



LICENSING COMMITTEE
2 November 2023

ITEM 05

Report sponsor: Samantha Dennis, Director of Communities
Report author: Angela Rawson, Service Manager, Licensing

CCTV in Taxi and Private Hire Vehicles

Purpose

- 1.1 The report asks the Committee to consider the need to consult on the installation of CCTV in taxi and private hire vehicles.

Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 That the Committee instruct officers carry out a 12 week consultation on the installation of CCTV in taxi & private hire vehicles to identify whether a local need exists.
- 2.2 That the Committee delegate authority to analyse the responses to the consultation to the Head of Community Safety and Localities and the Service Manager for Licensing and present a report with recommendation to a future Committee upon completion of the exercise.

Reason(s)

- 3.1 The use of CCTV can provide a safer environment for the benefit of taxi and private hire vehicle passengers and drivers by:
 - Deterring and preventing the occurrence of crime
 - Reducing the fear of crime
 - Assisting the police in investigating incidents of crime
 - Assisting insurance companies in investigating motor vehicle accidents

Supporting information

- 4.1 The subject was included as a part of the Statutory Taxi & Private Hire Standards released by the Government – link below. It suggested that all Licensing Authorities should consult on the provision to ascertain whether or not there are local circumstances which indicate that the installation of CCTV would benefit users and/or drivers taking into account any potential privacy issues.
- 4.2 Some Councils have a mandatory condition for the fitting of CCTV and the appetite is increasing nationally where it is felt to be locally appropriate following consultation. The Council is only able to mandate the use of CCTV in taxis and private hire vehicles if it can demonstrate that it is a proportionate response to local issues which can be justified. This means that it must be more than simply desirable in order to mandate their fitment in licensed vehicles.

- 4.3 Media has also shown that having CCTVs in taxis has proven benefit evidentially in supporting the reporting of crimes such as sexual offences or 'County Lines'.
- 4.4 It is therefore recommended that a 12-week consultation takes place around the principle of installation of CCTV in taxi and private hire vehicles. The consultation will be available online and open to the public, partners, stakeholders and trade with the results being presented to this Committee for further consideration.

Public/stakeholder engagement

- 5.1 If committee resolves to accept the recommendation, public and stakeholder engagement will be inclusive via the 12-week public consultation process which will be available online.

Other options

- 6.1 Not to carry out consultation at this time.

Financial and value for money issues

- 7.1 The cost for this consultation will be covered by the existing licence fees. Fees are evaluated on an annual basis to ensure full cost recovery is maintained.

Legal implications

- 8.1 The Statutory taxi and private hire licensing standards place an obligation on the Council to adhere, so far as it is possible to, to those standards. Undertaking consultation in this area will demonstrate that the Council has had regard to this aspect of the standards, the outcome of which is likely to inform the Council's direction of travel.

Climate implications

- 9.1 None directly arising from this report.

Other significant implications

- 10.1 None.

This report has been approved by the following people:

Role	Name	Date of sign-off
Legal	Olu Idowu	12/10/23
Finance		
Service Director(s)		
Report sponsor	Samantha Dennis – Director	10/10/23
Other(s)	Charles Edwards - Head of Service	11/10/23

Background papers:	Statutory taxi and private hire vehicle standards - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) LGA Guidance developing an approach to mandatory CCTV in taxis and PHVs WEB (local.gov.uk)
List of appendices:	None