



ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL 21 MARCH 2018

9.2 FITZROY STREET CCTV - YEAR ONE INTERIM FINDINGS

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: CAROL JEFFS, GENERAL MANAGER, COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

PREPARED BY: SHARYN COX, SENIOR HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY OFFICER

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To provide Council with interim findings for the Fitzroy Street CCTV Trial Evaluation. These findings are largely inconclusive at this time.
- 1.2 For Council to consider the Victorian Government proposal to extend CCTV into the Grey Street and Little Grey Street area. On Thursday 8 March, 2018, Minister Foley announced funding for CCTV for the extended precinct and for it to be fed straight into the St Kilda police station. The details of this funding are yet to be confirmed.
- 1.3 For Council to consider the need for a City of Port Phillip CCTV Policy.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 The purpose of the CCTV Fitzroy Street evaluation is to assess to what degree the installation of CCTV influenced the community perception of safety, street vibrancy and crime. To achieve this, the evaluation brings together 12 data sources to inform the five key evaluation questions.
- 2.2 Interim results show that in the first year of implementation there has been relatively small improvements regarding crime and perceptions of safety in Fitzroy Street since the installation of the CCTV system.
 - 2.2.1 To what degree did the installation of CCTV improve the perception of safety in Fitzroy St, St Kilda?
 - There was strong agreement from all stakeholders interviewed that the installation of CCTV has improved safety perceptions.
 - There is a small recorded increase in perceptions of safety as measured by intercept surveys before the installation of CCTV in Fitzroy Street and after 12 months of operation.
 - 2.2.2 To what degree did the installation of CCTV improve the vibrancy and appeal of Fitzroy St, St Kilda?
 - Head count surveys and stakeholder response indicate the appeal of Fitzroy Street has improved since the installation of CCTV.
 - The vibrancy in the street remains relatively low as shown in shop vacancy rates and relatively low visitation.
 - 2.2.3 To what degree did CCTV reduce crime on Fitzroy St, St Kilda and neighbouring streets?



- There has been a minimal recorded reduction in crime statistics in Fitzroy Street since the installation of CCTV (1% reduction between comparison periods).
- Crime Statistics Victoria recorded offences under drug use provide early indication that there may be some displacement of drug related offences from Fitzroy Street to surrounding streets.
- This data requires further analysis to assess validity and significance by measurement against comparison areas.
- Data up until end Dec 2017 is currently unavailable through Crime Statistics Victoria. This information will be incorporated into this interim evaluation as soon as it is available.

2.2.4 To what degree did the installation of CCTV influence how police prevent and respond to crime in and around Fitzroy Street, St Kilda?

- The installation of CCTV has made a significant improvement to the way police prevent and respond to crime in and around Fitzroy Street, St Kilda. This has included the ability to provide live response, real time updates to attending units and monitoring member safety.

2.2.5 To what extent did the installation of CCTV influence diverse social participation in Fitzroy St, St Kilda?

- There have been no significant changes to the social participation in Fitzroy Street since the installation of CCTV in the first 12 months of operations.

3. ASSESSMENT OF OPTIONS

OPTION 1 - AGREEMENT TO EXTEND SYSTEM WITH CONDITIONS AS BELOW

That Council:

- 3.1 Notes the Fitzroy Street CCTV Trial Evaluation Year One Interim Findings.
- 3.2 Continues to evaluate the Fitzroy Street CCTV Trial, assessing the impact of the system after two years of implementation. That this significant change to the established Fitzroy Street CCTV Trial be included into the Fitzroy Street CCTV Trial Evaluation Plan and full results presented to Council in March 2019.
- 3.3 That Council officers further consider evidence based approaches to improving community safety in street based precincts.
- 3.4 Develops a City of Port Phillip CCTV Policy that presents a framework for the consideration of other CCTV systems for a range of site specific contexts.
- 3.5 Progresses the opportunity to extend the Fitzroy Street CCTV Trial to Grey Street and Little Grey Street area by accepting the Victorian Government offer of funding and referring Council budgetary impacts to the 2018/2019 Council budget process. This in principle agreement is conditional on:



- 3.5.1 The Victorian Government meets the full infrastructure planning, purchase, project management, operating and installation costs of this additional CCTV system in the Grey Street and Little Grey Street precinct.
- 3.5.2 That the additional CCTV system in the Grey Street and Little Grey Street precinct aligns to the existing Fitzroy Street CCTV Trial and the continuation of the system is conditional on Council decision upon completion of the two-year trial in March 2019.
- 3.5.3 That CCTV infrastructure that is able to be removed and reinstalled in other areas be factored into this additional system design.
- 3.5.4 That further community consultation, such as the planned Community Safety Audit, ensure community views are considered with regard to the extension of the Fitzroy Street CCTV Trial.

OPTION 2 : FINISH TRIAL AS PLANNED

That Council:

- 3.6 Notes the Fitzroy Street CCTV Trial Evaluation Year One Interim Findings.
- 3.7 Continues to Evaluate the Fitzroy Street CCTV Trial, assessing the impact of the system after two years of implementation according to the endorsed Fitzroy Street CCTV Trial Evaluation Plan and full results presented to Council in March 2019.
- 3.8 That Council officers further consider evidence based approaches to improving community safety in street based precincts.
- 3.9 That community consultation, such as the planned Community Safety Audits, ensure community views are considered with regard to community safety initiatives.
- 3.10 Develops a City of Port Phillip CCTV Policy, during the trial period, that presents a framework for the consideration of other CCTV systems for a range of site specific contexts.

4. RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 That Council agrees to progress the opportunity to extend the Fitzroy Street CCTV Trial to include the Grey Street and Little Grey Street area by accepting the Victorian Government offer of funding with the conditions as above, and includes this in the Fitzroy Street CCTV Trial Evaluation Plan with full results presented to Council in March 2019.**

5. KEY POINTS/ISSUES

- 5.1 Council, at its meeting 11 August 2015, endorsed the motion to purchase, install, maintain and evaluate up to ten cameras, high definition CCTV surveillance system on



Fitzroy Street, St Kilda as part of a suite of crime prevention, streetscape renewal and village activation strategies, for a trial period of 2 years.

- 5.2 Council obtained State Government funding through the Department of Justice Public Safety Infrastructure Fund to contribute to the installation of CCTV. Seven CCTV cameras were installed along Fitzroy Street from Grey Street down to the Upper Esplanade. The cameras were installed in response to feedback from Victoria Police, local traders, other Council partners as well as the local community.
- 5.3 A commitment endorsed with the agreement to install the CCTV system in Fitzroy Street was the evaluation of the system in accordance with the Fitzroy Street CCTV Trial Evaluation Plan.

6. CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDERS

- 6.1 The evaluation has included intercept surveys of residents and visitors to Fitzroy Street (78 for baseline perception of safety research in 2015 and another 144 in 2018).
- 6.2 The same representative sample were interviewed before and one year after the installation of the CCTV system. The key stakeholders interviewed were:
- Victoria Police Local Area Inspector
 - Victoria Police Leading Senior Constable
 - City of Port Phillip – Fitzroy Street Precinct Director
 - City of Port Phillip – Economic Development Officer
 - Fitzroy Street Business Association – President
 - Resident of Fitzroy Street (previously involved in the Village Partnership Group)
- 6.3 The views of other residents, traders and visitors were also considered through the assessment of Customer Relations Management System entries over the past 12 months.

7. LEGAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The use of the Fitzroy Street CCTV system is governed by a Memorandum of Understanding with Victoria Police.
- 7.2 A research agreement has been signed with Victoria Police to provide data for evaluation for the period of the two-year trial.

8. FINANCIAL IMPACT

- 8.1 The project implementation costs were approximately \$402,000, with \$246,250 provided by the Victorian Government and Council contributing \$156,406. There are also ongoing project management, maintenance and evaluation costs associated with CCTV borne by Council.



ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL 21 MARCH 2018

- 8.2 Victoria Police use the information gathered through the CCTV system within existing policing commitments. Victoria Police monitor the cameras when resources and prioritise permit under existing policing resources.

9. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- 9.1 This digital CCTV system has low environmental impact.

10. COMMUNITY IMPACT

- 10.1 After one year, the CCTV system in Fitzroy Street has improved the way police prevent and respond to crime in and around Fitzroy Street.
- 10.2 At this point in time, the data indicates that there have been minimal improvements in the perceptions of safety, street appeal and crime in Fitzroy Street since the installation of CCTV.
- 10.3 The stakeholder interviews report improved safety, an increase in activity in the precinct and decreased crime. Each stakeholder interviewed described that Fitzroy Street has generally improved since the installation of CCTV.
- 10.4 It is important to note that twelve months is insufficient time to identify trends, particularly regarding crime statistics and safety perceptions.
- 10.5 All stakeholders expressed positivity when discussing the future of the street.

11. ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICY

- 11.1 Direction 1 of the Port Phillip City Council Plan 2017-2027 articulates that Council is working towards 'A safe and activity community with strong social connections'. This report presents Council with interim results of the evaluation of the Fitzroy Street CCTV trial after one year of operations.

12. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

12.1 TIMELINE

- 12.1.1 The Fitzroy Street CCTV Year 2 Evaluation Report will be presented to Council in March 2019.
- 12.1.2 The City of Port Phillip CCTV Policy will be developed and presented to Council in accordance with existing commitments.

12.2 COMMUNICATION

- 12.2.1 This report summarises the interim, year one, findings of the two-year evaluation of the Fitzroy Street CCTV trial. This information will be made publicly available on Council website.



ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL 21 MARCH 2018

12.2.2 The Fitzroy Street CCTV Year One Evaluation Report will also be submitted to the Department of Justice as the final milestone of the Public Safety Infrastructure funding agreement in March 2018.

12.2.3 The Fitzroy Street CCTV Year 2 Evaluation Report will be presented to Council for consideration in March 2019.

13. OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT INTEREST

13.1 No officers involved in the preparation of this report have any direct or indirect interest in the matter.

TRIM FILE NO: 80/01/102

ATTACHMENTS 1. Fitzroy Street CCTV Evaluation - Year One Interim Findings