



Policy Community Surveillance Camera Systems April 2016

Objective of the Policy

The objective of this policy is to provide a fair and equitable level of support for the operation of community-owned surveillance systems without hindering community ownership and the benefits of that ownership.

- 1. The Council will make available an annual grant of 100% of actual maintenance costs of community surveillance systems, up to a maximum of \$1,000.**

The payment will be made on receipt of the completed application form and the following supporting information:

- i. Evidence of actual costs.
- ii. Confirmation that the system has been operational for at least 90% of the year.
- iii. Confirmation of applicant's 'not for profit' status (annual financial statement).

2. Limits of responsibility

- i. The Council will not accept responsibility for additional costs should any operating group consider altering their system in any way that may require additional resourcing other than that provided under the terms of this policy.
- ii. The Council will not accept responsibility for the purchase, installation or major upgrades of security systems.

5. Conditions

The NZ Police Crime Prevention Cameras (CCTV) in Public Places Policy 2010 states that "The objective of installing the cameras is to reduce the incidence of crime and disorder, so members of the community feel safe when visiting the public areas covered by the cameras."

The Police Policy provides guidelines for the location, public awareness and operation of

the cameras.

As a condition of Council funding, the Council requires that Community Surveillance Systems are installed and operated according to the NZ Police Policy.

A. *Installation*

- Cameras should only be installed in areas with a higher incidence of criminal offending; and
- The location of any fixed cameras should be clearly signposted at the extremities to notify the public that a camera is or may be in operation

B. *Operation*

The operating group must adopt and implement their own policy for operation of their community surveillance system in accordance with the NZ Police Policy for:

- Control and operation
- Monitors
- Security of, access to, and retention of information

The responsibility for meeting this requirement is that of the owning group.

Policy Background

The development of a Policy for Council support of community owned security camera systems was requested in 2007 following an application for assistance to fund maintenance costs from a community group.

This policy is based on the following conclusions:

Hawera System

The size, cost, capacity and level of support required to maintain and operate the Hawera system means this system is not comparable with community owned systems. It is therefore not appropriate to use the level of support provided by Council through the partnership with the Hawera Police and Police Volunteers for the Hawera system as a benchmark for the support of community owned systems. This policy does not apply to the Hawera system.

Ownership

The driver for the initial installation of surveillance cameras is generally a response to proven community safety issues. The funding of systems to date indicates that community support and evidence of need are generally sufficient to generate funds for the purchase of surveillance systems and there are a number of options available for this funding.

There are no significant advantages in transferring systems to Council ownership. There may in fact be some disadvantages.

Discussions during research for this policy indicated there is a strong possibility that some communities may prefer to retain ownership of their cameras, allowing them to also retain the ability to modify, upgrade and operate the systems as they see fit.

There is a risk that a transfer to Council ownership could result in the Council becoming responsible for ensuring that the operation of surveillance systems complies with the Privacy Act 1993. This responsibility would require staff resourcing and this could extend to responsibility for breaches of that Act.

Maintenance

The most significant issue for communities is the ongoing maintenance and operating costs for which funding options are limited. Therefore, the most appropriate and equitable option would be to make an annual grant available to community organisations that own and operate surveillance systems.

Any policy should be limited to the support of maintenance of systems, and all other operational issues should be left in the hands of the community.