



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Labour councillors call for reinstatement of live CCTV monitoring

Bexley's Labour Group of councillors have tonight tabled a motion calling upon Bexley's Conservative councillors to re-instate live monitoring of the borough's CCTV, following the controversial decision to stop watching the cameras taken in 2016.

The motion tabled at the annual budget setting meeting called upon the council to re-invest £250,000 in the next financial year in order to recommence live monitoring of the 225 cameras in Sidcup, Bexleyheath, Erith, Welling, Albany Park, Crayford and Bexley. At present, the council continues to pay £580,000 per year to maintain and run the cameras, but only looks at them upon request if an incident has occurred.

The motion was defeated with every Conservative councillor present voting to maintain the policy of refusing to watch the CCTV on a real time basis.

Cllr Mabel Ogundayo, Deputy Leader of the Labour Group said "Bexley's residents have consistently raised with us their concerns about cuts to the policing budget, which have been compounded by the council's decision to cease live monitoring of CCTV. Since 2010, the Metropolitan Police have had to find £600 million of savings and must find a further £443 million over the next three years. Sadiq Khan is finding innovative ways of funding the police through business rates, but like us he is finding the Conservative Party are committed to cutting resources to assist our hardworking police."

Cllr Daniel Francis, Leader of the Labour Group said "We have seen the effects on the ground of CCTV cuts following disturbances in Bexleyheath and Northumberland Heath. Live monitoring of our CCTV would pick these issues up sooner and assist our police in the fight against crime.

Bexley's Conservative Councillors are determined to continue their programme of paying to maintain CCTV cameras, but not watch it in real time. If Labour are elected to run the council this May, then we will reinstate live monitoring of the borough's CCTV, and help our police in the fight against crime across Bexley."

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