

North East Derbyshire District Council

Communities Scrutiny Committee

20th May, 2022

CCTV in Taxi's – Implementation Update

Report of the Joint Assistant Director, Environmental Health

Classification: This report is public.

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PURPOSE / SUMMARY

To provide a summary update with regard to implementation of CCTV systems in Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicles, including a draft timeline.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Committee Members note the work underway to deliver this project and the proposed implementation timeline.
2. That Members acknowledge that the delivery timetable will be subject to discussion with the Leader of the Council, as Portfolio Holder for Licensing and will be recommended to Licensing Committee for further consideration.

IMPLICATIONS

Finance and Risk: Yes No

Details: There is no cost associated with the recommendations in this report.

On Behalf of the Section 151 Officer

Legal (including Data Protection): Yes No

Details: The policy on CCTV in Taxi's has already been adopted. This report is an interim update on the implementation timescale.

On Behalf of the Solicitor to the Council

Staffing: Yes No

Details: There are no staffing implications for this report.

On behalf of the Head of Paid Service

DECISION INFORMATION

Decision Information	
Is the decision a Key Decision? A Key Decision is an executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more District wards or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds: NEDDC: Revenue - £100,000 <input type="checkbox"/> Capital - £250,000 <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Please indicate which threshold applies</i>	No
Is the decision subject to Call-In? (Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)	No
District Wards Significantly Affected	None
Consultation: Leader / Deputy Leader <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cabinet <input type="checkbox"/> SMT <input type="checkbox"/> Relevant Service Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Members <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>	

Links to Council Plan priorities, including Climate Change, Equalities, and Economics and Health implications.

All.

REPORT DETAILS

1 Background

- 1.1 The Council is responsible for the licensing and regulation of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Drivers, Operators and Vehicles. Following the approval of a policy in October 2021, all licensed Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicles (referred to in this report as Taxi's) are required to have a council approved CCTV system installed.
- 1.2 Responsibility for implementation of this policy was subsequently passed to Licensing Officers, with the policy having previously been prepared by Legal Services.
- 1.3 At the date of writing this report, there are 218 licensed vehicles in the North East Derbyshire District (NEDDC). The Joint Environmental Health Service is concurrently rolling out the same licensing policy at Bolsover District Council, to enable better value for money on implementation and purchase costs for CCTV systems. There are currently 150 licensed vehicles in Bolsover District Council. (The number of vehicles licensed by the authority varies on a daily basis).
- 1.4 A review of the CCTV policy implementation process has been undertaken and the following provisions are being progressed: -
- Procurement and approval of CCTV system providers.
 - Procurement of equipment and training to enable effective and legal download and storage of footage associated with the installed CCTV systems.
 - Procurement and approval of training for local authority officers, including operatives at the depots, to enable compliance with Data Protection requirements.
 - Procurement and approval of training for licence holders to enable compliance with data protection requirements.
 - System, application and procedural updates.
 - Privacy Impact Assessment and Equality Impact Assessments.
 - Review of taxi licensing fees.
- 1.6 The total value of Taxi CCTV systems to be fitted across the North East Derbyshire fleet is expected to be in the order of £109,000, with the costs being borne by individual vehicle owners, at approximately £500 per vehicle. However, due to rising costs of supplies and services the actual costs could be greater than this estimate.
- 1.7 It should be noted that the service is currently developing taxi licensing procurement specifications for the following: -
- Safeguarding Training.
 - Disability Awareness Training.
 - Practical Driving Assessment.

- CCTV Equipment (including training).
- Disclosure and Barring Service Online Checking Service Providers.
- Medical Providers.

1.8 Following the introduction of the Statutory Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Standards by the Secretary of State for Transport, a number of changes to the main taxi licensing policy have been made in NEDDC. A summary of the main changes is as follows: -

- Introduction of more frequent medical examinations.
- Increase in the frequency of Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks for Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Drivers, from 18 months to 6 months.
- Introduction of DBS checks for any persons in control of a Private Hire Operator.
- Introduction of DBS checks for all vehicle proprietors.
- Update to licence conditions for all taxi licence types.

The changes have been approved by the General Licensing Committee and are due to be put before Council.

A number of provisions will need to be put in place to enable implementation of that policy including the following: -

- System, application and procedural updates.
- Review of all approved suppliers to ensure they meet new Council standards.
- Provision of support to the taxi trade to help them navigate changes.

1.9 From 04 April 2022 it became a requirement that licensing authorities in England and Wales carry out checks to confirm applicants for some licences are aware of their tax responsibilities and/or have completed a tax check with HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC). These licences include Hackney Carriage and/or Private Hire Vehicle Drivers and Private Hire Operators. Changes to our processes and procedures have been implemented to put this into effect.

2. Details of Proposal or Information

2.1 Procurement of CCTV providers is underway, with a formal tender for provision of CCTV systems being advertised in May 2022.

2.2 It is anticipated that the successful bidders will have contracts awarded in August, with a view to systems being fitted to vehicles from October 2022.

2.3 The draft implementation timeline is summarised in Appendix 1 (subject to further discussion with the Leader of the Council and approval by the Licensing Committee).

2.4 The timeline may also be subject to change dependant on the availability of approved suppliers and the delivery of training.

3 Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1 The proposed timeline reflects a deliverable implementation timescale.
- 3.2 There are some important considerations and implications associated with this project which the Council has to have due regard to e.g. data and privacy issues. The timeline as set out should enable officers and providers to work through these issues robustly, leading to successful implementation of CCTV systems in Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicles.

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 4.1 The proposals are considered to reflect a realistic and reasonable balance of risk versus timescale.
- 4.2 Providing a longer period for installation was considered but rejected on the grounds of public safety.
- 4.3 Providing a shorter period for installation was considered but rejected on the grounds of proportionality and the financial impact upon the trade, following the pandemic and during a period of rapidly increasing fuel costs and general cost of living increases.

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

Appendix No	Title
1	Implementation Timeline

