment into the Thames Valley CCTV Partnership contributes towards



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detering crime, reducing the fear of crime, increasing crime detection and protecting vulnerable people.

- Increased opportunities for TVP to apply for Section 106 and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) planning contributions to secure additional funding for CCTV to meet the future demand created by new developments
- Clear partnership agreements will be in place between TVP/OPCC and local authorities ensuring an ongoing commitment and longevity of service delivery. The SLA will clearly set out the agreed service that local authorities can expect to receive in return for their financial contribution to the partnership.

### **3. Delivering a Thames Valley CCTV Partnership**

3.1 To deliver the PCC's vision for a Thames Valley CCTV Partnership, it is intended that the existing CCTV suites across the Thames Valley are consolidated into CCTV Hub(s).

#### **Phase 1**

3.2 Phase 1 involves establishing a CCTV Command Suite at Milton Keynes Police Station. This Command Suite will initially service Slough and Milton Keynes City local authority areas.

3.3 The supplier CDS has been awarded the contract to upgrade the CCTV systems for Slough and Milton Keynes City, with the system for Slough being integrated into the Milton Keynes Command Suite. The required fibre connection has also been commissioned.

3.4 Vetting for contractors is currently being finalised and Purchase Orders have been raised in order to start the work imminently.

3.5 Interviews have taken place for additional staff to be based at the Milton Keynes Command Suite with 5 individuals offered roles. This will bring the total number of staff to 8 CCTV operators and 1 supervisor enabling a full service provision.

3.5 The Slough CCTV Control Room will cease operation on 31 December 2023 with the Milton Keynes Command Suite ready to service both local authority areas from 1 January 2024.

3.6 In August 2023, both Milton Keynes City Council and Slough Borough Council were sent a consultation paper asking for feedback on the operating model to be delivered (24/7 operation or standard operating hours with an extended weekend operation) and the funding formula for the annual local authority revenue contributions to the partnership (based on their camera numbers or the formula used for calculating the PCC's Partnerships Fund – 50% population, 25% crime data and 25% non-crime data). The responses to this consultation are currently being reviewed.



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### **Phase 2**

3.7 Phase 2 involves the Oxfordshire local authorities, with the decision around whether the CCTV systems for these areas will be integrated into the Milton Keynes CCTV Command Suite, or if there will be a second Command Suite for Oxfordshire currently pending.

3.8 In August 2023, Oxfordshire local authorities were sent a consultation paper asking for feedback on the operating model to be delivered (based on one or two Command Suites for the Thames Valley, as well as a 24/7 operation or standard operating hours with an extended weekend operation) and the funding formula for the annual local authority revenue contributions (based on their camera numbers or the formula used for calculating the PCC's Partnerships Fund – 50% population, 25% crime data and 25% non-crime data).

3.9 The consultation responses from all local authorities will be incorporated into a paper which will go to the TVP CCTV Programme Board in December 2023. The proposals will then go through TVP CCMT, the PCC and local authorities before a decision is made.

3.10 Subject to any procurement timescales, it is estimated that works to integrate Oxfordshire CCTV Control Rooms into the Thames Valley CCTV Partnership will commence in the financial year 2024/2025

### **Phase 3**

3.13 Phase 3 of developing the Thames Valley CCTV Partnership will involve engaging with Berkshire local authorities. With the exception of Reading and the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, other local authority areas in Berkshire currently have fairly limited public space CCTV provision which we will seek to address.

3.14 In the meantime, work is ongoing to improve CCTV coverage for the communities in these areas using additional funding streams where possible (for example the Chief Constable and PCC's Community Fund and through the Home Office Safer Streets Fund).

### **Buckinghamshire**

3.11 All Buckinghamshire CCTV is now run by Buckinghamshire Council from their control room in High Wycombe following a decision not to join the Thames Valley CCTV Partnership at this time.

3.12 The CCTV Suite in Aylesbury Police Station has subsequently been decommissioned. The four staff from this suite have either moved to the Milton Keynes Command Suite (or other roles in TVP) or have left TVP employment.



**Matthew Barber**

Police & Crime Commissioner  
for Thames Valley

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### **Next Steps**

4.1 A paper will be taken to the next TVP CCTV Programme Board in December following the feedback from local authorities involved in phases 1 and 2 regarding the operating model for the Partnership and the funding formula to be used for annual revenue contributions from local authorities. The Programme Board will then make recommendations for the Chief Constable and PCC to review.

4.2 In 2024 a Thames Valley CCTV Partnership Board, chaired by the PCC, will be established to maintain strategic oversight and engagement with local authority partners at a Thames Valley-wide level.