

# Public Agenda Pack



Notice of Meeting of

## **SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - COMMUNITIES**

**Wednesday, 11 October 2023 at 10.00 am**

### **Luttrell Room - County Hall**

To: The members of the Scrutiny Committee - Communities

Chair: Councillor Gwil Wren  
Vice-chair: Councillor Dawn Johnson

Councillor Simon Coles	Councillor Dawn Denton
Councillor Andy Dingwall	Councillor Lance Duddridge
Councillor Pauline Ham	Councillor Susannah Hart
Councillor Edric Hobbs	Councillor Andy Kendall
Councillor Kathy Pearce	Councillor Hazel Prior-Sankey
Councillor Wes Read	

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For further information about the meeting, including how to join the meeting virtually, please contact Democratic Services [democraticserviceteam@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:democraticserviceteam@somerset.gov.uk).

All members of the public are welcome to attend our meetings and ask questions or make a statement **by giving advance notice** in writing or by e-mail to the Monitoring Officer at email: [democraticserviceteam@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:democraticserviceteam@somerset.gov.uk) by **5pm on Thursday, 5 October 2023**.

This meeting will be open to the public and press, subject to the passing of any resolution under the Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A: Access to Information.

The meeting will be webcast and an audio recording made.

Issued by (the Proper Officer) on Tuesday, 3 October 2023

# AGENDA

Scrutiny Committee - Communities - 10.00 am Wednesday, 11 October 2023

**Public Guidance Notes contained in Agenda Annexe (Pages 5 - 6)**

**Click here to join the online meeting**

## **1 Apologies for Absence**

To receive any apologies for absence.

## **2 Minutes from the Previous Meeting (Pages 7 - 14)**

To approve the minutes from the previous meeting.

## **3 Declarations of Interest**

To receive and note any declarations of interests in respect of any matters included on the agenda for consideration at this meeting.

(The other registrable interests of Councillors of Somerset Council, arising from membership of City, Town or Parish Councils and other Local Authorities will automatically be recorded in the minutes: [City, Town & Parish Twin Hatters - Somerset Councillors 2023](#) )

## **4 Public Question Time**

The Chair to advise the Committee of any items on which members of the public have requested to speak and advise those members of the public present of the details of the Council's public participation scheme.

For those members of the public who have submitted any questions or statements, please note, a three minute time limit applies to each speaker and you will be asked to speak before Councillors debate the issue.

We are now live webcasting most of our committee meetings and you are welcome to view and listen to the discussion. The link to each webcast will be available on the meeting webpage, please see details under 'click here to join online meeting'.

## **5 CCTV Service update (Pages 15 - 62)**

To consider and comment on a CCTV Service update from the CCTV Service Manager, Somerset Council.

*The following items are included for further information; -*

- *CCTV Annual report SSDC 2022*
- *CCTV Annual report SDC 2022*
- *CCTV Annual report SWT 2022*

## **6 Homefinder Somerset - verbal update and discussion**

To consider and comment on a verbal update from the Service Manager Housing, Somerset Council, regarding Homefinder Somerset.

## **7 Budget monitoring update - Community Services (Pages 63 - 72)**

To consider and comment on a month 5 Budget Monitoring update for Community Services, from the Strategic Manager Finance Business Partnering, Somerset Council.

## **8 Scrutiny Committee - Communities' work programme (Pages 73 - 74)**

To consider and comment on the Scrutiny Committee - Communities work programme 23/24.

To assist the discussion please use the following link to view the latest Executive Forward Plan of planned key decisions that have been published on the Council's website.

[Forward plan - Executive Forward Plan - Modern Council \(somerset.gov.uk\)](https://www.somerset.gov.uk/forward-plan)

## Guidance notes for the meeting

### Council Public Meetings

The legislation that governs Council meetings requires that committee meetings are held face-to-face. The requirement is for members of the committee and key supporting officers (report authors and statutory officers) to attend in person, along with some provision for any public speakers. Provision will be made wherever possible for those who do not need to attend in person including the public and press who wish to view the meeting to be able to do so virtually.

#### Inspection of Papers

Any person wishing to inspect minutes, reports, or the background papers for any item on the agenda should contact Democratic Services at [democraticserviceteam@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:democraticserviceteam@somerset.gov.uk) or telephone 01823 357628.

They can also be accessed via the council's website on [Committee structure - Modern Council \(somerset.gov.uk\)](#)

### Members' Code of Conduct requirements

When considering the declaration of interests and their actions as a councillor, Members are reminded of the requirements of the Members' Code of Conduct and the underpinning Principles of Public Life: Honesty; Integrity; Selflessness; Objectivity; Accountability; Openness; Leadership. The Code of Conduct can be viewed at: [Code of Conduct](#)

### Minutes of the Meeting

Details of the issues discussed, and recommendations made at the meeting will be set out in the minutes, which the Committee will be asked to approve as a correct record at its next meeting.

### Public Question Time

If you wish to speak or ask a question about any matter on the Committee's agenda please contact Democratic Services by 5pm providing 3 clear working days before the meeting. (for example, for a meeting being held on a Wednesday, the deadline will be 5pm on the Thursday prior to the meeting) Email [democraticserviceteam@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:democraticserviceteam@somerset.gov.uk) or telephone 01823 357628.

Members of public wishing to speak or ask a question will need to attend in person or if unable can submit their question or statement in writing for an officer to read out, or alternatively can attend the meeting online.

A 20-minute time slot for Public Question Time is set aside near the beginning of the meeting, after the minutes of the previous meeting have been agreed. Each speaker will have 3 minutes to address the committee.

You must direct your questions and comments through the Chair. You may not take a direct part in the debate. The Chair will decide when public participation is to finish. If an item on the agenda is contentious, with many people wishing to attend the meeting, a representative should be nominated to present the views of a group.

### **Meeting Etiquette for participants**

Only speak when invited to do so by the Chair.

Mute your microphone when you are not talking.

Switch off video if you are not speaking.

Speak clearly (if you are not using video then please state your name)

If you're referring to a specific page, mention the page number.

There is a facility in Microsoft Teams under the ellipsis button called turn on live captions which provides subtitles on the screen.

### **Exclusion of Press & Public**

If when considering an item on the agenda, the Committee may consider it appropriate to pass a resolution under Section 100A (4) Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 that the press and public be excluded from the meeting on the basis that if they were present during the business to be transacted there would be a likelihood of disclosure of exempt information, as defined under the terms of the Act.

If there are members of the public and press listening to the open part of the meeting, then the Democratic Services Officer will, at the appropriate time, ask participants to leave the meeting when any exempt or confidential information is about to be discussed.

### **Recording of meetings**

The Council supports the principles of openness and transparency. It allows filming, recording, and taking photographs at its meetings that are open to the public - providing this is done in a non-disruptive manner. Members of the public may use Facebook and Twitter or other forms of social media to report on proceedings. No filming or recording may take place when the press and public are excluded for that part of the meeting.



Minutes of a Meeting of the Scrutiny Committee - Communities held in the Luttrell Room - County Hall, Taunton TA1 4DY, on Wednesday, 9 August 2023 at 10.00 am

**Present:**

Cllr Gwil Wren (Chair)  
Cllr Dawn Johnson (Vice-Chair)

Cllr Simon Coles	Cllr Lance Duddridge
Cllr Pauline Ham	Cllr Susannah Hart
Cllr Edric Hobbs	Cllr Kathy Pearce
Cllr Hazel Prior-Sankey	Cllr Wes Read
Cllr Mike Stanton (substitute)	

**In attendance:**

Cllr John Hunt	Cllr Fran Smith
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**Other Members present remotely:**

Cllr Bob Filmer	Cllr Liz Leyshon
Cllr Tessa Munt	Cllr Frances Nicholson
Cllr Leigh Redman	Cllr Sarah Wakefield
Cllr Richard Wilkins	

**1 Apologies for Absence - Agenda Item 1**

Apologies were received from Cllr Dawn Denton (virtual online), Cllr Andy Dingwall (virtual online), Cllr Andy Kendall (substitute Cllr Mike Stanton).

**2 Minutes from the Previous Meeting - Agenda Item 2**

The minutes of the Scrutiny Committee – Communities meeting held on 21 June 2023 were agreed upon and signed by the Chair.

**3 Declarations of Interest - Agenda Item 3**

Councillors present at the meeting declared the following personal interests in their capacity as a Councillor of a Town or Parish Council or any other Local Authority:-

<b>SOMERSET COUNCILLOR</b>	<b>CITY, TOWN AND/OR PARISH COUNCIL</b>
Andy Dingwall	Westonzoyland Parish Council
Pauline Ham	Axbridge Town Council
Edric Hobbs	Shepton Mallet Town Council
Kathy Pearce	Bridgwater Town Council
Wes Read	Yeovil Town Council

Cllr Lance Duddridge, Cllr Pauline Ham, Cllr Kathy Pearce declared an interest in Item 7 - Annual Approval as sole shareholder of Homes in Sedgemoor from as Members of the Homes In Sedgemoor Board.

#### **4 Public Question Time - Agenda Item 4**

Public questions were received from Shannon Johnstone and Jean Humber.

The questions and the responses are provided below:

##### **Shannon Johnstone**

##### **Housing and Homelessness team / staff training**

Given that housing officers have to work within multiple legal frameworks and do hard and great work, making vastly important decisions, does the committee feel it would be beneficial for their housing and homelessness team to have a programme around what training each staff member should receive??A recent FOI confirmed that there was no policy or recorded data around what training they get.

##### **Response from Service Director - Housing, Communities Services**

Housing Options is the service area responsible for managing the council's statutory duties and non statutory support and prevention for households who are homeless, at risk of homelessness or those who are rough sleeping. The wider service also includes a Displaced People service.



The services is made up of circa 130 posts who previously were employed primarily by four former District Council all of which delivered there service and staff training differently.

The service recognises and agrees with the public question that the duties of the team must use a standard and consistent approach. Good induction programmes for new staff and ongoing training and development is essential to ensure this consistency is embedded.

The service has prepared a set of common induction materials for the Housing Options Officer role. These materials are now in final draft and will be piloted with new starters in September. The documents will then be adopted for other roles in Housing Options and Displaced Persons service and reviewed at regular intervals.

The service through its restructure which take place later this year will help the service bring about greater consistency as the service will establish a staff structure which is consistent throughout the Counties four customer facing localities. The service will also establish a number of officer posts responsible for establishing consistency of service and decisions.

There has been some early success in the delivery of consistency for example all locations moved to one IT case management system in April 2023.

Establishing consistency is one of the projects placed in the housing transitional programme which the service is calling 'Establish consistent approach to case management & assessment for Housing Options'.

A range of materials have been developed including:

- Induction Training Templates – Instructions. - This document explains the corporate elements to the induction which all SC new starters must complete
- Skillset Assessment and Training Recommendations- This document matches the competencies and skills listed on the Housing Options Officer Job Description, plus other skills such specific application skills (word, SharePoint etc) and asks the line manager to go through this on day one, capturing any gaps. For each competency or skill, the document suggests appropriate training which the new starter can do to address the gap in the skills. By completing this document, a training plan will be established.
- New starter plan - This document is intended as an ongoing way to capture the training and experience which the new starter acquires, so it is clear what gaps there are in their training and knowledge at all times.
- Housing Options On Boarding Plan - This doc will be used by all of the Housing options team as a reference document – both during induction and ongoing, we see this as a living document which will be regularly updated as and

when anything changes.

The service will continue to work hard to deliver a consistent service for all customers who approach the council for support.

### **Jean Humber**

#### **Housing in Withycombe**

Is the Committee aware of the negative effect their housing policy is having on small communities?

I have written to members of the Committee individually briefly explaining a situation that has arisen recently in Withycombe, a small village in West Somerset on the edge of Exmoor. West Somerset has a strong sense of identity as have the villages within it. The current housing allocation policy attaches no importance to the local connection of an applicant and is unfairly discriminating against those from small communities where housing availability is minimal, almost non-existent. A policy which breaks up a community cannot be right.

Already many young people have to move away because of the lack of job opportunities but they shouldn't have to move out of their community because they cannot get a house particularly when they are already established in that community and making a positive contribution to that community. It is one thing when they see no house, quite another when they see it being allocated to someone with no local connection.

Without going into the reasons for it, the root cause is too many people chasing too few houses but that is unlikely to change in the immediate future meanwhile local people in small communities will be unfairly discriminated against when a local connection counts for nothing. Born, bred, living and active in the village; it doesn't get more local than that.

I would ask the Committee review their housing application policy as a matter of urgency. Members of Withycombe Parish Council would welcome the opportunity to discuss this further.

#### **Response from Chair, Scrutiny Committee – Communities, Cllr Gwil Wren**

Thank you for your letter of 31st July.

Some years ago the then West Somerset Council (WSC) transferred its Council

Houses to Magna but the contract only gave WSC and its successors limited influence over future operations. This was limited to matters such as proceeds from the sale of previous council stock being reused within the district and a handful of other clauses.

Magna as a registered social landlord is committed to the provision of well managed affordable housing and the expectations of the government and regulator as a social housing provider. Our main opportunity to influence Magna is through our relationships and partnership approach. This offers two main opportunities:

a) Homefinder policy – ‘local connection’ for the purposes of the Homefinder policy is defined as the connection to Somerset County Council area rather than specific localities within the council’s area. The policy has recently been reviewed by the Board in consultation with the landlords and was agreed to remain in place as a connection to the wider area. The main reasons for this are i) to ensure housing need receives a higher priority over location ii) there is potential for legal challenge, on grounds of discrimination, where local lettings policies encourage homes to be let to those already established in the community rather than those not established despite often being in greater housing need. As a partner in Homefinder the Somerset Council stance aligns to this policy.

b) Landlord members of Homefinder can choose to introduce local connection criteria but this is often as a planning approval requirement for new homes, although some landlords do introduce a blanket approach and allow local connection to be focused on much smaller localities. I am only aware of Falcon Housing Association in the Homefinder scheme applying local connection as a common approach and should any challenge occur Falcon would need to justify their policy. Falcon are a very small provider of homes with a rural focus and therefore they may feel better able to have this policy. Magna could make a policy decision to use local connection more often for localities however with such acute demand for housing there are benefits to the Homefinder service and council in prioritising housing need over locality.

I represent rural community and understand the strength of local feeling over issues like these. All I can say is that the Homefinder system works very well and people do get their needs addressed even if it takes a little time. I understand from the Parish Council that another Magna property is shortly to become vacant and if this family is in the Gold Band they are likely to be in a good position to be offered it.

The Parish Council has asked if the Community Scrutiny Committee can look at the issue of local connection and housing need. I am liaising with colleagues and will reply shortly.

The following comments and questions were received and discussed with Members:

- Homefinder Service all Member briefing, to gain greater insight to the 10,000 households seeking affordable accommodation to include projects and scheme to incentivise property downsizing
- The increased Home Finder Service queries and escalating demand and the challenges, including demand outstripping the supply of affordable housing, the significant cost of living crisis, national displaced persons agenda, local demand for private sector housing
- The work to address the challenges, including, joint working with Children Services and work with housing providers to grow local authority housing stock.
- Planning application law, viability and developer issues regarding set figures for building affordable housing and delivering both social and affordable housing.

## **5 Recommissioning of 16+ Housing/Supported Accommodation - Agenda Item 5**

Members of the Children & Families Scrutiny Committee were invited to attend the meeting for this agenda item.

The Committee received a presentation from the Service Director - Commissioning and Performance (Children and Family Services) Richard Selwyn, on the Recommissioning of 16+ Housing/Supported Accommodation, with the Service Director - Housing, Communities Services, Chris Brown, further added to the introduction discussing the cross service working. The Strategic Commissioner for Children's Services, Julie Breeze, presented the report.

The following comments and questions were received and discussed with members:

- The progress of young people in Pathways to Independence (P2I).
- The role of multi-agencies in supporting the Council in making provision to support young people, including Somerset Drug and Alcohol Service, Police, nursing outreach teams and trials piloted with different providers.
- Accommodation provision, including escalating costs, local providers, unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.
- Range of accommodation provided through shared houses, flats, foyers - different levels of support to meet different levels of need.
- The links and differences between Homefinder and 16+ Housing supported accommodation, with Homefinder being the stable long-term accommodation.
- Moving on from P2I, both positively; moving to a social housing tenancy, moving to the private rented sector, returning to family, living with partners/friends and negatively; evictions (non-payment of rent, deliberate

damage, threats to staff or other residents), regular breaches of house rules, no properties available.

- The indicative 9-month (270 days) timescale measure pathway and what support is available after 9 months and the individuals 25th birthday.
- The progress and good engagement of young people within P2I service and the great work across the Council making good progress against individual goals identified in their support plan.

The Committee noted the report.

## **6 Somerset Council Service Introduction: Customer Services - Agenda Item 6**

The Committee received a presentation from the Service Director - Customer Services, Jan Stafford.

The following comments and questions were received and discussed with members:

- Comparison and benchmarking with other Councils and the upcoming work in this area with other Unitary Councils.
- Customer segmentation information, including break down of services provided, responses and satisfaction of the service.
- Data used to drive change and improvement.
- Digital inclusion and interaction with the Council, including infrastructure, the collection of feedback, data collection and provision of spaces for digitally disadvantaged (customer access points).
- Emergency response teams, including a unified lifeline service for Somerset Council and the work taking place with providers, adult social care and the Mendip area.
- Volumes and performance statistics for calls received, including satisfaction and resolution.
- Quality assurance, completion of surveys and the low number of satisfaction surveys completed.
- Roadwork emergency numbers and the review taking place on out of hours highways services.
- Adult Social Care services queries and responses.
- Face to face customer opportunities, including customer access point promotion and potential partnership models.
- Survey participation and options to leave responses.

The Committee noted the report.

**7 Annual Approval as sole shareholder of Homes in Sedgemoor - Agenda Item 7**

The Committee received a verbal update from the Service Director - Housing, Community Services, Chris Brown, and the Strategic Housing Manager, David Baxter on the Annual Approval as sole shareholder of Homes in Sedgemoor.

The Committee noted the verbal update.

**8 Date and venue of the next meeting - Agenda Item 8**

The Committee noted that the next meeting would be held on 11 October 2023 at 10am, with the meeting venue to be confirmed.

The Chair advised the Committee of the work taking place to consider increasing the frequency of Scrutiny Committee meetings and a proposal to hold Committee meetings in the former District Council offices in Somerset.

The following items were suggested for the future work programme for Scrutiny Committee – Communities:

- Homefinder (All Member Briefing to be provided by Service Director: Housing, Communities Services.
- CCTV provision across Somerset
- Budget Monitoring within Communities Directorate

**(The meeting ended at 12.20 pm)**

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**CHAIR**

# Community Scrutiny CCTV Service Overview

11<sup>th</sup> October 2023

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**Somerset**  
Council

Agenda Item 5

# Background of CCTV service

Somerset Council has operated public open space CCTV cameras in Somerset since October 1994.

The cameras are permanently monitored 24 hrs a day, 365 days a year and the operatives are in close contact with the Police at all times via airwave radio, over 3 district channels.

The control room has a video wall with six large HD slim profile monitors. Each monitor can display one, large image for dealing with major incidents or hot spot areas, or up to 4, 6, 9, or 12 images from separate cameras at any time, and this is all controlled by the new Genetec VMS equipment, which was installed in February 2022.





## Overview of our aims, responsibilities and team

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- Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a duty on local authorities to do all they reasonably can to prevent;
- Crime and disorder in their areas (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment),
- The misuse of drugs, alcohol or other substances
- Re-offending in their areas.

This will lead to improvements in people's quality of life as a result.

- Management responsibility for the monitoring, operation and technical maintenance of the *CCTV scheme is undertaken by Somerset Council* and its approved installation and maintenance contractor CDS (Computerised Data Systems).
- The CCTV Operations team consist of 1 Team Leader and 10 CCTV Monitoring Officers, all of whom are SIA licensed.
- Two members of staff, depending on operational requirements, undertake the 24-hour monitoring on a shift/rota basis.
- The scheme is operated in compliance with the internally approved CCTV Code of Practice, which has been agreed with the Police and has been prepared as guidance for Council staff and the operators of the system.
- This internal Code of Practice also reflects the requirements of the Data Protection Act 2018 and the General Data Protection Regulation 2018 and associated regulations. This was reviewed in 2021 and is refreshed bi-annually.

## Not just a public space CCTV service

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In addition to monitoring our CCTV network, we offer three services which aid in the quality of service we deliver but also generate income to us as a local authority;

- 1. Business link radio system** – this is a service covering the three towns of Taunton, Bridgwater and Burnham on Sea (soon to incorporate Mendip). This service enable business owners, NTE venues and security to liaise with us on a 24-hour basis. This is charged at £25 per month and we currently have 102 members.
- 2. Private alarm monitoring** – Our VMS system enables security alarms to be linked back to our control room. We are able to monitor those that are covered by CCTV and alert police.
- 3. Private CCTV monitoring** – Businesses which require 24-hour monitoring of their CCTV can be covered by our team with a link back to the control room at Bridgwater House.



# Partnership working

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A list of priorities have been agreed with Avon and Somerset Constabulary, and our Town Council partners through monthly partnership meetings and fortnightly priorities meetings; The priorities are not listed in any particular order. They are all equally important and assist in evidencing the pressing need for the continued investment and use of CCTV to deter and prevent crime and disorder.

- Hate Crime
- Victimisation (including repeat victimisation)
- Vulnerability and Exploitation
- Anti-Social Behaviour (nuisance)
- Reducing Re-offending
- Serious and Organised Crime
- Road Safety
- Use of drugs
- Missing persons (adult and minors)



# Areas of coverage, CCTV locations and annual report

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The system currently monitors a total of 233 public space CCTV in the following towns;

Taunton 60

Bridgwater 79

Yeovil 29

Wellington 6

Burnham On Sea 6

Highbridge 2

Street 9

Wells 17

Glastonbury 7

Frome 10

Shepton Mallet 8

The locations of each camera and the relevant statistics relating to each individual camera can be found on the CCTV annual reports for each district.

The 2023 annual report will be a singular report covering each area within the Somerset Council boundaries and this will be published at the end of 2023.



## Reducing costs and improving results through external funding

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- In July 2022 the Local Authority undertook a CCTV upgrade project in the towns of Taunton and Yeovil, where a total of 22 CCTV cameras were upgraded from analogue to digital in order to improve standard of CCTV in our towns and also to improve the quality of evidence, we are able to provide to our partner agencies. This project was completed in May 2023.
- A further 11 were upgraded in Bridgwater through external funding between this period of time.
- Since June 2021 we have been successful in gaining £229,000 in funding to improve our CCTV network and keep the service as self-sufficient as is realistically possible.

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The quality of our CCTV, combined with our partnership working has seen a reduction in crime over the last year across the towns of Taunton 20%, Bridgwater 22% and Yeovil 15%

Due to the constant drive to improve our system, we are continuously reviewing our CCTV network, including location of CCTV and need for additions and improvement. Current projects we are undertaking, all through external funding are;

1. 3 CCTV cameras in Brean – working with EDF to ensure the safety of tourists, HPC workers, local residents and businesses.
  2. Incorporating the CCTV network of West Somerset (Minehead, Williton and Watchet) to our CCTV control room system through PCC funding
  3. Incorporating Chard and Crewkerne CCTV to our CCTV Control room system through PCC funding.
  4. Installation of 3 CCTV cameras on Bristol Road, Bridgwater. Incorporating ANPR.
  5. Introduction of Business Link Radio to Mendip.
- **Over the last 9 years, Avon and Somerset Constabulary have paid the service a flat fee of £10,000 in order to produce copies of evidence for them. After discussions with the Crime Commissioner and numerous Neighbourhood Inspectors this will now be increased to £20,000 as of April 2023.**

# Generating greater revenue

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Moving forwards as a local authority, part of our business plan is to generate greater income.

We have identified three key areas where this can be achieved within the near to immediate future;

**1. Business link Radio System** - currently has 102 members, which at £25 per month generates £2550 per year.

Our aim is to double this within the next 6 months.

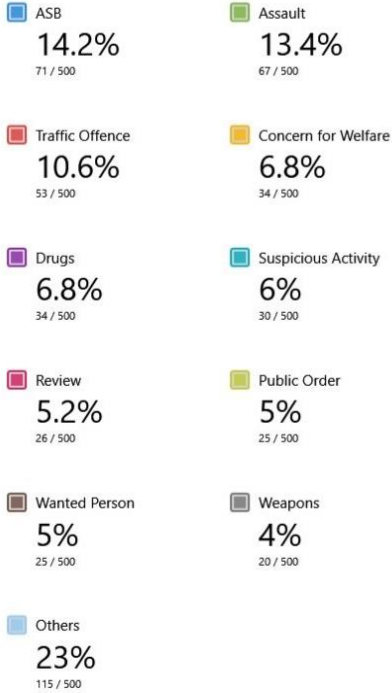
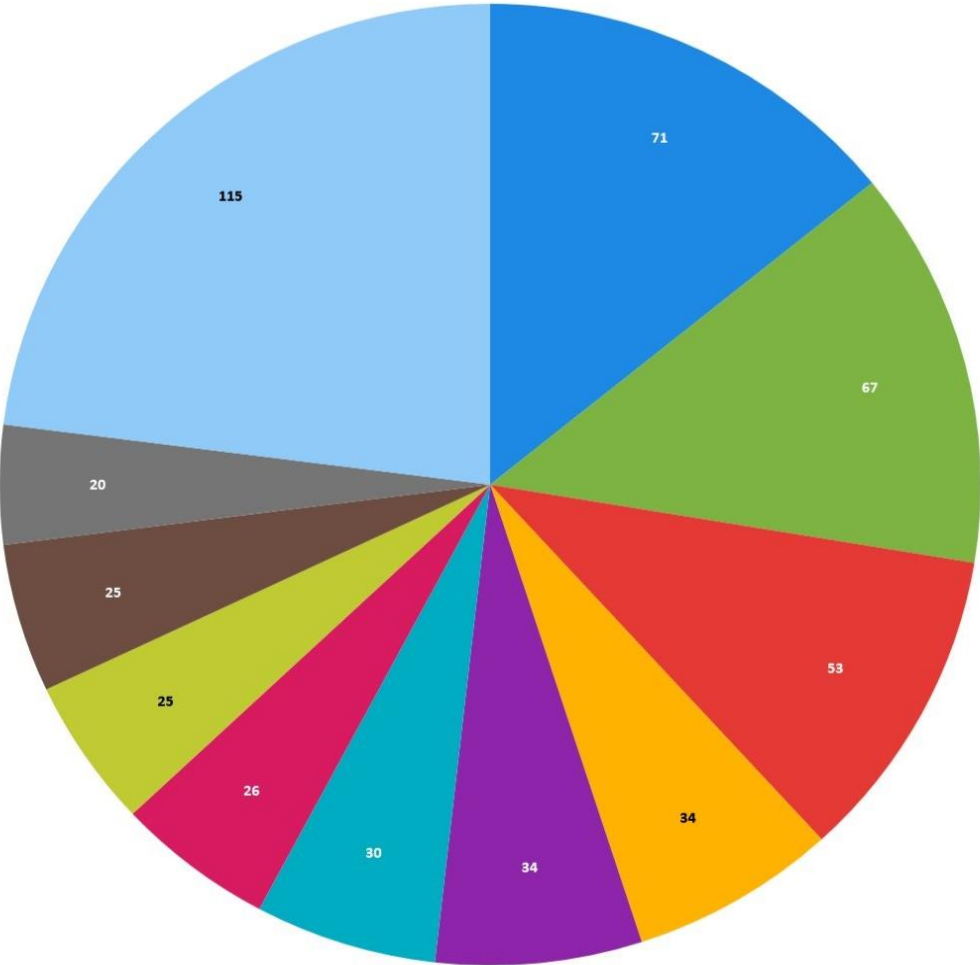
**2. CCTV monitoring** – we are now working with the YMCA Dulverton Group, Clarks Village and Bridgwater and Taunton College to take over the full-time monitoring of the CCTV systems for a monthly fee (this is dependant on the size of the system) All maintenance will be covered by the owners.

**3. Security Alarm monitoring** – We monitor the alarms of several businesses in Bridgwater including Showcase, Nandos and Allstars. We are also working with 6 Taunton Town Centre businesses and also Clarks Village in Street.

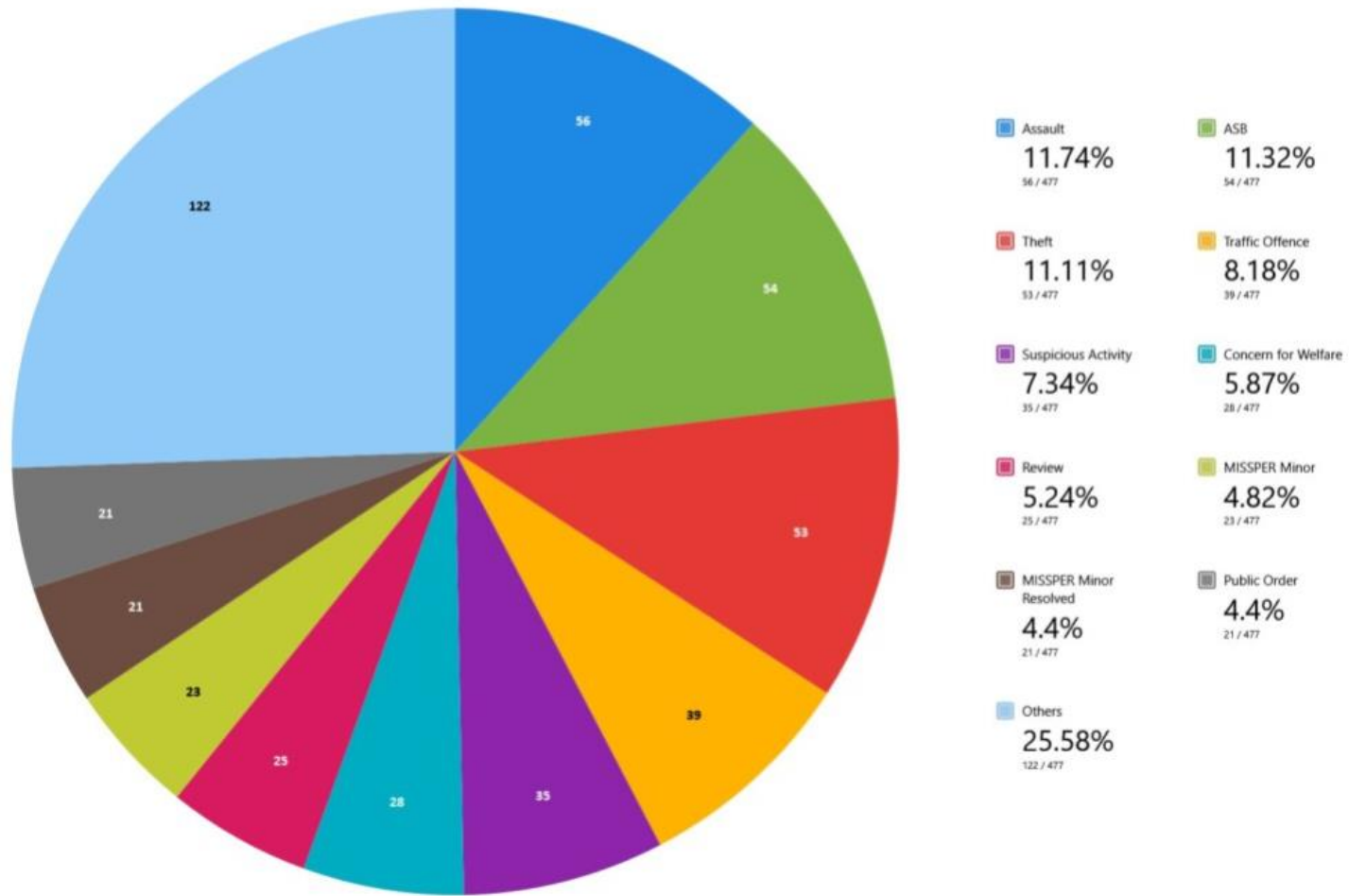


# Bridgwater April – July 2023

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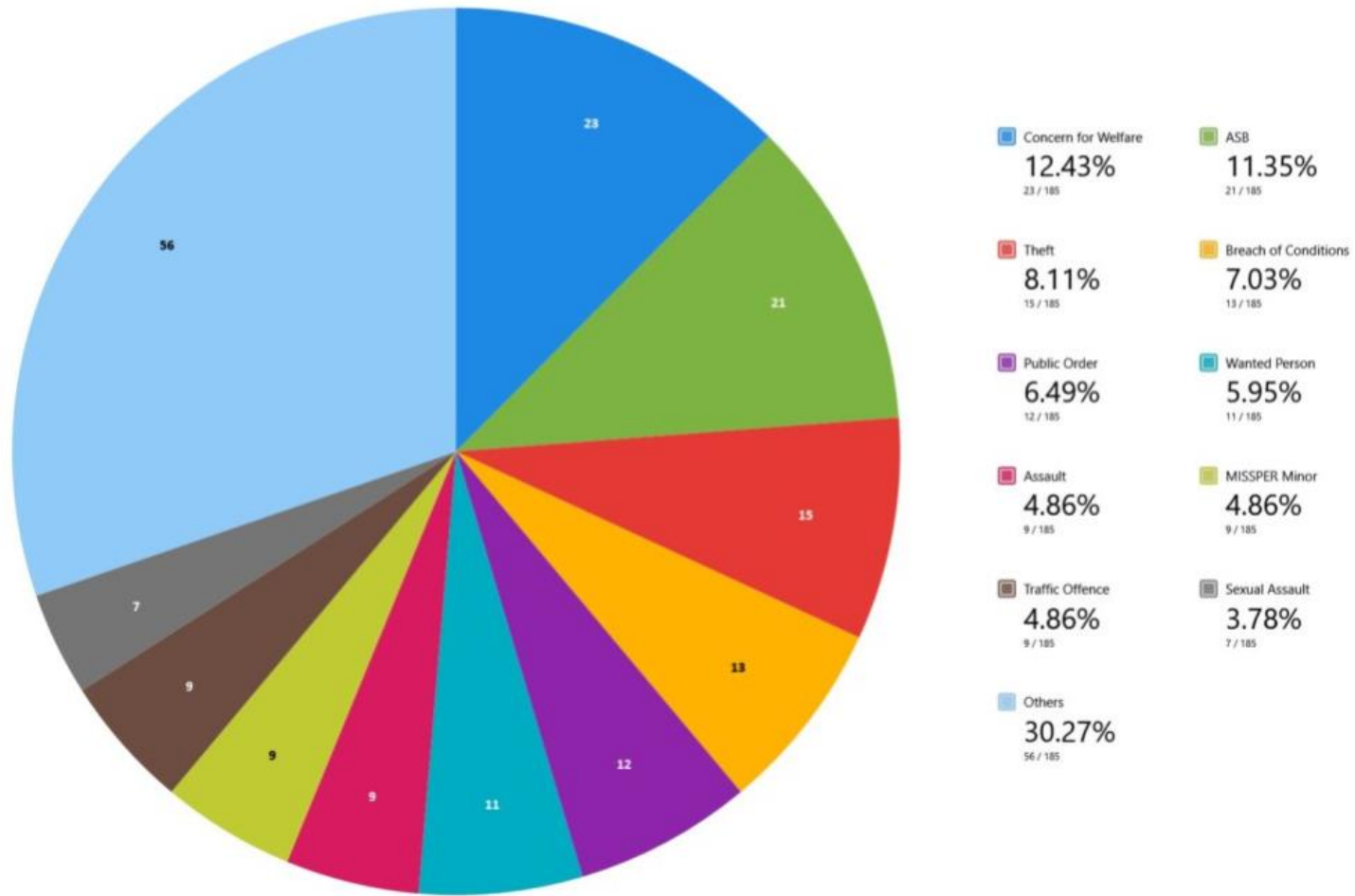


# Taunton April – July 2023





# Yeovil April – July 2023



Please feel free to ask any questions.

I would invite all members of the panel to attend our control room in order to gain an understanding of the role the team plays, how they represent Somerset Council over a 24 hour basis and the role they play in keeping residents, visitors and businesses safe.

Thank you.





# CCTV Annual Report

**2022-2022**

Taunton and West Somerset



This document has been produced to provide details of the CCTV surveillance system in operation in the towns of Taunton and Wellington, monitored by Sedgemoor District Council. It also assists in demonstrating compliance with the Home Office's "Surveillance Camera Code of Practice" (the Code).

The Sedgemoor District Council CCTV system has been notified to the information Commissioner registration number Z5968381

Sedgemoor District Council currently operates 167 CCTV cameras which are a mix of Public

Open Space and internal cameras. These are monitored in Bridgwater. The scheme is supported by Somerset West and Taunton Council, South Somerset District Council and Avon and Somerset Constabulary.

There are currently 60 public space CCTV cameras monitored in Taunton and 6 in Wellington. The details and locations of these are set out below, including the amount of incidents each camera has been utilised in - recorded to date in 2022;

Camera no	Location	Analogue/Digital	Make	Incidents 2022
301	Kilkenny West	Analogue	Bosch	4
302	Kilkenny East	Analogue	360 vision Predator (White Light)	6
303	Coal Orchard North	Analogue	360 vision Predator (White Light)	1
304	Coal Orchard South	Analogue	Pelco Spectra IV	0
305	Brewhouse	Analogue	Pelco Spectra IV	0
306	Multi-storey Car Park	Analogue	Fixed	0
307	Multi-storey Car Park	Analogue	Fixed	1
309	Multi-storey Car Park	Analogue	Pelco Spectra IV	0
310	Multi-storey Car Park	Analogue	HIK	1
311	Multi-storey Car Park	Analogue	Bosch	0
312	Multi-storey Car Park	Analogue	Pelco Spectra IV	0
313	Multi-storey Car Park	Analogue	Pelco Spectra IV	1
314	Multi-storey Car Park	Analogue	Pelco Spectra IV	0
315	Multi-storey Car Park	Analogue	Pelco Spectra IV	0
316	Multi-storey Car Park	Analogue	Bewator Solaris dome	0
317	Multi-storey Car Park	Analogue	Pelco Spectra IV	0
318	Multi-storey Car Park	Analogue	Pelco Spectra IV	3
319	Belvedere West	Analogue	Bosch	2
320	Belvedere East	Analogue	360 vision Predator (White Light)	0

Camera no	Location	Analogue/Digital	Make	Incidents 2022
321	Crescent North	Analogue	Pelco	23
322	Crescent South	Analogue	Bewator Solaris dome	29
323	Canon street church	Analogue	Bosch	8
324	Canon street entrance	Analogue	Bewator Solaris Dome	6
325	Castle Green	Analogue	360 vision predator (White Light)	41
326	Whirligig Lane	Analogue	Pelco Spectra IV	14
327	Castle Green	Analogue	360 vision predator (White Light)	27
328	Bath Place	Analogue	Vista Power Dome	19
329	Wood Street	Analogue	Vista Power Dome	5
330	Yarde Lane	Analogue	Bewator Solaris Dome	0
331	Victoria Gate Car Park	Analogue	Vista Power Dome	37
332	Duke Street	Analogue	Bosch Mic1-400 IR	26
333	Station Road/Priory Bridge Road	Analogue	Pelco Spectra IV	52
334	Outside Swimming Pool – Station Road	Analogue	Pelco Spectra IV	65
335	Wood Street/ Bridge Street	Analogue	Pelcoa	91
336	Wood Street/ Bridge Street	Analogue	Pelco Spectra IV	127
337	St James Street/ North Street	Analogue	Pelco Spectra IV	112
338	St James Street/ North Street	Analogue	Pelco Spectra IV	50
339	North Street*	Analogue	Pelco Spectra IV	126
340	Parade*	Analogue	Pelco Spectra IV	46
341	Church Square/ Hammet Street	Analogue	Bewator Solaris Dome	10
342	East Street/ Fore Street*	Analogue	Pelco Spectra IV	83
343	Paul Street/Cheap Side	Analogue	Vista Power Dome	21

Camera no	Location	Analogue/Digital	Make	Incidents 2022
344	East Street	Analogue	Pelco Spectra IV	22
345	Outside Wetherspoons East Street	Analogue	Pelco Spectra IV	120
346	East Street – East Reach	Analogue	Pelco Spectra IV	83
347	East Reach/ South Street	Analogue	Pelco Spectra IV	23
348	East Reach/ Haydon Road	Analogue	Vista Powerdome	107
349	East Reach	Analogue	Bewator Solaris Dome	39
350	Victoria Street Taunton	Analogue	Pelco Spectra IV	95
351	High Street/ Parade end	Analogue	Pelco Spectra IV	94
352	Central High Street	Analogue	Pelco Spectra IV	107
353	High Street/ Job Centre end	Analogue	Pelco Spectra IV	51
354	Corporation Street/ Tower Street	Analogue	Bewator Solaris Dome	0
355	Roman Road	Analogue	Bosch MIC1-400 IR	14
356	Crossway	Analogue	Bosch MIC1-400 IR	18
357	Lambrook Road	Analogue	Bosch MIC1-400 IR	23
358	Creechbarrow	Analogue	Bosch MIC1-400 IR	6
359	Laxton Road	Analogue	Bosch MIC1-400 IR	2
360	Eastwick Road	Digital	Samsung 1080P HD	30
362	Tangier/LIDL Not yet in use	Analogue	360 vision predator (White Light)	
381	High Street Wellington	Analogue	Pelco Spectra IV	13
382	High Street Wellington, opposite Kings Arms	Analogue	Bosch 1080P HD	20
383	South Street	Analogue	Bewator Solaris dome	0
384	Fore Street	Analogue	Bewator Solaris dome	10
385	Mantel Street	Analogue	Bewator Solaris dome	1
386	North Street	Analogue	Bewator Solaris dome	4

**The Sedgemoor District Council CCTV scheme is operated in relation to the prevention of disorder or crime and the reduction of the fear of crime. Additionally, it may be used in relation to public safety.**

This document also reviews the camera locations and highlights some of the good work CCTV assists with.

## **Introduction**

Sedgemoor District Council has operated public open space CCTV cameras in Taunton and Wellington for over 20 years.

The cameras are permanently monitored 24 hrs a day, 365 days a year and the operatives are in close contact with the Police at all times via airwave radio, over 3 district channels.

The control room has a video wall with six large HD slim profile monitors.

Each monitor can display one, large image for dealing with major incidents or hot spot areas, or up to 4, 6, 9, or 12 images from separate cameras at any time, and this is all controlled by the new Genetec VMS equipment, which was installed in February 2022.



*Sedgemoor District Council CCTV Monitoring Office*

## **Background**

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a duty on local authorities to do all they reasonably can to prevent;

- Crime and disorder in their areas (including anti-social and other behavior adversely affecting the local environment),
- The misuse of drugs, alcohol or other substances, and
- Re-offending in their areas.

This will lead to improvements in people's quality of life as a result.

Management responsibility for the monitoring, operation and technical maintenance of the CCTV scheme is undertaken by Sedgemoor District Council and it's approved installation and maintenance contractor CDS (Computerised Data Systems).

## **Purpose of the CCTV System**

The Code details that the use of a surveillance camera system must always be for a specified purpose which is in pursuit of a legitimate aim and necessary to meet an identified pressing need.

It states that such a legitimate aim and pressing need might include national security, public safety, the economic well-being of the country, the prevention of disorder or crime, the protection of health or morals, or the protection of the rights and freedoms of others.

The scheme is operated in relation to the prevention of disorder or crime and the reduction of the fear of crime. Additionally, it may be used in relation to public safety.

The CCTV Operations team consist of 1 Team Leader and 10 CCTV Monitoring Officers, all of whom are SIA licensed. Two members of staff, depending on operational requirements, undertake the 24-hour monitoring on a shift/rota basis. The scheme is operated in compliance with the internally approved CCTV Code of Practice, which has been agreed with the Police and has been prepared as guidance for Council staff and the operators of the system.

This internal Code of Practice also reflects the requirements of the Data Protection Act 2018 and the General Data Protection Regulation 2018 and associated regulations. This was reviewed in 2021 and is refreshed bi-annually.

The CCTV scheme is operated within applicable law/guidance and only for the purposes identified above. The scheme will be operated with due regard to the privacy of the individual.

The scheme will not be used, for example, for traffic management or minor enforcement issues (including parking offences).





## List of Priorities

A list of priorities have been agreed with Avon and Somerset Constabulary, through monthly partnership meetings and fortnightly priorities meetings; The priorities are not listed in any particular order. They are all equally important and assist in evidencing the pressing need for the continued investment and use of CCTV to deter and prevent crime and disorder.

- Hate Crime
- Victimisation (including repeat victimisation)
- Vulnerability and Exploitation
- Anti-Social Behavior (nuisance)
- Reducing Re-offending
- Serious and Organised Crime
- Road Safety
- Use of drugs
- Missing persons (adult and minors)

## Highlights from the Operation of the System - Taunton

Since the installation of the Genetec VMS System in February 2022 The key highlights are as follows:-

CCTV staff were involved in 500 incidents/ observations broken down as follows;

**80** ASB Incidents

**35** Missing Persons – Adults

**27** Traffic Offences

**78** Theft Offences

**26** Concern for Welfare

**36** Suspicious Activities

**53** Assault Incidents

**34** Missing persons – Minors

**20** Public Order Offences

**18** Drugs Offences

**93** Other/Observations



CCTV staff were directly involved in 208 arrests by Avon and Somerset Constabulary in Taunton throughout this period for the following offences;

- |                              |                                     |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>25</b> ASB Incidents      | <b>23</b> Public Order Incidents    |
| <b>15</b> Wanted Persons     | <b>11</b> Traffic Offence Incidents |
| <b>9</b> Suspicious Persons  | <b>9</b> Weapons Incidents          |
| <b>7</b> Concerns for Safety | <b>7</b> Criminal Damage Offences   |
| <b>30</b> Other Offences     | <b>46</b> Assault Incidents         |
| <b>26</b> Theft Offences     |                                     |

### Number of arrests by month – Taunton

Arrests	Feb 22	Mar 22	Apr 22	May 22	Jun 22	Jul 22	Aug 22	Sep 22
	22	43	35	25	26	20	23	14

### Highlights from the operations of the system – Wellington

CCTV staff were involved in 49 incidents/observations broken down as follows;

- |                                  |                              |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>33</b> Concern for Welfare    | <b>1</b> Sexual Assault      |
| <b>2</b> ASB                     | <b>2</b> Public order        |
| <b>3</b> Missing person – Adults | <b>3</b> Suspicious activity |
| <b>3</b> Missing person – Minors | <b>1</b> Other offences      |
| <b>1</b> RTC                     |                              |

CCTV staff were directly involved in 7 arrests by Avon and Somerset Constabulary in Wellington throughout this period for the following offences;

**3 Assault Offences**

**2 Traffic Offences**

**1 Public Order Offence**

**1 Suspicious Person**

Arrests	Feb 22	Mar 22	Apr 22	May 22	Jun 22	Jul 22	Aug 22	Sep 22
	0	2	0	1	0	1	2	1

## Monitoring details

The images from the Council's CCTV cameras are monitored in a specifically designed secure monitoring suite in Bridgwater.

The images from all the cameras are being permanently recorded and these recordings are kept for 28 days before being deleted. Footage can be archived within a storage vault on the VMS if it is being used by the Police in relation to a specific case, however, when the footage is no longer needed it is deleted.

The Code details that access to retained images and information should be restricted and that there must be clearly defined rules on who can gain access and for what purpose such access is granted. The disclosure of images or information should only take place when it is necessary for such a purpose or for law enforcement purposes.

## Business link system

The service also operates a 24-hour business radio link system within the town of Taunton, which currently serves 35 different businesses including a mixture of shops, libraries and night time economy premises. This service is monitored and operated by Sedgemoor District Council and owned by APEX Radio. There are 4 additional

businesses in the process of joining as this is written.

Sedgemoor CCTV operators have monitored/communicated 181 incidents in Taunton utilising this system over the last 12 months.

## Future Plans

A project is underway to upgrade 11 cameras within the town centre from analogue to digital as we move towards the end of the year. There is also the possibility of incorporating the West Somerset CCTV system into our network

Sedgemoor District Council have secured 11 deployable CCTV cameras, 3 of which have been earmarked for the following locations in Taunton and are free of charge for the first year from the point of installation.;

- Hamilton Road
- Obridge
- Cheddon Road

The monitoring office now has a link between Bridgwater House and Bridgwater Police Centre which will allow police communications operators

a live, real-time view of what operators are monitoring.

This will allow improved dispatch times and a greater understanding of our role. This will go live by the end of October 2022.

## Directed Surveillance

- The law and our Code of Practice permits the use of the CCTV system to monitor or observe individuals covertly via CCTV (i.e. 'directed surveillance') at the request of 'Public Authorities' (i.e. law enforcement bodies).
- Targeted operations employing directed surveillance will only be carried out where other methods of investigation are not appropriate or not likely to be effective and where they are considered 'proportionate' to the suspected criminal activity or problem posed. The law and rules relating to covert surveillance are contained in the Regulation of Investigatory

Powers Act 2000. Failure to obtain the necessary authorisations under this Act could invalidate any subsequent evidence obtained by virtue of the Human Rights Act 1998 and the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984.

- Local authorities are required to obtain judicial approval prior to using covert techniques. Local Authority authorisations and notices under the Regulations of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) will only be given effect once an order has been granted by a Justice of the Peace in England and Wales.

## Complaints

The Code details that system operators should also record and publish information in relation to

any complaints it receives about CCTV. For the period of this report 0 complaints were received.

## Regulation of investigatory Powers

During the period in question no covert surveillance took place.

## Future reports

- The Council will continue to be transparent regarding its use of CCTV and produce an annual report moving forwards as required.
- Sedgemoor District Council is committed to community safety and helps with the prevention and detection of crime.

The council is exploring new ways to improve and develop our partnership working with neighbouring councils and partner agencies, to ensure a safer community to live, visit and work in.



## Contact us

### Website

[sedgemoor.gov.uk/CCTV](http://sedgemoor.gov.uk/CCTV)

### Email

[CCTV@sedgemoor.gov.uk](mailto:CCTV@sedgemoor.gov.uk)

### Call

0300 303 7800

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### Visit

At the address below

8:45am – 5:00pm

Monday to Friday

(except bank holidays)

### Write

Sedgemoor District Council,

Bridgwater House,

King Square, Bridgwater,

Somerset TA6 3AR

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# CCTV Annual Report

**2022-2022**

Sedgemoor - Bridgwater,  
Burnham-on-Sea and Highbridge



This document has been produced to provide details of the CCTV surveillance system in operation in the towns of Bridgwater, Burnham on Sea and Highbridge, monitored by Sedgemoor District Council. It also assists in demonstrating compliance with the Home Office's "Surveillance Camera Code of Practice" (the Code).

The Sedgemoor District Council CCTV system has been notified to the information Commissioner registration number Z5968381

Sedgemoor District Council currently operates 167 CCTV cameras which are a mix of Public

Open Space and internal cameras. These are monitored in Bridgwater. The scheme is supported by Somerset West and Taunton Council, South Somerset District Council and Avon and Somerset Constabulary.

There are currently 82 cameras in Sedgemoor monitored from the control room. 13 of these are internal within Bridgwater House and 1 within Westfield House lobby. The details and locations of these are set out below, including the amount of incidents each camera has been utilised in - recorded to date in 2022;

Camera no	Location	Analogue/Digital	Incidents 2022
1	Bridgwater - Bath Road/New Market	Digital	58
4	Bridgwater - Dampiet Car Park	Analogue	33
5	Bridgwater - Fore St/Binford Place	Digital	102
6	Bridgwater - Fore Street	Digital	104
8	Bridgwater - High Street	Digital	80
9	Bridgwater - St Mary St	Digital	45
10	Bridgwater - St Mary St/Broadway	Digital	46
11	Bridgwater - West Quay	Digital	75
12	Bridgwater - Northgate Car park	Digital	44
13	Bridgwater - Cornhill	Digital	58
14	Internal - Reception	Digital	7
15	Bridgwater - Rhode Lane	Analogue	11
16	Bridgwater - Rhode Lane	Analogue	24
17	Bridgwater - Rhode Lane	Analogue	1
18	Bridgwater - The Abbey – Due late 22	Digital	
19	Bridgwater - Parkway Shops	Analogue	28
20	Bridgwater - Parkway/Fairfax Road	Digital	7
21	Bridgwater - Coronation Park	Analogue	1
22	Bridgwater - Back of Parkway Shops	Digital	2
23	Bridgwater - Longstone/Fairfax	Digital	1
24	Bridgwater House Layby	Digital	42
25	Bridgwater House Rear Carpark	Digital	1



Camera no	Location	Analogue/Digital	Incidents 2022
26	Bridgwater - Church Street	Digital	45
27	Bridgwater – New Road	Digital	52
28	Bridgwater - Penel Orlieu	Digital	152
29	Bridgwater - Rear of Town Hall	Digital	76
30	Bridgwater - Angel Crescent	Digital	18
31	Bridgwater House Front/Kings Square		15
32	Bridgwater - Kings Square	Digital	26
33	Bridgwater - St Johns St	Analogue	88
34	Bridgwater - Retail Park/McDonalds	Digital	96
35	Bridgwater - Docks	Digital	29
36	Bridgwater - Broadway/West/North St	Digital	125
37	Bridgwater - Laciota House	Digital	10
38	Bridgwater - Penel Orlieu/Cinema	Digital	109
39	Bridgwater - Colley Lane Main Gate	Digital	2
40	Bridgwater - Prezzo/Cornhill	Digital	169
41	Bridgwater - YMCA	Digital	11
43	Bridgwater - Blake Carpark Due Oct 22	Digital	
46	Kings Down	Digital	23
47	Campus Way	Digital	21
48	College Way	Digital	17
49	Cross Rifles Roundabout	Digital	16
50	Barclay Street	Analogue	11
52	Quantock Road	Digital	3
53	Bridgwater - Indoor Market	Digital	77
54	Bridgwater - St Mary St/Church	Digital	57
57	Bridgwater – Kendale Road	Digital	11
59	Internal Rear doors Entrance A	Analogue	0
60	Bridgwater House Entrance B	Analogue	3
64	West Street	Digital	49
65	Blake Gardens	Analogue	37
66	Blake Gardens	Analogue	0
68	St Johns Street	Analogue	47
69	Victoria Park Community Centre	Analogue	0

Camera no	Location	Analogue/Digital	Incidents 2022
70	Westfield House lobby	Analogue	0
71	Internal - outside Control Room	Digital	0
72	Internal - Ground Floor Corridor	Digital	0
73	Internal - Lower Ground Corridor	Digital	1
74	Internal - Exit A on Lower Ground	Digital	1
75	Bridgwater - Colley Lane/ Pedestrian Entrance	Digital	
76	Bridgwater - Colley Lane	Digital	0
77	Bridgwater - Colley Lane	Digital	0
78	Bridgwater - Colley Lane	Digital	0
79	Bridgwater - Colley Lane/ Main Reception	Digital	0
80	Bridgwater - Colley Lane	Digital	1
83	Internal - ICT Server Room, Inside	Digital	0
84	Internal – ICT Server Room, Outside	Digital	0
87	Internal - Members Entrance	Digital	0
88	Internal - Control Room	Digital	0
89	Internal Control Room	Digital	0
90	Internal - Outside Control Room Door 2	Digital	0
92	Internal – Duncan Mcginty Room	Digital	1
93	Internal - Reception	Digital	7
137	Burnham - Pier Street Car Park	Digital	13
140	Burnham - Esplanade	Analogue	0
141	Burnham - Pier	Analogue	0
142	Highbridge - A38/Market Street	Analogue	11
147	Burnham - Manor Gardens	Analogue	
148	Burnham - Pier Street	Digital	15
149	Burnham - Apex Park	Digital	7
150	Highbridge - Market Street	Analogue	8

**The Sedgemoor District Council CCTV scheme is operated in relation to the prevention of disorder or crime and the reduction of the fear of crime. Additionally, it may be used in relation to public safety.**

This document also reviews the camera locations and highlights some of the good work CCTV assists with.

## **Introduction**

Sedgemoor District Council has operated public open space CCTV cameras in Sedgemoor for over 20 years.

The cameras are permanently monitored 24 hrs a day, 365 days a year and the operatives are in close contact with the Police at all times via airwave radio, over 3 district channels.

The control room has a video wall with six large HD slim profile monitors.

Each monitor can display one, large image for dealing with major incidents or hot spot areas, or up to 4, 6, 9, or 12 images from separate cameras at any time, and this is all controlled by the new Genetec VMS equipment, which was installed in February 2022.



*Sedgemoor District Council CCTV Monitoring Office*

## Background

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a duty on local authorities to do all they reasonably can to prevent;

- Crime and disorder in their areas (including anti-social and other behavior adversely affecting the local environment),
- The misuse of drugs, alcohol or other substances, and
- Re-offending in their areas.

This will lead to improvements in people's quality of life as a result.

Management responsibility for the monitoring, operation and technical maintenance of the CCTV scheme is undertaken by Sedgemoor District Council and it's approved installation and maintenance contractor CDS (Computerised Data Systems).

## Purpose of the CCTV System

The Code details that the use of a surveillance camera system must always be for a specified purpose which is in pursuit of a legitimate aim and necessary to meet an identified pressing need.

It states that such a legitimate aim and pressing need might include national security, public safety, the economic well-being of the country, the prevention of disorder or crime, the protection of health or morals, or the protection of the rights and freedoms of others.

**The scheme is operated in relation to the prevention of disorder or crime and the reduction of the fear of crime. Additionally, it may be used in relation to public safety.**

The CCTV Operations team consist of 1 Team Leader and 10 CCTV Monitoring Officers, all of whom are SIA licensed. Two members of staff, depending on operational requirements, undertake the 24-hour monitoring on a shift/rota basis. The scheme is operated in compliance with the internally approved CCTV Code of Practice, which has been agreed with the Police and has been prepared as guidance for Council staff and the operators of the system.

This internal Code of Practice also reflects the requirements of the Data Protection Act 2018 and the General Data Protection Regulation 2018 and associated regulations. This was reviewed in 2021 and is refreshed bi-annually.

The CCTV scheme is operated within applicable law/guidance and only for the purposes identified above. The scheme will be operated with due regard to the privacy of the individual.

The scheme will not be used, for example, for traffic management or minor enforcement issues (including parking offences).



## List of Priorities

A list of priorities have been agreed with Avon and Somerset Constabulary, through monthly partnership meetings and fortnightly priorities meetings; The priorities are not listed in any particular order. They are all equally important and assist in evidencing the pressing need for the continued investment and use of CCTV to deter and prevent crime and disorder.

- Hate Crime
- Victimisation (including repeat victimisation)
- Vulnerability and Exploitation
- Anti-Social Behavior (nuisance)
- Reducing Re-offending
- Serious and Organised Crime
- Road Safety
- Use of drugs
- Missing persons (adult and minors)

## Highlights from the Operation of the System - Bridgwater

Since the installation of the Genetec VMS System in February 2022 The key highlights are as follows:-

CCTV staff were involved in 501 incidents/ observations broken down as follows;

**103** ASB Incidents

**28** Missing Persons – Adults

**44** Traffic Offences

**35** Theft Offences

**26** Concern for Welfare

**32** Suspicious Activities

**71** Assault Incidents

**16** Public Order Offences

**33** Drugs Offences

**93** Other/Observations

**20** Police Observations



CCTV staff were directly involved in 311 arrests by Avon and Somerset Constabulary in Bridgwater throughout this period for the following offences;

- 32 ASB Incidents**
- 16 Wanted Persons**
- 16 Suspicious Activity Offences**
- 43 Other Offences**
- 29 Theft Offences**
- 22 Public Order Incidents**
- 51 Traffic Offence Incidents**
- 15 Weapons Incidents**
- 16 Criminal Damage Offences**
- 50 Assault Offences**

### Number of arrests by month – Bridgwater

Arrests	Feb 22	Mar 22	Apr 22	May 22	Jun 22	Jul 22	Aug 22	Sep 22	Oct 22
	30	42	57	37	32	46	29	28	10

### Highlights from the operations of the system – Burnham On Sea

Since the installation of the Genetec VMS System in February 2022 The key highlights are as follows:- CCTV staff were involved in 18 incidents/observations broken down as follows;

- 2 Missing person – Adults**
- 2 Missing person – Minors**
- 1 Robbery Offence**
- 2 Public order Incidents**
- 2 Suspicious Activity**
- 2 Other Offences**
- 2 Police Observations**
- 5 Assault Incidents**
- 4 ASB Incidents**
- 4 Traffic Offences**



CCTV staff were directly involved in 4 arrests by Avon and Somerset Constabulary in Burnham On Sea throughout this period for the following offences;

- 1 Traffic Offences**
- 2 Assault Offences**
- 1 Police Observation**
- 1 Public Order Offence**
- 1 ASB Offence**

Arrests	Feb 22	Mar 22	Apr 22	May 22	Jun 22	Jul 22	Aug 22	Sep 22	Oct 22
	1	1	2	0	0	1	1	0	0

## Highlights from the operations of the system – Highbridge

Since the installation of the Genetec VMS System in February 2022 The key highlights are as follows:- CCTV staff were involved in 18 incidents/observations broken down as follows;

- 4 Concern for welfare incidents**
- 3 ASB Incidents**
- 4 Traffic Incidents**
- 2 Missing person - Minors**
- 1 Theft Incident**
- 2 Assault Incidents**
- 1 Police Observation Incident**
- 5 Suspicious Activity Incident**

CCTV staff were directly involved in 4 arrests by Avon and Somerset Constabulary in Highbridge throughout this period for the following offences;

**2** Concern for welfare incidents

**1** Traffic Incidents

**1** Suspicious Activity Incident

## Number of arrests by month – Highbridge

Arrests	Feb 22	Mar 22	Apr 22	May 22	Jun 22	Jul 22	Aug 22	Sep 22	Oct 22
	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	0

## Monitoring details

The images from the Council's CCTV cameras are monitored in a specifically designed secure monitoring suite in Bridgwater.

The images from all the cameras are being permanently recorded and these recordings are kept for 28 days before being deleted. Footage can be archived within a storage vault on the VMS if it is being used by the Police in relation to a specific case, however, when the footage is no longer needed it is deleted.

The Code details that access to retained images and information should be restricted and that there must be clearly defined rules on who can gain access and for what purpose such access is granted. The disclosure of images or information should only take place when it is necessary for such a purpose or for law enforcement purposes.



## Future Plans

**Bridgwater** - After securing funding from EDF, Sedgemoor District Council are overseeing a project to install 4 new digital cameras in the following locations within Bridgwater –

- Taunton Road
- Bristol Road/Wylds Road
- St Matthews Field
- High Street, Bridgwater

Funding has also been successfully approved from the Police Crime Commissioner to upgrade the 3 existing cameras in Rhode Lane, Bridgwater from Analogue to Digital. This project will be completed by the end of 2022.

Cranleigh Gardens in Bridgwater will also benefit from having a new digital public space camera installed in the central footpath and this has also been approved and ordered.

The monitoring office now has a link between Bridgwater House and Bridgwater Police Centre which will allow police communications operators a live, real-time view of what operators are monitoring. This will allow improved dispatch times across the areas we cover and a greater understanding of our role.

**Burnham on Sea** - A new digital camera has been ordered will be installed on Pier Street in the coming months, this will enable a full digital upgrade of all existing analogue cameras within the town, ensuring greater quality in coverage and evidence.

## Directed Surveillance

- The law and our Code of Practice permits the use of the CCTV system to monitor or observe individuals covertly via CCTV (i.e. 'directed surveillance') at the request of 'Public Authorities' (i.e. law enforcement bodies).
- Targeted operations employing directed surveillance will only be carried out where other methods of investigation are not appropriate or not likely to be effective and where they are considered 'proportionate' to the suspected criminal activity or problem posed. The law and rules relating to covert surveillance are contained in the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000. Failure to obtain the necessary authorisations under this Act could invalidate any subsequent evidence obtained by virtue of the Human Rights Act 1998 and the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984.
- Local authorities are required to obtain judicial approval prior to using covert techniques. Local Authority authorisations and notices under the Regulations of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) will only be given effect once an order has been granted by a Justice of the Peace in England and Wales.

## **Complaints**

The Code details that system operators should also record and publish information in relation to any complaints it receives about CCTV. For the period of this report 0 complaints were received.

## **Regulation of investigatory Powers**

During the period in question no covert surveillance took place.

## **Future reports**

- The Council will continue to be transparent regarding its use of CCTV and produce an annual report moving forwards as required.
- Sedgemoor District Council is committed to community safety and helps with the prevention and detection of crime. The council is exploring new ways to improve and develop our partnership working with neighbouring councils and partner agencies, to ensure a safer community to live, visit and work in.



## Contact us

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8:45am – 5:00pm

Monday to Friday

(except bank holidays)

### Write

Sedgemoor District Council,

Bridgwater House,

King Square, Bridgwater,

Somerset TA6 3AR

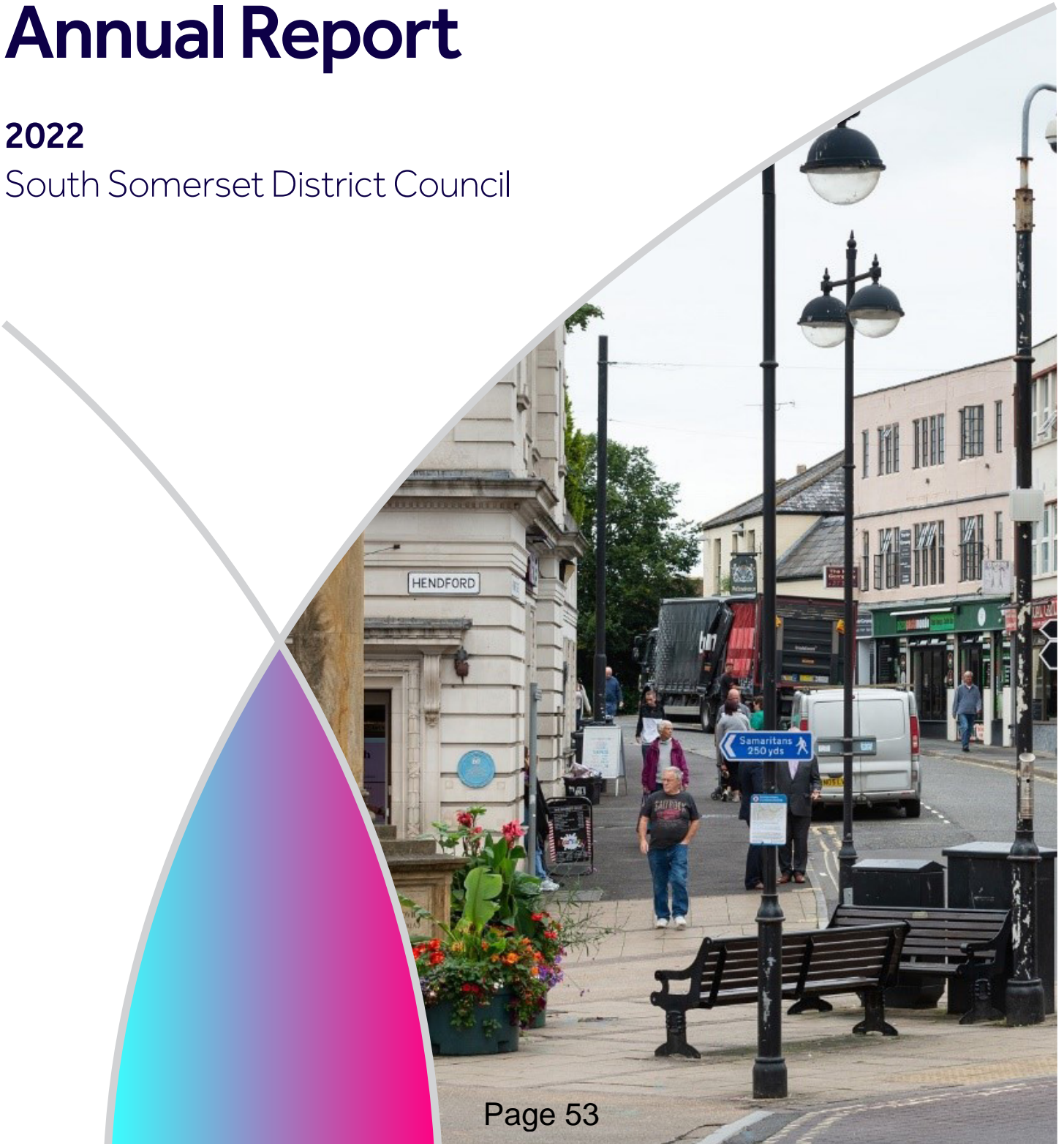
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# CCTV Annual Report

2022

South Somerset District Council



This document has been produced to provide details of the CCTV surveillance system in operation in the town of Yeovil, monitored by Sedgemoor District Council. It also assists in demonstrating compliance with the Home Office's "Surveillance Camera Code of Practice" (the Code). The Sedgemoor District Council CCTV system has been notified to the information Commissioner registration number Z5968381

Sedgemoor District Council currently operates 167 CCTV cameras which are a mix of Public

Open Space and internal cameras. These are monitored in Bridgwater. The scheme is supported by Somerset West and Taunton Council, South Somerset District Council and Avon and Somerset Constabulary.

There are currently 29 public space CCTV cameras monitored in Yeovil. The details and locations of these are set out below, including the amount of incidents each camera has been utilised in - recorded to date in 2022;

Camera no	Location	Analogue/Digital	Make	Number of Incidents
201	Petters Way	Digital	Samsung	1
202	Henford/ Westminster Street	Analogue	Bewator Surcha Dome	19
203	South Street	Analogue	Bewator Surcha Dome	5
204	Lloyds Bank/ The Borough	Analogue	Bewator Solaris Dome	10
205	North Lane Car Park	Analogue	Bewator Surcha Dome	1
206	Boots Middle Street	Analogue	Bewator Surcha Dome	18
207	Vicarage Street/ Middle Street/ South Street	Analogue	Bewator Surcha Dome	18
208	Middle Street/Old Station Road	Analogue	Bewator Surcha Dome	21
209	Middle Street/ Wyndham Street	Analogue	Bewator Surcha Dome	22
210	Church Street	Analogue	Bewator Surcha Dome	7
211	Peter Street	Analogue	Bewator Surcha Dome	3
212	Starts Lane	Analogue	Bewator Surcha Dome	16
213	Old Station Road Car Park	Analogue	Bewator Solaris Dome	0
214	Gold Croft Car Park	Analogue	Bewator Surcha Dome	0
215	Huish Car Park	Analogue	Bewator Solaris dome	0
216	Tesco car park	Analogue	Bewator Surcha Dome	3

Camera no	Location	Analogue/Digital	Make	Number of Incidents
217	Princess Street/ Park Road	Analogue	Bewator Surcha Dome	0
218	Bus Depot – Glovers Walk	Analogue	Bewator Solaris Dome	5
219	Old Box Factory Car Park	Analogue	Bewator Surcha Dome	1
220	Petters Way	Digital	Bosch	1
221	Hospital Roundabout	Digital	360 Vision	2
222	Fairfield Car Park	Analogue	Bewator Surcha Dome	0
223	Glovers Walk	Analogue	Bewator Surcha Dome	2
224	Monument Camera	Analogue	Bewator Surcha Dome	7
225	Court Ash 2	Analogue	Bewator Surcha Dome	0
226	Underpass	Digital	Vista Power Dome	1
227	Underpass	Digital	Vista Power Dome	1
228	Underpass	Digital	Vista Power Dome	2
229	Underpass	Digital	HIK	2

**The Sedgemoor District Council CCTV scheme is operated in relation to the prevention of disorder or crime and the reduction of the fear of crime. Additionally, it may be used in relation to public safety.**

This document also reviews the camera locations and highlights some of the good work CCTV assists with.

## Introduction

Sedgemoor District Council has operated public open space CCTV cameras in Yeovil for over 20 years.

The cameras are permanently monitored 24 hrs a day, 365 days a year and the operatives are in close contact with the Police at all times via airwave radio, over 3 district channels.

The control room has a video wall with six large HD slim profile monitors.

Each monitor can display one, large image for dealing with major incidents or hot spot areas, or up to 4, 6, 9, or 12 images from separate cameras at any time, and this is all controlled by the new Genetec VMS equipment, which was installed in February 2022.



*Sedgemoor District Council CCTV Monitoring Office*

## Background

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a duty on local authorities to do all they reasonably can to prevent;

- crime and disorder in their areas (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment),

- the misuse of drugs, alcohol or other substances, and
- re-offending in their areas.

This will lead to improvements in people's quality of life as a result.



Management responsibility for the monitoring, operation and technical maintenance of the CCTV scheme is undertaken by Sedgemoor District Council and it's approved installation and maintenance contractor CDS (Computerised Data Systems).

The CCTV Operations team consist of 1 Team Leader and 10 CCTV Monitoring Officers, all of whom are SIA licensed. Two members of staff, depending on operational requirements, undertake the 24-hour monitoring on a shift/rota

basis. The scheme is operated in compliance with the internally approved CCTV Code of Practice, which has been agreed with the Police and has been prepared as guidance for Council staff and the operators of the system.

This internal Code of Practice also reflects the requirements of the Data Protection Act 2018 and the General Data Protection Regulation 2018 and associated regulations. This was reviewed in 2021 and is refreshed bi-annually.

## Purpose of the CCTV System

The Code details that the use of a surveillance camera system must always be for a specified purpose which is in pursuit of a legitimate aim and necessary to meet an identified pressing need. It states that such a legitimate aim and pressing need might include national security, public safety, the economic well-being of the country, the prevention of disorder or crime, the protection of health or morals, or the protection of the rights and freedoms of others.

### **The scheme is operated in relation to the prevention of disorder or crime and the reduction**

### **of the fear of crime. Additionally, it may be used in relation to public safety.**

The CCTV scheme is operated within applicable law/guidance and only for the purposes identified above. The scheme will be operated with due regard to the privacy of the individual. The scheme will not be used, for example, for traffic management or minor enforcement issues (including parking offences).

## List of Priorities

A list of priorities have been agreed with Avon and Somerset Constabulary, through monthly partnership meetings and fortnightly priorities meetings; The priorities are not listed in any particular order. They are all equally important and assist in evidencing the pressing need for the continued investment and use of CCTV to deter and prevent crime and disorder.

- Hate Crime
- Victimisation (including repeat victimisation)
- Vulnerability and Exploitation
- Anti-Social Behaviour (nuisance)
- Reducing Re-offending
- Serious and Organised Crime
- Road Safety
- Use of drugs
- Missing persons (adult and minors)

## Highlights from the Operation of the System - Taunton

Since the installation of the Genetec VMS System in February 2022 The key highlights are as follows:- CCTV staff were involved in 466 incidents/

observations in Yeovil and they are broken down as follows;

<b>92</b> ASB Incidents	<b>65</b> Assault Incidents
<b>33</b> Missing Persons – Adults	<b>19</b> Wanted person incidents
<b>22</b> Traffic Offences	<b>25</b> Public Order Offences
<b>31</b> Theft Offences	<b>82</b> Other/Observations
<b>54</b> Concern for Welfare	<b>22</b> Police Observations
<b>21</b> Suspicious Activities	

CCTV staff were directly involved in 95 arrests by Avon and Somerset Constabulary in Yeovil throughout this period for the following offences;

<b>14</b> ASB Incidents	<b>4</b> Traffic Offence Incidents
<b>9</b> Wanted Persons	<b>5</b> Weapons Incidents
<b>5</b> Weapons Incidents	<b>5</b> Criminal Damage Offences
<b>3</b> Suspicious activity	<b>29</b> Assault Offences
<b>8</b> Other Offences	<b>1</b> Robbery Offence
<b>4</b> Theft Offences	<b>1</b> Police Observation
<b>11</b> Public Order Incidents	<b>1</b> Rape Offence

## Number of arrests by month – Yeovil

Arrests	Feb 22	Mar 22	Apr 22	May 22	Jun 22	Jul 22	Aug 22	Sep 22	Oct 22
	12	16	12	10	11	11	11	9	3

### Monitoring details

The images from the Council's CCTV cameras are monitored in a specifically designed secure monitoring suite in Bridgwater.

The images from all the cameras are being permanently recorded and these recordings are kept for 28 days before being deleted. Footage can be archived within a storage vault on the VMS if it is being used by the Police in relation to a specific case, however, when the footage is no longer needed it is deleted.

The Code details that access to retained images and information should be restricted and that there must be clearly defined rules on who can gain access and for what purpose such access is granted. The disclosure of images or information should only take place when it is necessary for such a purpose or for law enforcement purposes.

### Yeovil crime reduction partnership

Our CCTV team work closely with YCRP and have direct contact with the Co-Ordinator over airwave

radio. We also attend Yeovil Pubwatch meetings on a monthly basis.



## Future Plans

A project is well underway in partnership with South Somerset District Council underway to upgrade 11 cameras within Yeovil from analogue

to digital (Bosch 5100i Starlight cameras) as we move towards the end of the year at the following locations;

<b>202</b>	Henford/Westminster Street
<b>204</b>	Lloyds Bank The Borough
<b>206</b>	Boots Middle Street
<b>207</b>	Vicarage Street/Middle Street/South Street
<b>208</b>	Somerfields Middle Street/Old Station Road
<b>209</b>	Junction Middle Street/Wyndham Street/Newton Road
<b>212</b>	Stars Lane
<b>213</b>	Old Station Road car park
<b>217</b>	Princess Street Junction with Park Road
<b>218</b>	Bus Depot – Glover’s Walk entrance
<b>222</b>	Fairfield Car Park

The monitoring office now has a link between Bridgwater House and Bridgwater Police Centre which will allow police communications operators a live, real-time view of what operators are

monitoring. This will allow improved dispatch times across the areas we cover and a greater understanding of our role.

## Directed Surveillance

- The law and our Code of Practice permits the use of the CCTV system to monitor or observe individuals covertly via CCTV (i.e. 'directed surveillance') at the request of 'Public Authorities' (i.e. law enforcement bodies).
- Targeted operations employing directed surveillance will only be carried out where other methods of investigation are not appropriate or not likely to be effective and where they are considered 'proportionate' to the suspected criminal activity or problem posed. The law and rules relating to covert surveillance are contained in the Regulation of

Investigatory Powers Act 2000. Failure to obtain the necessary authorisations under this Act could invalidate any subsequent evidence obtained by virtue of the Human Rights Act 1998 and the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984.

- Local authorities are required to obtain judicial approval prior to using covert techniques. Local Authority authorisations and notices under the Regulations of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) will only be given effect once an order has been granted by a Justice of the Peace in England and Wales.

## Complaints

The Code details that system operators should also record and publish information in relation to

any complaints it receives about CCTV. For the period of this report 0 complaints were received.

## Regulation of investigatory Powers

During the period in question no covert surveillance took place.

## Future reports

- The Council will continue to be transparent regarding its use of CCTV and produce an annual report moving forwards as required.
- Sedgemoor District Council is committed to community safety and helps with the prevention and detection of crime.

The council is exploring new ways to improve and develop our partnership working with neighbouring councils and partner agencies, to ensure a safer community to live, visit and work in.





## Contact us

### Website

[sedgemoor.gov.uk/CCTV](http://sedgemoor.gov.uk/CCTV)

### Email

[CCTV@sedgemoor.gov.uk](mailto:CCTV@sedgemoor.gov.uk)

### Call

0300 303 7800

### Follow

[twitter.com/sedgemoorDC](https://twitter.com/sedgemoorDC)

[facebook.com/sedgemoordc](https://facebook.com/sedgemoordc)

[instagram.com/sedgemoordc](https://instagram.com/sedgemoordc)

### Visit

At the address below

8:45am – 5:00pm

Monday to Friday

(except bank holidays)

### Write

Sedgemoor District Council,

Bridgwater House,

King Square, Bridgwater,

Somerset TA6 3AR

Somerset Council  
Community Services Scrutiny Committee  
11<sup>th</sup> October 2023



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2023/24 Budget Monitoring Report – Month 5 update (end August)  
Lead Officer: Jason Vaughan, Executive Director Resources and Corporate (S151)  
Author: Christian Evans, Strategic Manager – Finance Business Partnering  
Contact Details: Christian.evans@somerset.gov.uk

Executive Lead Member: Deputy Leader of the Council and Lead Member for Resources and Performance. Lead Member for Communities, Housing & Culture

## 1. Summary

- 1.1. The Executive will consider the month 5 budget monitoring update report at its meeting October 2023 meeting. Extracts of the report will be presented to each of the scrutiny committees to allow for scrutiny of them.

## 2. Issues for consideration / Recommendations

- 2.1. Scrutiny is asked to consider: -
1. If there are any general comments or observations that they would wish to make to the Executive on the reports.
  2. If the actions set out in the report are appropriate and if there were any further actions, they would wish to see included.

## 3. Background

- 3.1. The 2023/24 Budget is the first for the new Somerset Council and it brought together the budgets of the five predecessor councils adjusted for new assumptions and identified savings. It is well documented that there are significant delays in the auditing of local authority accounts and this national issue means that there are a number of statement of accounts from the predecessor councils for prior years that are still outstanding. This brings an amount of uncertainty, as well resourcing implications, and in practical terms means that some of the information for Somerset Council such as the 2022/23 outturn, reserves position, and capital position are still being finalised
- 3.2. Full Council approved the 2023/24 budget in February 2023. Budget Monitoring is delegated to Executive and Scrutiny and revenue service reports will be presented monthly with a full overview of revenue, capital, and reserves quarterly. This report outlines the forecast year-end position of £523.7m against the 2023/24 budget of £493.4m as at the end of August 2023.

#### 4. Report

4. The table below provides a summary of budget, projections, and variances on a service-by-service basis with further detail and mitigations being taken by the responsible director outlined in the body of the report. The significant variances at month 5 are:

- Adult Services has a £14.9m adverse variance against their budget (8% of service budget). This variance is mainly in the Adult Social Care and Learning Disabilities budget areas due to fee levels being higher than anticipated.
- Children's Services have a £11.8m adverse variance against their budget (9.6% of service budget), an unfavourable movement of £3m from month 4. This increase in variance is due to External Placements £1.3m and SEND Transport £1.7m. The overall variance is predominantly in External Placements and is mainly due to increased demand in unregistered and residential placements as a result of complexity of children and lack of sufficiency within fostering.
- Climate and Place has an adverse variance of £2.3m against their budget. This is a reduction of £0.4m since month 4. Adverse variances continue in Waste Services, Infrastructure Programmes and Highways.
- Strategy, Workforce & Localities are forecasting a £1.3m adverse variance (6.4% of service budget). The majority of this adverse variance is in respect of Legal Services (£1.5m) with a small favourable variance of £0.2m anticipated in within the Human Resources & Organisational Development budget.
- Resources and Corporate are forecasting a £0.3m adverse variance (1.4% of service budget). The majority of the adverse variance is in respect of Property Services (£0.4m) with the remainder in Information Communication Technology (£0.1m).

#### 4. Table 1: 2023/24 Budget Monitoring Report as at the end of August 2023 (Month 5)



Community Services Scrutiny Committee – 11<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Service Area	Original Budget	Current Budget	Full Year Projection	Month 5 Variance	A/(F)	Movement From Month 4	Direction From Month 4
	£m	£m	£m	£m		£m	
Adult Services	186.6	185.5	200.4	14.9	A	2.8	↓
Children & Family Services	123.1	123.1	134.9	11.8	A	3.0	↓
Public Health	1.2	1.2	1.2	0.0	-	0.0	⇒
Community Services	35.2	34.9	34.9	0.0	-	0.0	⇒
Climate & Place	87.1	87.6	89.9	2.3	A	(0.4)	↑
Strategy, Workforce & Localities	20.2	20.2	21.5	1.3	A	(0.2)	↑
Resources & Corporate Services	20.5	22.1	22.4	0.3	A	(1.0)	↑
Accountable Bodies	3.7	3.7	3.7	0.0	-	0.0	⇒
Non-Service	9.8	9.8	9.3	(0.5)	(F)	0.0	⇒
Traded Services	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.2	A	0.0	⇒
<b>Total Service Position</b>	<b>487.4</b>	<b>488.0</b>	<b>518.3</b>	<b>30.3</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>↓</b>
Corporate Contingency	6.0	5.4	5.4	0.0	-	0.0	⇒
<b>Total after Contingencies</b>	<b>493.4</b>	<b>493.4</b>	<b>523.7</b>	<b>30.3</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>↓</b>
Reserves	(19.9)	(19.9)	(19.9)	0.0	-	0.0	⇒
Council Tax	(345.4)	(345.4)	(345.4)	0.0	-	0.0	⇒
Business Rates	(116.1)	(116.1)	(116.1)	0.0	-	0.0	⇒
Revenue Support Grant	(7.9)	(7.9)	(7.9)	0.0	-	0.0	⇒
Flexible Use of Capital Receipts	(4.0)	(4.0)	(4.0)	0.0	-	0.0	⇒
<b>Total Month 5 Position</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>30.3</b>	<b>30.3</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>↓</b>

**4. Community Services – Director Executive Director Chris Hall, Lead Member Cllr Federica Smith-Roberts**

- 2023/24 net budget £34.7m, no projected variance, no movement.

**Table below: 2023/24 Community Services as at the end of August 2023 (Month 5)**

Service Area	Current Budget	Full Year Projection	Month 5 Variance	A/(F)	Movement From Month 4	Direction From Month 4
<b>Housing</b>						
Housing Enabling	0.4	0.4	0.0	-	0.0	→
Housing Strategic	1.3	1.3	0.0	-	0.0	→
Homelessness	4.2	4.2	0.0	-	0.0	→
<b>Customer Services</b>						
Customers & Communities	7.6	7.6	0.0	-	0.0	→
Lifeline	(0.5)	(0.5)	0.0	-	0.0	→
<b>Cultural Services</b>						
Library Service	3.8	3.8	0.0	-	0.0	→
Heritage Service	1.7	1.7	0.0	-	0.0	→
Leisure - Sports Centre	2.0	2.0	0.0	-	0.0	→
Museum/ Theatres	0.6	0.6	0.0	-	0.0	→
Visitor Centre	0.1	0.1	0.0	-	0.0	→
Tourism	0.1	0.1	0.0	-	0.0	→
(wellbeing) Community Safety	0.5	0.5	0.0	-	0.0	→
<b>Regulatory &amp; Operational Services</b>						
Scientific Services	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	0.0	→
Registration	(0.2)	(0.2)	0.0	-	0.0	→
Environmental Health	4.2	4.2	0.0	-	0.0	→
Bereavement Services	(1.2)	(1.2)	0.0	-	0.0	→
Harbours	0.3	0.3	0.0	-	0.0	→
Ports	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	0.0	→
Street Cleansing	5.0	5.0	0.0	-	0.0	→
Open Spaces	3.1	3.1	0.0	-	0.0	→
CCTV	0.7	0.7	0.0	-	0.0	→
(wellbeing) Community Grants	1.0	1.0	0.0	-	0.0	→
<b>Community Services Total</b>	<b>34.7</b>	<b>34.7</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>→</b>

## Community Services - key explanations, actions & mitigating controls

### Cultural Services

Freedom Leisure Contract – there may be an under recovery of income from the contracted schedule of payments in 2023/24 due to changes in the business rate policy and pension contributions as well as benchmarking clauses currently being discussed in relation to the dramatically increased utility costs that are placing significant pressure on the contractor's budget position. The service is continuing to work with the contractor to find solutions to reduce the impact to the Council. A bid may be required, as part of the MTFP process, to reflect the impact of any changes in future years.

Octagon Theatre & Westlands Entertainment Venue – the Council currently subsidises the delivery of this provision to the community. The revenue budgets are currently under pressure from the rising cost of inflation. In addition, The Octagon has been closed to complete survey work and preparatory work as part of the proposed redevelopment tender process. The service is working with finance to review the annual budgets and business plan to see where savings could be made and / or income could be increased to mitigate any variance to the net budget.

## **Housing**

Homelessness – the Council has a statutory duty to assist in the prevention and provision of accommodation to those who are at risk of or become homeless. The service is seeing an increase in the number of approaches and the number of cases which the service has a duty to investigate due to the cost-of-living crisis. The cost of temporary accommodation has also increased due to the economic climate and local demand pressures on B&B and private rented accommodation. Whilst the government is providing £1.6m in the form of a Homelessness Prevention Grant and an extra £940k Ukraine Homeless Prevention Grant, there is a risk that the service will overspend above its base budget from the Council to fulfil its statutory duty. The service's current projections suggest that existing earmarked reserves should cover any overspend in this financial year. To reduce any impact on the MTFP, the service's directorate plan includes implementing a consistent approach, improving performance measures and the development of an accommodation strategy. In addition, the government has pledged a further £1.6m Homelessness Prevention Grant in 2024/25.

### **5. Implications**

5. There are no implications from this report. Scrutiny members are asked to note the information and recommend any actions to Executive Committee.

### **6. Background papers**

6. The information within this paper has been taken from the Executive Committee 6<sup>th</sup> September budget monitoring Month 3, and Month 4 update.

**Note** For sight of individual background papers please contact the report author

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# Community Services Scrutiny Committee – 11<sup>th</sup> October 2023

## Budget Monitoring - month 5

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**Somerset**  
Council

# Corporate position – Month 5

Service Area	Original Budget	Current Budget	Full Year Projection	Month 5 Variance	A/(F)	Movement From Month 4	Direction From Month 4
	£m	£m	£m	£m		£m	
Adult Services	186.6	185.5	200.4	14.9	A	2.8	↓
Children & Family Services	123.1	123.1	134.9	11.8	A	3.0	↓
Public Health	1.2	1.2	1.2	0.0	-	0.0	→
Community Services	35.2	34.9	34.9	0.0	-	0.0	→
Climate & Place	87.1	87.6	89.9	2.3	A	(0.4)	↑
Strategy, Workforce & Localities	20.2	20.2	21.5	1.3	A	(0.2)	↑
Resources & Corporate Services	20.5	22.1	22.4	0.3	A	(1.0)	↑
Accountable Bodies	3.7	3.7	3.7	0.0	-	0.0	→
Non-Service	9.8	9.8	9.3	(0.5)	(F)	0.0	→
Traded Services	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.2	A	0.0	→
<b>Total Service Position</b>	<b>487.4</b>	<b>488.0</b>	<b>518.3</b>	<b>30.3</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>↓</b>
Corporate Contingency	6.0	5.4	5.4	0.0	-	0.0	→
<b>Total after Contingencies</b>	<b>493.4</b>	<b>493.4</b>	<b>523.7</b>	<b>30.3</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>↓</b>
Reserves	(19.9)	(19.9)	(19.9)	0.0	-	0.0	→
Council Tax	(345.4)	(345.4)	(345.4)	0.0	-	0.0	→
Business Rates	(116.1)	(116.1)	(116.1)	0.0	-	0.0	→
Revenue Support Grant	(7.9)	(7.9)	(7.9)	0.0	-	0.0	→
Flexible Use of Capital Receipts	(4.0)	(4.0)	(4.0)	0.0	-	0.0	→
<b>Total Month 5 Position</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>30.3</b>	<b>30.3</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>↓</b>

# Community Services - Month 5 2023/24

Month 5 – Forecast on budget

- Continuing exercise of bringing 5 budgets together

Service Area	Current Budget	Full Year Projection	Month 5 Variance	A/(F)	Movement From Month 4	Direction From Month 4
<b>Housing</b>						
Housing Enabling	0.4	0.4	0.0	-	0.0	→
Housing Strategic	1.3	1.3	0.0	-	0.0	→
Homelessness	4.2	4.2	0.0	-	0.0	→
<b>Customer Services</b>						
Customers & Communities	7.6	7.6	0.0	-	0.0	→
Lifeline	(0.5)	(0.5)	0.0	-	0.0	→
<b>Cultural Services</b>						
Library Service	3.8	3.8	0.0	-	0.0	→
Heritage Service	1.7	1.7	0.0	-	0.0	→
Leisure - Sports Centre	2.0	2.0	0.0	-	0.0	→
Museum/ Theatres	0.6	0.6	0.0	-	0.0	→
Visitor Centre	0.1	0.1	0.0	-	0.0	→
Tourism	0.1	0.1	0.0	-	0.0	→
(wellbeing) Community Safety	0.5	0.5	0.0	-	0.0	→
<b>Regulatory &amp; Operational Services</b>						
Scientific Services	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	0.0	→
Registration	(0.2)	(0.2)	0.0	-	0.0	→
Environmental Health	4.2	4.2	0.0	-	0.0	→
Bereavement Services	(1.2)	(1.2)	0.0	-	0.0	→
Harbours	0.3	0.3	0.0	-	0.0	→
Ports	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	0.0	→
Street Cleansing	5.0	5.0	0.0	-	0.0	→
Open Spaces	3.1	3.1	0.0	-	0.0	→
CCTV	0.7	0.7	0.0	-	0.0	→
(wellbeing) Community Grants	1.0	1.0	0.0	-	0.0	→
<b>Community Services Total</b>	<b>34.7</b>	<b>34.7</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>→</b>

# Key risks, future issues & opportunities

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- Cultural Services
  - Freedom Leisure contract
  - Octagon Theatre & Westlands Entertainment venues

## Housing

- Increase in homelessness
- Demand on B&Bs and cost



## Scrutiny Communities' Work Programme 2023-2024

Meeting date	Agenda item	Officer name/Job title	Service Area
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> October 2023 at 10am County Hall, Taunton	Homefinder update	Chris Brown, Service Director	Housing
	CCTV Service Report	Ryan Kelly, Customer Services Team Leader CCTV	Licencing and Regulatory Services
	Communities' directorate budget monitoring update reports	Kerry Prisco and Christian Evans	All communities' services
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December 2023 at 10am Council Offices, Yeovil	Glastonbury Festival Scrutiny Reports	Sarah Dowden, Service Director for Regulatory and Operational Services	Licencing and Regulatory Services
	Somerset Cultural Strategy	Liz Dawson, Service Director Cultural Services	Cultural Services
	Play parks and green spaces briefing	TBC	Cultural Services
	Growth/New Housing supply	Chris Brown, Service Director	Housing
	Rough sleeper policy update	TBC	Housing
	Gypsy and Traveller review update	TBC	Housing
	Communities' directorate budget monitoring updates	TBC	All communities' services
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> February 2024 at 10am Council Offices, Bridgwater	Communities' directorate budget monitoring updates	TBC	All communities' services
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> April 2024 at 10am Council Offices, Shepton Mallet	Communities' directorate budget monitoring updates	TBC	All communities' services


**Scrutiny communities committee briefings and/or Task and Finish workshops**

Title	Description	Date	Service Area and Lead Officer
Octagon Theatre redevelopment	Member briefing on current position and key decision	10am 28 <sup>th</sup> September 2023	Cultural Services