



LICENSING COMMITTEE
4 November 2021

ITEM 06

Report sponsor: Samantha Dennis, Director of
Public Protection & Streetpride
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 approve carrying out a consultation on the installation of CCTV in taxi & private hire vehicles.

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 introduced as a part of the Statutory Taxi & Private Hire Standards released by the Government on 21 July 2020. 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.

Any CCTV system would be required to be of a high specification so that images were clear enough for use in any litigious purpose. There is an approximate cost to vehicles owners of approximately £500.

- 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 More recently, the media has 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 open to the public with specific content being invited from specialist parties such as the hackney and private hire trade and partners such as the Police.

Public/stakeholder engagement

- 5.1 If committee resolves to accept the recommendation, public and stakeholder engagement will be gauged via the 12-week public consultation process

Other options

- 6.1 Not to carry out consultation at this time.

Financial and value for money issues

- 7.1 It is envisaged that the cost for implementation and maintenance of this licensing function will be covered by the existing licence fees. Fees are evaluated on an annual basis to ensure cost recovery is maintained..

Legal implications

- 8.1 The Statutory taxi and private hire licensing standards 2021 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, Head of Legal Services | 13 October 2021 |
| Finance | | |
| Service Director(s) | | |
| Report sponsor | Samantha Dennis - Director | 17/10/21 |
| Other(s) | Michael Kay, Head of Service | 17/10/21 |

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| 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 |