

Transformation, Income, and Saving Proposal No 25

Somerset Equality Impact Assessment

Before completing this EIA please ensure you have read the EIA guidance notes – available from your Equality Officer

Organisation prepared for	Somerset County Council		
Version	1	Date Completed	28-12-22
Description of what is being impact assessed			
Decision to make a Reduction in CCTV maintenance budget across the whole Somerset service at 20%			
Evidence			
<p>What data/information have you used to assess how this policy/service might impact on protected groups? Sources such as the Office of National Statistics, Somerset Intelligence Partnership, Somerset's Joint Strategic Needs Analysis (JSNA), Staff and/ or area profiles, should be detailed here</p> <p>CCTV plays an important role in public reassurance and improving perceptions of safety and can play a role in the prevention and detection of crime. There are a total 235 cameras across Somerset.</p> <p>Royal College of Policing (2022) research suggests that CCTV is most effective in reducing crime when it is actively monitored. CCTV assists in creating a safer environment, which is a focus for the National and regional Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy. However there is no specific evidence that proves a link between a reduction in VAWG offences and CCTV. Physical environment interventions College of Policing</p> <p>Sedgemoor District Councils bi-annual fear of crime survey clearly demonstrates that the public feel safer with the presence of effective CCTV within the area. This survey was sent out to 5000 local residents and of the 3671 replies, 100% of residents stated that 'yes' they feel safer as opposed to 'no' they don't.</p>			

The average cost of maintaining a camera is £1074. The result of reducing the maintenance budget will not necessarily equate to the loss of cameras or at least, not for some time. It would be something that happens over a period of years. What it will mean is a reduction in the quality of repairs and maintenance services supplied by the supplier (SEC). Cameras last for about 10-15 years with maintenance but over time, without the required level of maintenance, cameras will start to be beyond repair and be decommissioned.

Who have you consulted with to assess possible impact on protected groups? If you have not consulted other people, please explain why?

This proposal to make a saving is a requirement of the LGR work and timeframe dictated the process which did not allow for consultation with stakeholders outside of the Family and Community Safety Service Alignment Sub workstream.

Analysis of impact on protected groups

The Public Sector Equality Duty requires us to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations with protected groups. Consider how this policy/service will achieve these aims. In the table below, using the evidence outlined above and your own understanding, detail what considerations and potential impacts against each of the three aims of the Public Sector Equality Duty. Based on this information, make an assessment of the likely outcome, before you have implemented any mitigation.

Protected group	Summary of impact	Negative outcome	Neutral outcome	Positive outcome
Age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Younger people are less risk averse and lower perception of fear of crime but are more likely to be victims or perpetrators. CCTV has a positive impact on fear of crime in communities. Reducing the budget for maintenance will inevitably lead to reduced CCTV cameras in Somerset. This could lead to increased fear of crime and less opportunity to tackle crime. 	☒	☐	☐

Disability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCTV has a positive impact on fear of crime in communities. Reducing the budget for maintenance will inevitably lead to reduced CCTV cameras in Somerset. This could lead to increased fear of crime and less opportunity to tackle crime. 	□	⊗	□
Gender reassignment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCTV has a positive impact on fear of crime in communities. Reducing the budget for maintenance will inevitably lead to reduced CCTV cameras in Somerset. This could lead to increased fear of crime and less opportunity to tackle crime. • The inability to use CCTV as evidence of a crime could have a detrimental impact of pursuing justice, especially for incidents of hate crime, or ASB for example 	□	⊗	□
Marriage and civil partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No specific impact on this characteristic. However, CCTV has a positive impact on fear of crime in communities. Reducing the budget for maintenance will inevitably lead to reduced CCTV cameras in Somerset. This could lead to increased fear of crime and less opportunity to tackle crime. 	□	⊗	□
Pregnancy and maternity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No specific impact on this characteristic. However, CCTV has a positive impact on fear of crime in communities. Reducing the budget for maintenance will inevitably lead to reduced CCTV cameras in Somerset. This could lead to increased fear of crime and less opportunity to tackle crime. 	□	⊗	□
Race and ethnicity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCTV has a positive impact on fear of crime in communities. Reducing the budget for maintenance will inevitably lead to reduced CCTV cameras in Somerset. This could lead to increased fear of crime and less opportunity to tackle crime. • The inability to use CCTV as evidence of a crime could have a detrimental impact of pursuing justice, especially for incidents 	⊗	□	□

	of hate crime, or ASB for example			
Religion or belief	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCTV has a positive impact on fear of crime in communities. Reducing the budget for maintenance will inevitably lead to reduced CCTV cameras in Somerset. This could lead to increased fear of crime and less opportunity to tackle crime. • The inability to use CCTV as evidence of a crime could have a detrimental impact of pursuing justice, especially for incidents of hate crime, or ASB for example 	☒	☐	☐
Sex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe places for women and girls is key aspect of the VAWG strategy in trying to ensure that women and girls are able to access night time economy and be able to walk alone without fear., CCTV has a positive impact on fear of crime in communities. Reducing the budget for maintenance will inevitably lead to reduced CCTV cameras in Somerset. This could lead to increased fear of crime and less opportunity to tackle crime. 	☒	☐	☐
Sexual orientation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCTV has a positive impact on fear of crime in communities. Reducing the budget for maintenance will inevitably lead to reduced CCTV cameras in Somerset. This could lead to increased fear of crime and less opportunity to tackle crime. • The inability to use CCTV as evidence of a crime could have a detrimental impact of pursuing justice, especially for incidents of hate crime, or ASB for example 	☒	☒	☐

Other, e.g. carers, veterans, homeless, low income, rurality/isolation, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCTV has a positive impact on fear of crime in communities. Reducing the budget for maintenance will inevitably lead to reduced CCTV cameras in Somerset. This could lead to increased fear of crime and less opportunity to tackle crime. 	□	⊗	□
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Negative outcomes action plan

Where you have ascertained that there will potentially be negative outcomes, you are required to mitigate the impact of these. Please detail below the actions that you intend to take.

Action taken/to be taken	Date	Person responsible	How will it be monitored?	Action complete
Consider roll out of the fear of crime survey to the whole of somerset	05/05/2023	Rob Semple	CS Team	□
Utilise Deployable CCTV gained from SSF4	02/06/2023	Clare Stuart	Violence Reduction Unit	□

If negative impacts remain, please provide an explanation below.

There will be negative impacts in the reduction of CCTV cameras. However as an average camera can last 10 to 15 years it is difficult to identify which camera, in which location will be lost and therefore any impacts will be seen in the long term, not short term and therefore when each camera is lost an impact assessment will be undertaken to determine the specific impacts of the area where the camera will be lost

Completed by:	Lucy Macready
Date	28-12-22
Signed off by:	Angela Farmer

Date	
Equality Lead/Manager sign off date:	20th January 2023
To be reviewed by: (officer name)	
Review date:	