

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting: 13th. September 2012
Report of: Community Safety Operations Manager
Subject/Title: CCTV Update

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 Further to previous discussions at this Scrutiny Committee, this report seeks to set out the draft process for tackling tree obscuration. Identified problem trees are predominantly situated in busy town centre locations with their associated night time economy, retail sector and visitors.

2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1 Continue to liaise with the CE Heritage and Design Department and Highways regarding the Macclesfield pilot and then consider adopting the pilot scheme's approach as set out in Section 10 below.
- 2.2 Submit Business Planning growth item for additional budget required for maintenance works.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 The purpose of any CCTV tree maintenance programme is to preserve the health and appearance of the Borough's tree inventory, but also to ensure that trees do not constitute a hindrance to its work safeguarding the public or property. The current tree work project is prioritised based on the level of obscuration the tree presents to public safety. CCTV needs an ongoing cyclic maintenance programme where the CCTV Operators revisit known tree problem camera images every two years.

4.0 Wards Affected

- 4.1 Identified problem trees are predominantly situated in town centre locations.

5.0 Local Ward Members

- 5.1 All Town Centre wards.

6.0 Policy Implications

- 6.1 Where trees obscure the CCTV cameras, this will impact on the footage and quality of evidence available to the Police.

7.0 Financial Implications (Authorised by the Director of Finance and Business Services)

- 7.1 Growth item for additional budget required for maintenance works.

8.0 Legal Implications (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)

- 8.1 Tree preservation orders and Town Centre Conservation area restrictions are investigated by the CE Forestry and Arboricultural team.

9.0 Risk Management

- 9.1 Trees can obstruct essential Council monitored CCTV surveillance and must be controlled to ensure that public security is not compromised. The CCTV system is seen to be not only a deterrent, and provide reassurance to the public, but an effective means of detecting crime and assisting the police in identifying offenders and this shouldn't be compromised.

10.0 Background and Options

- 10.1 A pilot scheme is underway in Macclesfield Town Centre to refine the draft process for tackling tree obscuration. This process is as follows;
- CCTV Service identify and prioritise problem trees;
 - Identify agency responsible for the trees;
 - Liaise with CE Forestry and Arboricultural team regarding requested/necessary work;
 - Submit application and receive application registration number;
 - CE F&A team visit site, assess situation and produce a pruning specification and report;
 - Liaise over specification and contractual arrangements with approved contractors;
 - Submit application and report to CE Heritage and Design;
 - Depending on planning sensitivity, consultation etc. the application is submitted to the Area Planning Committee (report from CE F&A team) or processed by CE F&A team under delegated powers;
 - Decision notice received and work programmed;
 - Trees pruned and works carried out.
 - Operators revisit known tree problem camera images periodically and formally every two years.

11.0 Access to Information

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

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