



Item

## **LICENSING COMMITTEE**

Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle CCTV system installation implementation date.

**To:**

Licensing Committee 28/09/2020

**Report by:**

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**Wards affected:**

All

## **1. Introduction / Executive Summary**

- 1.1 Under the powers conferred to Cambridge City Council under the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 and the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, (as amended), Cambridge City Council has responsibility for licensing Hackney Carriage, Private Hire and Dual Licence Drivers as well as vehicle proprietors and Private Hire Operators within the City.
- 1.2 As a responsible licensing authority Cambridge City Council seeks to carry out its licensing functions with the view of promoting the following objectives;

- i) The safety and protection of the public;
- ii) Vehicle safety, comfort and access;
- iii) The prevention of crime and disorder;
- iv) The promotion of environmental sustainability;
- v) Protection of children and adults at risk from harm

1.3 The mandatory installation of CCTV within Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicles was agreed by members in October 2017. Supporting objectives i), iii) and v).

1.4 In implementing CCTV in licensed vehicles, further objectives can be met;

- The protection of licensed drivers.
- The protection of the travelling public.
- To ensure that licensed drivers continue to be 'fit and proper' in line with licence conditions.
- To enable investigations to be fully supported with evidence in a secure and retrievable form.

## **2. Recommendations**

2.1 Members are recommended to approve the implementation date of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022, by which date all licenced vehicles must have an installed CCTV system, from awarded supplier. System must comply with Cambridge City Council Technical specification.

## **3. Background**

3.1 There is no doubt a vulnerability relating to Taxis and Private Hire Vehicles (PHV). Members of the public enter into a Taxi/ PHV putting themselves under the control of a stranger in a confined space with no physical control over where they are taken. Furthermore, drivers also entrust members of the public into their vehicles, transporting them during unsocial hours, and sometimes visiting poorly lit routes.

- 3.2 CCTV systems can act as an additional safeguard, providing protection, confidence and reassurance to the public when they are travelling in a taxi or PHV, as well as to drivers who can also be victims of violence, and abuse.
- 3.3 CCTV systems can act as a deterrent to those with intentions of committing an offence to both drivers and passengers, but also where an offence has been committed images/audio recordings can capture evidence used in both a criminal and enforcement investigations.
- 3.4 Local authorities in recent years have considered the benefits of CCTV systems. Some authorities have made it a mandatory condition, whereas others have offered it as a voluntary requirement.
- 3.5 Cambridge City Council members agreed to make the installation of CCTV a mandatory condition in October 2017, due to the seen benefits in safeguarding members of the public but also in the protection of drivers.
- 3.6 Cambridge City Council are working together with South Cambridgeshire District Council in finalising the CCTV Technical Specification. A joint procurement exercise will be completed to identify a supplier that can provide CCTV systems, meeting the technical specification, for both councils.
- 3.7 Procurement exercise is due to be completed by April 2021. If dates remain unchanged, vehicle proprietors will have 12 months to ensure they are complying with the mandatory CCTV requirement, by the recommended implementation date.
- 3.8 As Cambridge City Council are working with South Cambridgeshire District Council to align policies and enforcement standards. The

recommended implementation date of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 will also be that of South Cambridgeshire District Council.

## **4. Implications**

### **a) Financial Implications**

The Council is not contributing to the cost of the CCTV system. Vehicle license holders will be required to manage the costs of installing the CCTV systems.

### **b) Staffing Implications**

Council officers will be required to formulate a manner in which they are able to ensure vehicles have CCTV systems installed. Council officers will be required to take enforcement action for those who do not comply.

### **c) Equality and Poverty Implications**

Nil.

### **d) Environmental Implications**

Nil.

### **e) Procurement Implications**

Procurement process to be completed in conjunction with South Cambridgeshire District Council to identify CCTV supplier that meets both council requirements and technical specification. Awarded supplier will provide systems to all licensed vehicles in both authorities. Procurement meets Official Journal of European Union (OJEU) threshold. Procurement process will be completed within OJEU timescales.

### **f) Community Safety Implications**

The use of CCTV within licensed vehicles, will help deter crime and disorderly behaviour from members of the public, protecting drivers. Additionally, installation will also work in protecting members of the public, ensuring drivers comply with licence conditions and complaints can be fully investigated.

## **5. Consultation and communication considerations**

A full consultation took place from Monday 31st July 2017 to Sunday 3rd September 2017. Consultation was regarding the installation of CCTV systems in licensed vehicles, that were locked and only accessible to the licensing authority and police.

Report and consultation responses were presented to Members, who considered all information during Licensing Committee meeting.

Members resolved (unanimously) to require the installation of CCTV, that is locked and only accessed by the licensing authority and police.

In regards to the installation date, and supplier information, vehicle Licence holders will be made aware via e-mail communication, taxi newsletter and taxi trade forum.

## **6. Background papers**

- a) Developing an approach to mandatory CCTV in taxis and PHVs – Local Government Association Guidance.

## **7. Appendices**

Nil.

## **8. Inspection of papers**

To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact Wangari Njiiri, Environmental Health and Licensing Support Team Leader, tel: 01223 – 458533, email: [Wangari.njiiri@cambridge.gov.uk](mailto:Wangari.njiiri@cambridge.gov.uk).