



## CCTV financial options

**To:**

Licensing Committee 20/03/2023

**Report by:**

Yvonne O'Donnell, Environmental Health Manager

Tel: 01223 457951

Email: Yvonne.odonnell@cambridge.gov.uk

**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;

a) The protection of licensed drivers.

b) The protection of the travelling public.

c) To ensure that licensed drivers continue to be 'fit and proper' in line with licence conditions.

d) To enable investigations to be fully supported with evidence in a secure and retrievable form.

1.5 In October 2022, Members of the Licensing Committee agreed an implementation date for CCTV in licensed vehicles of 1st April 2023. From the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023, any new vehicle licenced or renewal of an existing licensed vehicle will be required to have CCTV installed. This would see all licenced vehicles installed with CCTV by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024.

1.6 During the October 2022 meeting additional request was made by Licensing Committee members which was unanimously agreed:

1.6.1 Officers to look at the possibilities for financial support options to assist CCTV implementation. Officers to advise progress by the

next committee expected January 2023. Action to be completed within 6 months and report to Committee in March 2023.

- 1.7 The additional request was brought about following public speakers, trade representatives raising their concern of CCTV costs, during this time.

## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1. Members are recommended to note that officers have investigated possible financial options for installation of CCTV and unfortunately there is no financial support available from the agencies. However, companies do offer some financial options to support with the payment for CCTV implementation.

## **3. Background**

### **Cambridge City Council Journey**

- 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 In October 2017, Cambridge City Council members agreed to make the installation of CCTV a mandatory condition, due to the seen benefits in safeguarding members of the public but also in the protection of drivers.
- 3.4 Although attempts have been made in the past in respect to the implementation of the mandatory requirement, due to securing a suitable supplier and the Covid-19 pandemic, implementation has been delayed.
- 3.5 In October 2022, Members unanimously agreed the implementation date of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023. From this date, all new vehicles, and vehicles due for renewal will be required to be fitted with CCTV in their vehicles.
- 3.6 In addition to the above, it was requested officers go out and investigate financial options, which could support the trade in the implementation of CCTV systems in their vehicles.
- 3.7 Within January 2023 Licensing Committee, members were provided with an update regarding research conducted by officers for possible avenues of funding.

### **CCTV costs**

- 3.8 The cost of implementation will vary and depends on various factors some including:
- Type of vehicle e. g salon vehicle vs multi-seater/wheelchair accessible vehicles.

- Type of system installed e.g 180 degree camera vs 90 degree camera.
- If purchaser wishes to purchase additional system servicing.
- Installer costs

3.9 Prices quoted by companies vary from £300 to £500 for CCTV system and £80 - £500 for installation.

3.10 The approach taken by the Council, is to provide licence holders with a CCTV specification. With the specification, it is the choice of the licence holder to identify system, supplier and installer that meets or exceeds the specification.

3.11 This approach enables licence holders to compare quotes from various companies, and make an informed decision.

### **Finance support options**

3.12 Several finance options were explored by officers.

**1. Cambridgeshire Constabulary** – The Cambridge constabulary was contacted requesting if there was any funding available which the Taxi trade could apply for from the police to support the CCTV initiative. In response the council were advised that the constabulary did not have a budget available to support private individuals/businesses. Appendix A.

**2. Cambridge Community Safety Partnership** – An officer of the Community Safety Partnership was contacted regarding possible funding.

Community Safety Partnership advised that they are able to apply for to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner's (OPCC) 'Safer Communities Fund' for local initiatives to reduce crime and disorder. However, the OPCCs Safer Communities fund is for a maximum of £5,000, for initiatives that can be delivered within 12 weeks. As overall CCTV cost for taxi drivers is anticipated at £160,000 and would take longer than 12 weeks to deliver, it would unfortunately be outside the scope of the fund. Appendix B.

**3. CCTV installers and suppliers** – companies who have approached Cambridge City Council stating they can meet council CCTV specification, were approached in regards to their financial options. Responses as followed:

- 1 company offers finance payment options
- 1 company offers finance payment options and the option to lease CCTV system. Company is also looking at other finance options to offer.
- 1 company did not offer any options.
- 1 company are looking at options, however, currently only offer for large accounts.

(Finance options are subject to credit/finance check)

3.13 The above research details that currently no finance options are available for the trade to support the initiative. However, companies do offer some financial options to support with the payment for CCTV implementation.

## **4. Implications**

### **a) Financial Implications**

Detailed within report

### **b) Staffing Implications**

Nil.

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

Nil.

### **d) Net Zero Carbon, Climate Change and Environmental Implications**

Nil.

### **e) Procurement Implications**

Nil.

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

The mandatory installation of CCTV within Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicles will support licensing objectives i), iii) and v), detailed on section 1.2.

Further objectives can be met;

a) The protection of licensed drivers.

b) The protection of the travelling public.

c) To ensure that licensed drivers continue to be 'fit and proper' in line with licence conditions.

d) To enable investigations to be fully supported with evidence in a secure and retrievable form.

**5. Consultation and communication considerations**

Nil.

**6. Background papers**

Nil.

**7. Appendices**

Appendix A – Cambridgeshire constabulary response

Appendix B - Cambridge Community Safety Partnership response

**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, 01223 458533, Wangari.njiiri@cambridge.gov.uk