

## Bedford Borough Council

### CCTV Annual Report – April 2019 to March 2020

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#### Introduction

This report looks at all CCTV records held by Bedford Borough Council (BBC), from incidents and requests, involving the CCTV control room, which were recorded in the year 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019-31<sup>st</sup> March 2020. It provides us with a 12-month analysis period in which to evaluate the performance of the CCTV systems. This is the first report to be published since BBC CCTV Control Room achieved its certification of compliance from the Surveillance Camera Commissioner in December 2019. Completing this document annually will allow us to identify key performance indicators, both as a result of the Control Room activities and also the demand on them from partner agencies. In addition it is an indicator of the requirement The Bedford Community Safety Partnership (CSP), under section 115 of the Crime & Disorder Act 1998, of the need to work with and share information, to protect their local communities from crime and to help people feel safer. Community safety partnerships (CSPs) are made up of representatives from the 'responsible authorities', which are the:

- Police
- local authorities
- fire and rescue authorities
- probation service
- health

The responsible authorities must work together to work out how to deal with local issues like antisocial behaviour, drug or alcohol misuse and reoffending. They annually assess local crime priorities and consult partners and the local community about how to deal with them. This will likely involve the use of static or deployable CCTV cameras as a problem solving tool.

This report will detail the first year information analysis for the BBC CCTV control room. The information is broken down into reports generated both by the CCTV control room and partner agencies. The highest concentration of incidents is within the Bedford Town Centre area which is also where the majority of partners work together covering Local Authority, Police, Night Time Economy (Bedsafe), Retail Radio Link (Town Centre Commerce) and a number of volunteer organisations. It is anticipated that the reporting mechanism will develop and change over the next three years.

#### Incidents

The total number of reports into the control room for the period 01/04/19 – 31/03/20 was 1,382

The primary sources of calls (incidents) into the CCTV control rooms are from the Police. These are made up of calls from their Control Room, Police Officers and PCSO's and accounts for 361, 26.12% of all calls.

The CCTV Control Room accounted for 626 reports requiring a response from any partner covering the town centre in particular, 45.3% of all calls. A lot of this work is down to a robust pro-active ethos within the CCTV control room. This is also as a result of information sharing between the local

authority and the police around for instance wanted persons, missing persons, vulnerable individuals, specific targeted operations involving partner agencies and retail crime initiatives.

Calls from other partners accounted for 395 reports, 28.58%

Other calls from council departments accounted for 583, 4% of all calls.

The number of arrests viewed on camera was 503.

### **Reviews and media seized during investigation**

The BBC CCTV staff are responsible for analysing and viewing images at the request of either Bedfordshire Police or any other authorised officer of the Local Authority. They will also provide information and images whereby requests for footage have come from a third party such as an insurance business. This is all completed in accordance with GDPR and Data Protection legislation.

In 2019-2020, the BBC CCTV control room received a total number of 430 requests for footage to be copied for use as evidence.

### **Deployable cameras**

BBC CCTV have a total of 29 deployable cameras which have been purchased not only by BBC CCTV, but also partner agencies including, Bedford Prison, Ward Cllrs, Housing Associations and Parish Councils. Requests for these camera's to be utilised must be submitted in writing and verified with evidence and data to support their placement. All placements are discussed and agreed at a monthly partnership meeting to ensure that there is a justified requirement for a camera to be located in an area. Of the 29 cameras, 12 have been provided by the BBC Community Safety Team

During the period April 19 to March 20 there was a total of 28 requests for the use of deployable cameras. These covered a range of issues including fly tipping, antisocial behaviour, threatening behaviour, drug use & dealing and exploitation in varying manners.

### **Projects**

BBC have been successful in a bid to the Home Office, Safer Streets Fund to carry out a series of improvements to our CCTV Control including the installation of a Video Management System. The works are likely to be completed by early in 2021 to allow the project to be evaluated in reducing crime for the remaining months of the financial year 2020/21. The objective of the funding is to reduce the incidence of Robbery and Burglary in a specified area of Bedford. Part of the bid was to improve the quality of CCTV surveillance. To do this, we are deploying high quality CCTV cameras and bringing together the various CCTV camera types across the town into a single VMS making the best use of analytics. Whilst we are seeking to reduce acquisitive crime in the target area it is hoped that an effective VMS will improve the whole system.

Our CCTV Control room is also undergoing a huge overhaul with improvement both aesthetically and equipment wise and it is hoped this will be completed by Jan 2021.

The CCTV system is over 20 years old and has grown organically from the original 9 cameras covering the town centre to over 700 covering our car parks, museum and some of the urban areas outside of

