



## **CCTV – Phase 1 Upgrade**

**Report by Derek Oliver, Chief Officer – Place**

**Report for Information**

### **1 Recommendations**

It is recommended that Council notes delivery of the upgrade to public domain closed circuit television (CCTV) assets.

### **2 Purpose of Report/Executive Summary**

This report outlines the delivery of the public domain CCTV upgrade project, which was approved by Council in December 2021.

**Date:** 10 March 2025  
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### **3 Background**

- 3.1 Midlothian Council's public domain CCTV installations and assets are the responsibility of Road Services, Street Lighting team.
- 3.2 The previous CCTV assets were initially installed in 2006 and, with no ongoing maintenance budget, had been degrading over more recent years, eventually becoming inoperative.
- 3.3 In December 2021, Midlothian Council approved the procurement and installation of Multi-Sensor Cameras across Midlothian CCTV estate and network, augmented by the procurement and use of re-deployable wireless CCTV cameras, to be utilised at locations of interest or hot spot areas for community safety and detecting/deterring anti-social behaviour and environmental crimes. This required the addition of £471,860 to the capital plan in 2021/22 and an addition to the annual revenue budget of £97,622 from 2022/23.
- 3.4 Following extensive engagement with neighbouring authorities and Police Scotland over the course of 2022, on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023, Midlothian Council's CCTV contract was published on Public Contracts Scotland and on 14 June 2023, the preferred contractor to deliver CCTV public domain fixed asset upgrades was appointed.

#### **Fixed assets**

- 3.5 Within Bonnyrigg (8 units), Penicuik (8 units) and Dalkeith (14 units) were upgraded in late 2023/early 2024.
- 3.6 In 2022, NHS Lothian removed relaxation of parking enforcement towards staff which had been in place since the covid pandemic. This resulted in a high volume of staff being displaced and forced to utilise Sheriffhall park and ride, from where the NHS runs a chartered staff bus.
- 3.7 Through Winter 2023/24, Councillor and Police Scotland concerns were raised with regards vulnerable user groups utilising the park and ride, poor lighting, non-functioning CCTV and a significant uplift in antisocial behaviour particularly by youths in modified cars.
- 3.8 In Summer 2024, investment was made at this site to resolve those issues to include
  - Installation of speed bumps
  - Installation of improved LED lighting (contributing to energy reduction)
  - Installation of new, functional CCTV (9 units).
- 3.9 Project planning was also undertaken in summer 2024 for delivery of Loanhead, Danderhall and Mayfield upgrades. These sites presented engineering challenges due to historic hubs facilities for storage and recording being disposed of, or demolished (Mayfield Leisure Centre, Danderhall Library, Loanhead Police station). Assets are scheduled to be upgraded by financial year end 2025.

### **Re-deployable CCTV**

- 3.10 The approved project also enabled expansion of deployable CCTV assets (6 units) and the purchase of a CCTV mobile mast trailer, to augment the existing 3 units.
- 3.11 These re-deployable assets are mobilised on both a proactive and reactive basis and can undertake overt and covert surveillance. Deployment is based on priorities and in liaison with Police Scotland.

### **CCTV in Operation**

- 3.12 The recent upgrade to the CCTV system has significantly enhanced the ability of Police Scotland to conduct investigations and improve community safety. Below are some notable positive results achieved through the use of the upgraded system:
  - i. **Improved Investigation Capabilities:** The upgraded CCTV system has provided critical support in various investigations, enabling Midlothian Officers to gather real-time evidence and make quicker, more informed decisions.
  - ii. **Enhanced Community Safety:** With its expanded coverage, the CCTV system has contributed to a safer environment for the community by deterring criminal activity and aiding in the swift identification of offenders.
  - iii. **Support for Proactive Policing:** Officers have been able to use the upgraded CCTV system to monitor and respond to incidents more effectively, resulting in a timely and well-coordinated police presence throughout the area.
- 3.14 Below are some examples of when Midlothian Police Officers have utilised the CCTV system:
  - i. **High-Level Serious Organised Crime Group (SOCG) Activity in The Lothians and Edinburgh:** CCTV provided valuable evidence in the investigation of serious organised crime group (SOCG) activity, helping to identify the route, time, and vehicle descriptions involved in a crime in Midlothian.
  - ii. **Attempted Murder Investigation:** Following a reported attempted murder, the victim was unable to provide a description of the perpetrator. CCTV footage proved to be a crucial tool in identifying the suspect, who was subsequently located, arrested, cautioned, and charged.
  - iii. **Serious Vehicle Collision:** Officers monitored live CCTV footage during an ongoing vehicle collision. This allowed Officers to quickly determine the individual at fault and track their movements after leaving the scene. As a result, the suspect was charged with driving under the influence.
  - iv. **Youth Anti-Social Behaviour Monitoring:** CCTV has played an instrumental role in identifying and addressing youth anti-social behaviour in the community. Officers have successfully used the

footage to demonstrate to parents the activities their children have been engaged in, fostering community awareness and accountability.

- v. *Stolen Vehicle Used in Housebreaking*: A vehicle stolen from Fife was used in a housebreaking in Midlothian. After the vehicle broke down on Lauder Road, the perpetrators abandoned it. CCTV footage was pivotal in identifying the suspects, leading to their subsequent arrest.
- vi. *Youth Vandalism*: CCTV captured footage of youths throwing stones and wielding hammers towards passersby in both King George V Park and Bonnyrigg High Street. This evidence resulted in the youths being identified, cautioned, and charged.
- vii. *Business Housebreaking*: A report of a business housebreaking was quickly addressed through the use of CCTV, which helped to identify the suspects and the time of the offence, aiding in the investigation and subsequently reporting the suspect to the PF.
- viii. *Vehicle Ramming and Police Assault*: Officers responded to a vehicle attempting to ram a police car, followed by a foot chase and multiple police assaults. CCTV footage of the incident was crucial in documenting the events for court proceedings.
- ix. *High-Risk Missing Person*: A high-risk missing person report prompted the use of CCTV to trace the individual's whereabouts, ensuring their safe return and reducing the associated risks to their wellbeing.

## **4 Report Implications (Resource, Digital and Risk)**

### **4.1 Resource**

The Phase 1 project is anticipated to be completed within approved budget. The utilisation of the system has realised significant resource efficiencies for both Midlothian Council and Police Scotland.

### **4.2 Digital**

The Digital infrastructure and connections have been upgraded as part of the Phase 1 project.

### **4.3 Risk**

Although not a statutory function to provide a CCTV system, the failure to address the deterioration and declining condition of the camera estate increases risks for not aligning with public safety objectives.

The investment in CCTV upgrades has therefore mitigated risk and realised:

- Enhanced Public Safety
- Faster response to emergency situations
- Ease of crime investigation and evidence gathering
- Real-time monitoring and incident response

- Discourages anti-social behaviour and promotes a sense of security in public spaces
- Centralised fault monitoring and reporting

A Phase 2 consideration will be reported to Council for expansion of the CCTV network to other areas in Midlothian, in consultation with Police Scotland.

#### **4.4 Ensuring Equalities (if required a separate IIA must be completed)**

Having a properly maintained and operational CCTV system is vital to Midlothian's community safety. The subject of this report has a positive impact in the environment and as such does not affect the wellbeing of the community or have a significant detrimental impact on equality, the environment or economy.

#### **4.5 Additional Report Implications**

See Appendix A

## **APPENDIX A – Report Implications**

### **A.1 Key Priorities within the Single Midlothian Plan**

The route map outlines the phases of service recovery and transformation which will underpin the Single Midlothian Plan.

### **A.2 Key Drivers for Change**

Key drivers addressed in this report:

- Holistic Working
- Hub and Spoke
- Modern
- Sustainable
- Transformational
- Preventative
- Asset-based
- Continuous Improvement
- One size fits one
- None of the above

### **A.3 Key Delivery Streams**

Key delivery streams addressed in this report:

- One Council Working with you, for you
- Preventative and Sustainable
- Efficient and Modern
- Innovative and Ambitious
- None of the above

### **A.4 Delivering Best Value**

The report aims to deliver best value.

### **A.5 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders**

Consultation with Police Scotland has been imperative.

### **A.6 Impact on Performance and Outcomes**

The report aims to measure progress through outcomes.

### **A.7 Adopting a Preventative Approach**

The report is based on the creation of a wellbeing economy which prioritises prevention, fairness for people, the economy and the environment.

### **A.8 Supporting Sustainable Development**

New systems consider energy management and utilise sensor technology for utility consumption.