



TOWN CENTRE CASE STUDY:

A couple of years ago, we featured Luton Borough Council for going over to wireless transmission as it renewed its CCTV and saved money. Now we look at Watford which has done something similar for its town centre CCTV.

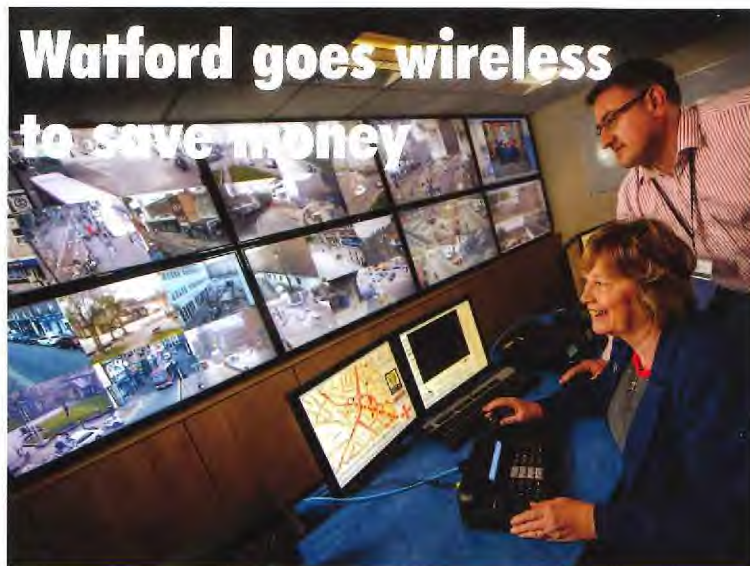
The Hertfordshire town has also seen the opening of a new CCTV and public safety control room in the town centre. This has been designed to help police respond to incidents, whilst also monitoring traffic flow and giving updates for the Highways Authority. Waltham Abbey-based Videcom Security won the contract to provide an IP network based system which would support the existing town centre cameras, while providing an upgrade path to ONVIF compliant full HD cameras and control equipment that Watford Borough Council may wish to deploy.

Pictured: Watford's elected mayor Dorothy Thornhill at a desk inside Watford's new control room; and the wireless transmission equipment from Silvernet

Photos courtesy of Watford Borough Council; and Silvernet

Backhaul links

The SilverNet backhaul links which provide a full duplex resilient ring, the 240 Mbps trunk links and 95 Mbps uplinks were used for the transmission of the images from 60 high resolution cameras around the town centre to a central control room. There SilverNet's SilverView Network monitoring software is working alongside a Synectics Synergy command and control product and bespoke VNSoft remote monitoring software. By going for network wireless, Videcom Security were able to minimise installation time and costs by negating the need for the laying of new cabling and engineering work and give the council revenue savings associated with the telecom leased circuits previously used for CCTV transmission. The network management software enables wireless kit and the installed



video codecs or IP cameras to be collectively managed regardless of their physical location, via a PC. It features an on-screen dashboard which the companies claim eliminates the complexity normally associated with the management of network systems.

What installer says

Bill Mead, Executive Director of Videcom Security, said: "Working closely with Mike Skett of Goodwill Associates, an independent security consultancy, we utilised the expertise of our engineering team across a number of disciplines including CCTV, electrical and project management, to meet the client's expectations for this project. Despite having a deadline of just twelve weeks and the challenge of working through one of the worst winters on record, we managed to complete the project on time and on budget. SilverNet is our preferred technology partner for wireless network solutions and our decision to recommend its wireless solution for this particular project

has been more than justified by the performance of the equipment which all worked 'out of the box' and has helped make this project a jewel in the portfolio. The equipment was delivered exactly when we needed it and we were impressed by the support provided by the SilverNet team at every stage including site survey assistance, factory pre-testing, training and technical advice during the installation and commissioning process."

About the control room

The council-managed control room replaces one in Charter Place Shopping Centre. Work began in January; the room opened on schedule. Watford mayor Dorothy Thornhill said: "One of our top priorities as a council is making Watford town centre as safe as possible for residents and visitors, no matter where or when they visit. The relocation of our control room within Watford Police Station means we can provide a faster, more efficient and joined up service." □



HAPPY

'This is an excellent example of partnership working I want to encourage - the police and council pooling resources to maximum effect, for the benefit of residents, local business and visitors alike.'
Hailing Watford control room, David Lloyd, Hertfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner.

