

INVERCLYDE COUNCIL EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT TEMPLATE

Budget Saving Proposal

Essential Information
Name of Officer(s) completing this Template: Martin McNab
Designation(s): Public Protection Manager
Directorate/Service: Environment and Regeneration/Regeneration, Planning and Public Protection
Date of Impact Assessment: 13/10/2023
Name of Budget Saving Proposal (BSP) ¹ : Cease the CCTV service

1. Does the BSP impact on:		
	Yes	No
a. Protected Characteristics under The Equality Act 2010: Age; Care experienced; Disability; Gender Reassignment; Marriage and Civil Partnership; Pregnancy and Maternity; Race; Religion and Belief; Sex; Sexual Orientation (see Section 3)	√	
b. Reducing inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage – Fairer Scotland Duty ² (see Section 6)	√	
c. Inverclyde Alliance Partnership Plan 2023/33 ³ (see Section 7)	√	

¹ Please attach the BSP to this Template

² [Fairer Scotland Duty: guidance for public bodies](#)

³ [Inverclyde Alliance Partnership Plan 2023/33](#)

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d. Council Plan 2023/28 ⁴ (see Section 8)	√	
2. If 'yes' is selected for any part of Section 1, please populate the other relevant Sections of this Template.		

3. Impact – Protected Characteristics Which of the Protected Characteristics will the BSP have an impact upon?			
Equality Target Group	Positive impact +	Neutral impact =	Negative impact -
Age			√
Care experienced			√
Disability			√
Gender Reassignment			√
Marriage and Civil Partnership		√	
Pregnancy and Maternity		√	
Race			√

⁴ [Council Plan 2023/28](#)

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Religion and Belief			√
Sex			√
Sexual Orientation			√
Other groups to consider <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carers • The Armed Forces Covenant Duty 		√	√

4. Which parts of the Equality Duty will the BSP impact on?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by The Equality Act 2010
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Advance equality of opportunity between people of different groups
<input type="checkbox"/>	Foster good relations between from different groups

5. Impact - Groups	
From the information you have highlighted above, describe the positive and negative impacts and the groups affected under The Equality Act 2010.	
Positive impact + <i>(Describe groups affected.)</i>	Negative impact - <i>(Describe groups affected.)</i> <u>Age; Carers:</u> The CCTV service is there to give reassurance to the public and to help them feel safer by deterring or detecting crime. The removal of the service will particularly affect more vulnerable groups such as the elderly and the ability to keep

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	<p>young people safe by being less able to monitor youth gatherings and potential crime hot spots.</p> <p><u>Disability; Gender reassignment; Race; Religion and Belief; Sexual Orientation:</u> Anti-social behaviour and crime is often targeted towards those with Protected Characteristics.</p> <p><u>Care experienced:</u> Young people can be at increased risk of becoming victims of crime or groomed by organised crime.</p> <p><u>Sex:</u> CCTV can act as a deterrent for crime and also help with prosecution for crime. This makes the community feel safer, especially women who are more concerned about attacks.</p>
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6. Impact – Fairer Scotland Duty

What impact will this BSP have on reducing inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage? *Please tick.*

Positive impact +	Neutral impact =	Negative impact -
√		

Briefly describe how the BSP will impact on reducing inequalities of outcome.

Areas of deprivation can be associated with higher levels of crime, anti-social behaviour and the associated feeling of being less safe. The removal of this service could mean that people feel more vulnerable in areas of deprivation.

7. Impact – Inverclyde Alliance Partnership Plan 2023/33

Which Themes from the Inverclyde Alliance Partnership Plan 2023/33 will this BSP impact on?

Theme 1: Empowered people

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communities can have their voices heard, and influence the places and services that affect them • Gaps in outcomes linked to poverty are reduced
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Theme 2: Working people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More people will be in sustained employment, with fair pay and conditions • Poverty related gaps are addressed, so young people can have the skills for learning, life and work • Businesses are supported and encouraged to reduce their carbon footprint and develop green jobs
√	<p>Theme 3: Healthy people and places</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People live longer and healthier lives • Supportive systems are in place to prevent alcohol and drug misuse • Our natural capital is looked after, and we are effectively adapting and mitigating the effects of climate change
√	<p>Theme 4: A supportive place</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vulnerable adults and children are protected and supported, ensuring they can live safely and independently • We recognise where people are affected by trauma, and respond in ways that prevent further harm and support recovery • Public protection and community safety are improved through targeting our resources to reduce the risk of offending and harm
√	<p>Theme 5: A thriving place</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growth in our working age population by encouraging people to stay here, and attracting new people to settle here • Development of strong community-based services that respond to local need • Homes are energy efficient and fuel poverty is reduced • Increased use of active travel and sustainable transport options • Easy access to attractive and safe public spaces, and high-quality arts and cultural opportunities

Briefly describe how the BSP will impact on the Inverclyde Alliance Partnership Plan 2023/33 Themes.

Theme 3: The ability to ensure that anti-social behaviour is limited.

Theme 4: People may feel less safe because they feel that public protection has decreased.

Theme 5: Visitors to our towns may perceive that the areas covered by CCTV feel safer through the provision of public space CCTV.

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8. Impact – Council Plan 2023/28	
Which Themes from the Council Plan 2023/28 will the BSP impact on?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Theme 1: People</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our young people have the best start in life through high quality support and education • Gaps in outcomes linked to poverty are reduced • People are supported to improve their health and wellbeing • More people will be in employment, with fair pay and conditions • Our most vulnerable families and residents are safeguarded and supported
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>Theme 2: Place</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communities are thriving, growing and sustainable • Our strategic housing function is robust • Our economy and skills base are developed • We have a sufficient supply of business premises • Our natural environment is protected
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Theme 3: Performance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High quality and innovative services are provided, giving value for money • Our employees are supported and developed
<p>Briefly describe how the BSP will impact on the Council Plan 2023/28 Themes.</p> <p><u>Theme 2:</u> Public perception in feeling that a place is safe and in turn thriving.</p>	

9. Evidence	
What evidence do you have to help identify any potential impacts of the BSP?	
<p>Note: Evidence could include consultations, surveys, focus groups, interviews, projects, user feedback, complaints, Officers’ knowledge and experience, equalities monitoring data, publications, research, reports, local, national groups.</p>	
Evidence	Details

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<p>Consultation/engagement</p>	<p>Budget Consultation 2024/26 Phase 1: This BSP was one of 4 included in the <i>People</i> section of the survey⁵. It was ranked number 4 by respondents.</p> <p>Budget Consultation 2024/26 Phase 2: This BSP was one of 16 included in the Budget Consultation 2024/26 Phase 2⁶. It was ranked number 8 by respondents.</p> <p>Surveys on Women’s safety have also taken place. The Inverclyde Women’s Safety Survey highlighted that women feel safer if they know there is public space CCTV in place.</p> <p>According to Clyde Conversation respondents, 68% did not agree with stopping the CCTV service. 32% were supportive of stopping the CCTV service.</p> <p>Police Scotland commented that the presence of public space CCTV is an invaluable asset to reduce the fear of crime and to deter anti-social behaviour. It is also an important factor in the prevention and detection of crime with CCTV being used to provide often indisputable evidence of fact, leading to many convictions for crimes which would be otherwise almost impossible to solve. CCTV is used by both the local authority and the Police daily and it is a critical component required to promote community safety in Inverclyde.</p> <p>A focus group of Pupil Council members were consulted and were in favour of CCTV services.</p>
<p>Research</p>	<p>Both nationally and internationally, research on the effectiveness of public space CCTV has had mixed findings. Overall research identifies public reassurance as the most important benefit. The evidence of the deterrent effect is less compelling. Deterrence has been identified as a factor in certain specific environments such as multi-storey car parks where there is evidence that CCTV reduces car crime. In town centres however there are no studies identifying more than a temporary deterrent effect which indicates that people very quickly</p>

⁵ Respondents were asked to rank the BSPs in order of importance: 1 = Most important and 5 = Least important

⁶ Respondents were asked to rank the BSPs in the order they most agreed with. 1 = BSP respondents supported most. 16 = BSP respondents supported the least

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	<p>become habituated to cameras and cease modifying their behaviour. Unsurprisingly this is particularly the case where perpetrators are under the influence of drugs or alcohol. The greatest identified benefit of CCTV is on the criminal justice system particularly where good CCTV footage can lead to an early guilty plea reducing the pressure on the time of both the court system and on Police staff attending trials.</p>
<p>Officers' knowledge and experience (including feedback from frontline staff)</p>	<p>It may be the case that the vast increase of citizen footage on camera 'phones etc has reduced the impact of CCTV on the criminal justice system as more footage often available a Police Scotland view on this would be helpful.</p> <p>One of the main areas where CCTV has been helpful in Inverclyde in recent years has been in identifying and locating missing persons. Live monitoring has also led to intervention on more than one occasion where vulnerable individuals are at risk of self-harm.</p>
<p>Equalities monitoring data</p>	
<p>User feedback (including complaints)</p>	
<p>Stakeholders</p> <p>Other</p>	
<p>Are there information gaps and, if so, what are these?</p>	

10. Please use the space below to detail any other matters arising from the Equality Impact Assessment process, including what action could be taken to mitigate the impact of the BSP.

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There have been improvements to equipment with three mobile CCTV vans per Community Wardens’ shift rather than two. However, the service has had significant operational issues as a result of the inability of the service equipment provider to fulfil its contract obligations.

Public space CCTV does not cover all areas within the Local Authority area and is subject to any incident having appropriate camera coverage. Reliance on public space CCTV has reduced due to improvements in mobile telephone, social media and low cost domestic solutions.

The main impact of this BSP will be on Police Scotland and the wider community justice system which are the major beneficiaries of the system.

The network of public space CCTV throughout the authority area is supported by the provision of mobile CCTV on Community Wardens’ vehicles and body-worn cameras via the Community Warden service. This document should therefore be cross-referenced with the Equality Impact Assessment entitled *Cease the Community Wardens’ service*.

Details of the Person(s) who completed the Assessment:	Name: Martin McNab
	Position: Public Protection Manager
	Date: 21/02/2024
Authorised by:	Name: Stuart Jamieson
	Position: Director - Environment and Regeneration
	Date: 21/02/24

Thank you for your assistance with the completion of this task.

Please send a copy of the completed Template to Karen Barclay, Corporate Policy and Performance Officer: karen.barclay@inverclyde.gov.uk.