

East Renfrewshire Council expands its Community Recording System

East Renfrewshire has established a comprehensive CCTV monitoring & recording capability that encompasses the city centre, public spaces and more than twelve schools.

Thornliebank in East Renfrewshire is located 5 miles south of Glasgow city centre. The Council agreed upon a plan to use Wavestore DVRs to record and monitor town centre activity together with various schools; which are all linked into Thornliebank CCTV control via an optical network.

The installation required the network of DVR's to support the recording of a large number cameras located at critical vantage positions around the town centre, and around the schools. The system has enabled truant school children to be identified and returned to their schools, which has reduced the concerns that local traders previously held regarding petty theft.

Monitoring of the schools, outside of the normal teaching time has significantly reduced the amount of vandalism & property damage. It is the council's intention to complete the programme, to provide the remaining 13 schools in the area with CCTV monitoring & surveillance.

Now with 9 members of staff, full time monitoring is made of over 50 public space cameras across the Authority area. Although this monitoring is now separate to the police office, the relationship remains very sound and an appointed police liaison officer visits the centre on a daily basis. In addition, a direct line has been installed in order that operators can liaise with the police control room in Govan and this is the first procedure when the operators require a police response to any incident. The police controllers also have the facility whereby they can view the images being monitored and recorded by the CCTV operator.

Since its inception in 1998 the system has contributed towards more than 500 arrests and this figure does not include detections where video evidence was examined some time after the conviction of criminal acts, during retrospective enquiries.



Background

East Renfrewshire first rolled out its CCTV Safety Net system during January 1998, with 14 cameras and 4 staff. Developing quickly, the system soon expanded and in April 2002 monitoring was relocated to the present station in Thornliebank, with 95 cameras plus the schools all digital recorded.

Key Application Benefits of Wavestore

- The ability to network the recorders into a server group, providing access to view any camera instantly.
- The ability to create unique user profiles (access to specified cameras, system settings and controls).
- Each unique user profile is available, regardless of which terminal is used to log in.
- The ability to copy video data to CD or DVD backup easily.

Footnote

The system has been extremely successful and has subsequently been upgraded with additional Wavestore recording equipment being installed.