

Media release

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Smarter use of CCTV technology targets Hackney crime ‘hotspots’

A new and powerful combination of technologies is allowing Hackney Homes to target known crime hotspots. It is the latest innovation in a wide reaching programme that has seen crime drop significantly in the last year.

For the first time, closed circuit television (CCTV) is being teamed with tracking equipment, making it cheaper and more efficient.

“CCTV has been installed in many Hackney Homes estates and has provided an effective means of surveillance. The problem is that the short-focal camera lens covers a wide area but the video images are too coarse to see any detail,” explains Mike Emmett, who oversees Hackney Homes’ CCTV programme.

“You can use an optical zoom to look at things of interest in more detail, but until now that has required an operator. With 30,000 homes spread over a wide geographic area, the cost of using operators for this would be enormous.”

The solution has been to combine CCTV with tracking equipment. When motion is detected in the field of view, the camera automatically zooms in to look at the activity.

For Hackney Homes it means a more cost effective CCTV service, but more importantly it means safer homes for thousands of Hackney residents.

“We are using this technology in areas identified as a risk, perhaps where there has been anti-social behaviour reported. It is the first time this combination of technologies has been used in the UK and we believe it will help us protect residents and stamp out anti-social behaviour.”

“The system is extremely efficient and has a built in function to alert our concierge teams to incidents without them having to select the camera at the location where the problem might be occurring.”

Using Bosch technology to provide encrypted wireless links with nodes at the most appropriate locations, Hackney Homes will not only be able to deliver CCTV data but also link concierges, lifts and phones via the WiFi infrastructure. This development will enable swift searches of recorded data

and removes the need for officers to travel to sites following an incident as the recorders will be made assessable from predetermined locations.

Hackney Homes has worked in partnership with DSSL Group, DynaPel and Wavesight on this innovative project.

All recordings from CCTV are securely stored and passed over safe wireless links for examination only by Hackney Homes staff.

Ends

Press queries to Susan Walsh on 0208 356 3528 or email
Susan.Walsh@hackneyhomes.org.uk

Notes to Editors

- Hackney Homes is an Arms Length Management Organisation (ALMO) launched in April 2006 to manage the Council's social housing stock. Hackney Homes is responsible for managing 22,000 tenanted properties and 8,000 leasehold properties in the borough.