

Materials and Specification

7.4 ~ CCTV (Closed Circuit Television) Cameras..

CCTV cameras have an important role to play in creating a sense of safety, as well as helping to police the public realm.

Design and Operational Requirements

- It is essential that operational requirements are considered from the outset in the design of CCTV systems. Component parts must be selected that are fit for purpose. The design of all CCTV systems must be approved by Cheshire West and Chester Council.
- Further guidance can be obtained from the 'Information Commissioner's Office' CCTV Code of Practice (Revised Edition 2008) that can be downloaded at: http://www.ico.gov.uk/upload/documents/library/data_protection/detailed_specialist_guides/ico_cctvfinal_2301.pdf
- In Chester's historic city centre it is particularly important that CCTV systems are designed so that cameras and their mountings are as visually discrete as possible.

Siting

- In order to reduce street clutter, CCTV units should be mounted on lighting columns and buildings, wherever possible, rather than on stand-alone columns.
- Where CCTV cameras have to be mounted on stand-alone columns these should be located so as not to obstruct pedestrian access routes or block key views.
- Cameras should be carefully located to ensure that they achieve maximum visual coverage. The design of vertical elements within the public realm should help achieve this (i.e. planting of trees with narrow/upright canopies, tree spacings, position of signs and other columns). In some cases the installation of additional cameras may be necessary, in order to avoid creating a bland and featureless public realm.
- Where CCTV cameras are building mounted, consideration should be given to the visual impact of mounting cameras on building corners on projecting brackets. It would be preferable to have two less intrusive units on each face, where feasible.

Mounting/fixing

- In every instance cameras must be securely mounted to ensure they are not affected by camera shake.
- Where new lighting columns are to accommodate CCTV cameras they must be specified so that they are adequately sturdy to support cameras. This will generally preclude any retrospective use of existing lighting columns for subsequent CCTV mounting.
- The mounting of CCTV units on buildings will require building owner consent. In addition the high number of historic buildings in Chester will also require a sensitive approach to fixing and the need for listed building consent.

Legislation

It is important to be aware of the legal responsibilities of owning a CCTV system. Further information can be obtained from the Home Office's Scientific Development Branch:

- <http://scienceandresearch.homeoffice.gov.uk/hosdb/cctv-imaging-technology/index.html>