



MAYORAL SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT

10th July 2007

MM4 SUPP	SAFER CITIES PROGRAM MEETING WITH IPSWICH COUNCIL
	FILE: 69 EAG {Folio No. * }

SUMMARY:

Reporting on meeting at Ipswich to review their Safer Cities programme.

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DESCRIPTION:

Meeting held with Mayor of Ipswich Paul Pisasale and the Director of Security, Stacey Kirmos, on Monday 2nd July 2007.

This was a very productive meeting during which I was given an overall description of Ipswich's Safe Cities activities, an outline of its history and a tour of the facilities.

As outlined to Council at a previous meeting by Ben Farrawell Ipswich has a very sophisticated system however they did start small and have built onto their system as resources become available.

Their Safe Cities programme covers their public areas only, with the relevant businesses attending to their own security.

The system consists of CCTV cameras in appropriate locations, a monitoring system, management committee of relevant stakeholders, Police, Chamber of Commerce and community involvement. Part of their system includes a Police 'Beat' shop in the CBD.

Ipswich were quick to point out that they are not running an alternate police service and work very closely with the local police. Actually the 'beat' shop forms part of the monitoring building. It is manned during shopping hours with the Police Inspector working from there at weekends. Ipswich has a very detailed policy and procedure manual which must be adhered to. All footage is saved to disk with police being able to request copies as appropriate. Copies of footage are not generally available to the public however they can be subpoenaed.

Ipswich has a very good relationship with the police being connected by both phone and radio to police operations.

There is a back up power supply.

Cameras are placed strategically throughout the CBD. They are very good quality able to rotate though 360 degrees and have capacity to zoom in and out as required. They are unobtrusive, built into existing light poles or other structures as available.

Ipswich has a very good relationship with their Chamber of Commerce which has approx 680 members most of whom are very active.

The Safe Cities programme comes under the direction of Economic Development and not Community Services as Ipswich Council feels that this is a more appropriate position for it, having found that since the introduction of the Safe Cities programme new businesses moving into the area have increased exponentially.

Ipswich Council puts its success down to the rap-id response to problems which arise. The community and businesses have access to the monitoring room and report any potential problems, as well as actual incidents immediately anything looks like occurring. This enables cameras to target the area which in turn gives police sufficient evidence in most cases to proceed to arrest and prosecution.

Ipswich commenced their programme with Grants from Federal and State governments and some non government funds. The business community pay a levee which over the years has built up with the result that additional grant funding is not required at present. Ipswich is in the process of introducing a further 40 CCTV cameras in other public area which will be funded from current funds.

The community have also taken ownership of their public spaces and report any untoward behaviour.

There are several other systems now available which may reduce monitoring requirement and or costs.

REPORT IMPLICATIONS:

- ***Environmental***

Has the potential to reduce vandalism damage to the environment in areas covered by the system

- ***Social***

The whole programme is aimed at reducing or removing crime and anti social behaviour in public areas, thus giving the community a feeling of safety in their public areas.

- ***Economic (Financial)***

There will be costs involved with the implementation, and sources of funding would need to be found. However the increased business activity since the implementation of the system has been significant.

- *Policy or Statutory*

Nil

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That Council investigates the requirements for the commencement of a "safer community" program.
2. That Council establishes a working party to undertake this investigation of significant stake holders within the community.
3. That Council requests the local police for information on the crime and anti social behavior 'hotspots" within the Kempsey CBD as a starting point.

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E A Green
MAYOR