

# Chichester District Council

Council

July 2023

## Body Worn Cameras

### 1. Contacts

**Report Author:**

Nick Bennett – Divisional Manager Democratic Services

Tel: 01243 534658 Email: [nbennett@chichester.gov.uk](mailto:nbennett@chichester.gov.uk)

**Cabinet Member:**

Mark Chilton – Cabinet Member for Finance, Corporate Services and Chichester Contract Services

Tel: 07836 589342 Email: [mchilton@chichester.gov.uk](mailto:mchilton@chichester.gov.uk)

### 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Council authorised officers set out in appendix 1 to wear body worn cameras when carrying out their duties.
- 2.2 That the Council authorises the Data Protection Officer to update the Council retention scheme to comply with the Home Office Surveillance Camera Code of Practice.

### 3. Background

- 3.1 The use of BWC is quite tightly controlled in legislation. In May 2017 and then June 2018 members looked at their use locally for parking enforcement but also to trial the technology and use. At this moment in time only parking services civil enforcement officers and CCS staff for certain high risk activities are authorised by members to use BWC. The civil enforcement officers use them as permitted authorised tools and can therefore rely upon the evidence filmed using them in civil or criminal proceedings. It is also clear that they are helpful to reduce conflict in field use but also to investigate allegations about officer conduct for example.
- 3.2 The Divisional Manager responsible for the trial use by civil enforcement officers has found BWC to be positive from an operational perspective. Evidentially they are clearly enormously useful for enforcement and community purposes. Whilst there may be concerns about misuse of such cameras and what is termed “collateral intrusions” those concerns have not impacted in real life since the cameras have been used over the period since 2018.

## **4. Key points**

- 4.1 Members will be used to the use of body worn cameras (BWC) being carried by police and other agencies providing safety in work and support and evidence for enforcement activity.
- 4.2 Operational managers have been approached for comments on whether their departments were thought to benefit from use of BWC. They were asked to assess -
- What teams or specific officer roles they consider would benefit from the use of body worn cameras – to be clear, to be worn only in an overt manner
  - What types of investigation or work would be supported and improved using body worn cameras and why (including if the intention is to prevent incident escalation or officer safety for example)
  - What types of individual or classes of individual would be filmed (CDC departmental clients, residents, restaurant officers for examples)
  - Whether they anticipated the types of officers in question working in private dwellings or other locations with a reasonable expectation of privacy
  - If relevant, to give examples of work or types of investigation which have not been possible without body worn cameras.
- 4.3 Those departments wishing to use BWC will be given further advice and asked to complete some regulatory paperwork around ensuring compliance with the Home Office Surveillance Camera Code of Practice in planning for BWCs. Each Divisional Manager will work with the Data Protection Officer to prepare a privacy impact assessment to tie into the potential future uses for particular tasks. Further reports to Members may also be required depending upon the outcome of that privacy impact assessment. Some other relevant changes to procedure will be needed as set out in recommendation 2.2
- 4.5 It is important to note that the authorisations, if granted, would not enable officers to undertake any work that they would not already be authorised to do. All that will change is that they will be authorised to undertake those tasks using BWC rather than handheld cameras, notebooks and so on.

## **5. Proposal**

- 5.1 That the recommendations at section 2 are approved by Council.

## **6. Resource and Legal Implications**

- 6.1 The Council is required to ensure a reasonably safe working environment. The use of BWC is considered relevant to that duty. The Council will need to

ensure any use complies with relevant regulatory control including the Home Office code of practice on Surveillance Cameras.

## 7. Community Impact and Corporate Risks

- 7.1 The use of BWC has been found to de escalate conflict with the public and would be a tool used to impact and improve crime and disorder activities by the Council.

## 8. Other Implications

<b>Are there any implications for the following?</b>		
	Yes	No
<b>Crime and Disorder</b> BWC is a tool to support evidence gathering.	X	
<b>Climate Change and Biodiversity</b>		X
<b>Human Rights and Equality Impact</b> Concerns as to collateral intrusion will be assessed through Data Protection Impact Assessments.	x	
<b>Safeguarding and Early Help</b> Evidence gathered by BWC will be of importance as evidence if safeguarding issues arose.	X	
<b>General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)</b> Use of BWC will need to comply with GDPR duties but in the contexts set out in the appendix would be for the purpose of carrying out public duties.	X	
<b>Health and Wellbeing</b> Evidence gathered by BWC will be of importance as evidence if aggression issues arose towards officers.	X	

## 9. Appendices

- 9.1 Appendix 1 – List of officer roles where assessment has indicated body worn cameras could be appropriate.

## 10. Background Papers

- 10.1 None