



**Meeting: Transport Working Party**

**Date: 7th December 2016**

**Wards Affected: Goodrington with Roselands, Roundham with Hyde, Shiphay with Willows and Tormohun**

**Report Title: Decommissioning of Red Light Violation Cameras**

**Executive Lead Contact Details: Fran Hughes, Assistant Director Community & Customer Services**

**Supporting Officer Contact Details: John Clewer, Senior Engineer, Highways Development & Traffic**

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**1. Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to inform the members of the Transport Working Party of the current condition of the safety cameras located on the Torbay highway network with specific reference to some existing Red Light Violation Camera sites.

**2. Proposed Decision**

That, the members support the decommissioning of the red light violation cameras at the junctions of Dartmouth Road/Sands Road and Newton Road/Lowes Bridge and the recommissioning of the site at Newton Road/Shiphay Lane.

**3. Action Needed**

It is recommended that members support the proposals outlined above in point 2. A formal decision will then be made by the Assistant Director, Community and Customer Services in consultation with the Executive Lead for Community Services.

**4. Summary**

It has been noted that a number of red light violation cameras in Torbay are no longer fit for purpose and it is recommended that two of these sites are decommissioned, whilst equipment from one is relocated to recommission another.

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**Supporting Information**

**5. Position**

- 5.1 Safety cameras in Torbay (speed cameras and red light cameras) have been operated by the Peninsula Road Safety Partnership, formerly known as the Devon and Cornwall Police Safety Camera Partnership, for several years. Original housings were funded and installed by the authority, later housings were installed through hypothecation funding or more commonly known as 'netting off'.

- 5.2 Due to a reduction in the Road safety Grant in 2010, many camera partnerships in the UK changed the way in which they operate. However in Devon and Cornwall, the police continue to operate the enforcement aspects of safety cameras including prosecution via Her Majesty's Courts and tribunal service. Currently maintenance is undertaken by 'Cubic Transportation Systems Limited', a third party contractor working for the Peninsula Road Safety Partnership and funded by the local authority.
- 5.3 Within Torbay, most cameras currently operate using a wet film process which is now considered obsolete technology because the film in each individual camera requires changing on a regular basis and supplies of the film are becoming increasingly harder to source.
- 5.4 At the present time the Peninsula Road Safety Partnership have reviewed, with the authority, the wet film camera cameras sites in Torbay and are intending to replace most with digital cameras in a programme which will take three years to complete. The upgrade contract will be placed via Devon County Council and funded by the partnership. Where housings are in a poor state of repair and have been deemed by the relevant partners that they continue to contribute to road safety will be replaced. Some basic maintenance will be undertaken and funded by the partnership. New housings and those which need to be replaced due to damage or vandalism will still need funding from the authority. Where the case for keeping a housing is not supported by evidence, it is appropriate to consider removal.
- 5.5 The initial upgrade will be of speed offence recording cameras and the following wet film cameras, have been proposed for upgrading to digital are as follows:
- A3022 Torbay Road, Torquay - (Due to be commissioned Nov 2017)
  - A379 Dartmouth Road, Paignton - (Operational)
  - A379 Babbacombe Road, Torquay - (Due to be commissioned Nov 2017)
  - Lymington Road, Torquay - (Due to be commissioned Nov 2017)
  - Barton Hill Road, Torquay - (Due to be commissioned Nov 2017)
- 5.6 As part of this process, all of the safety cameras within the bay area have also been assessed for condition (Torbay sites listed as **Appendix 1**) and it has been noted that the following Red Light Violation Cameras are in poor condition:
- A379 Dartmouth Road / Sands Road – pole and housing in poor condition and no longer safe to operate.
  - A3022 Newton Road / Shiphay Lane – pole and housing in poor condition and no longer safe to operate.
- 5.7 It is therefore proposed to carry out the following works:
- A3022 Newton Road / Lowes Bridge (East bound)

This site is no longer used as the vast majority of activations are by emergency service vehicles, as this site is on the blue light route from both the local fire station and hospital ambulance station. Therefore it may be considered that this location was originally inappropriate for the installation of a red light camera.

A three year collision analysis of the junction shows that there have been no red light related collisions on this leg of the junction.

Therefore it is proposed to decommission this site, remove the pole and housing and relocate the equipment to the site at the junction of A3022 Newton Road / Shiphay Lane (North bound), which will then be recommissioned.

- A3022 Newton Road / Shiphay Lane (North bound)

Recommission this site, which has been out of use for a number of years due to the condition of the equipment, using the pole and housing from the site at Newton Road / Lowes Bridges (see above).

- A379 Dartmouth Road / Sands Road (North bound)

It should be noted that following the installation of the camera at this site, the junction has been re-engineered with alterations to the kerb line and the addition of an additional signal heads.

A three year collision analysis of the junction shows that there has been one collision at this junction, however from the Police report it would appear that one of the vehicles involved was travelling against the legal direction of traffic flow in Sands Road.

It is therefore proposed to decommission this site.

- 5.8 It should be noted that the Peninsula Road Safety Partnership do have a standard operating procedure for the decommissioning of a red light safety camera, copy attached as **appendix 2**. This requires that a camera be bagged to indicate it is not in use and further offence level records are collected for a minimum period of three months.

However, in the case of the two locations above, as these have not been enforced for some years, it is felt that this guidance is not appropriate and with the advice of the manager of the Peninsula Safety Camera Partnership, can be ignored.

- 5.9 The costs of these works are as listed below:

A379 Dartmouth Road/Sands Road £1,350

A3022 Newton Road/Lowes Bridge, relocate to A3022 Newton Road/Shiphay Lane  
£4,150

Total cost = £5,500

## **6. Possibilities and Options**

### **Option 1**

It is recommended that members support the decommissioning and re-commissioning of the Red Light Violation Cameras as listed in 5.7 above.

### **Option 2**

That Members do not support the removal and relocation of the Red Light Violation Camera s safety cameras as listed in 5.7 above.

## **7. Preferred Solution/Option**

Members are recommended that Option 1, would be the most appropriate option.

## **8. Consultation**

Consultation has been undertaken with the Peninsula Road Safety Partnership.

## **9. Risks**

Discontinuing the use of Dartmouth Road / Sands Road site may encourage drivers to ignore the red light, however the junction has been re-engineered with alterations to the kerb line and the addition of additional signal head. However, to leave the camera pole and rusty camera housing in place, may be a potential safety risk if it was struck by a vehicle.

Discontinuing the use of the A3022 Newton Road / Lowes Bridge site may encourage drivers to ignore the red light, however the vast majority of activations previously recorded were 'blue light' emergency vehicles. However, to decommission this site and relocate the equipment, allows the A3022 Newton Road/Shiphay Lane site to be recommisioned in a cost effective manner, and reduce the risk of potential red light violation offences at this site.

## **Appendices:**

Appendix 1 List of all Safety Camera Locations with Torbay.

Appendix 2 Peninsular Safety Camera Standard Operating Procedure for the Decommissioning of a Red Light Camera Site.

## **Additional Information:**

None.

## **Documents available in Members' Rooms:**

None.

## **Background Papers:**

None.