

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Licensing Committee
2025**

10 November

Updated Report on Mandating CCTV in Taxis.

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Jane Elledge
Portfolio Holder Consulted	No
Relevant Assistant Director	Simon Wilkes – Director of Worcestershire Regulatory Services
Kiran Lahel	Job Title: Licensing and Support Services Manager Contact email: kiran.lahel@worcsregsServices.gov.uk Contact Tel: 01562 738067
Wards Affected	All
Ward Councillor(s) consulted	No
Relevant Council Priority	Keep my place safe and looking good
Non-Key Decision	
If you have any questions about this report, please contact the report author in advance of the meeting.	

1. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Members are asked to note the contents of the report.

2. **BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 On the 1st September 2022 Bromsgrove District Council introduced The Statutory taxi and private hire vehicle standards ('The Standards'). The Standards were published in July 2020 and included the use of CCTV as an area for Local Authority discussion.
- 2.2 This authority has a voluntary CCTV option already in place for all vehicle owners. On introduction of the policy in 2022 officers advised that they would monitor intelligence and engage with partners to ensure the policy remained in line with what the data was showing us.
- 2.3 Officers brought an updated report to this Committee in July outlining the evidence collated through intelligence and from West Mercia police regarding the number of complaints received that would be mitigated if CCTV was installed in a licensed vehicle.
- 2.3 During the Committee in July Members requested an updated report be brought back in November 2025 with further information and clarity on questions raised during the Committee.

3. OPERATIONAL ISSUES

- 3.1 As part of the consultation on the Statutory Taxi Standards undertaken in 2022 officers proposed that they would continue to monitor the aspect of mandatory CCTV in taxis to ensure the council is doing what is required to ensure the safeguarding of the traveling public.
- 3.2 As part of the implementation of the Statutory Taxi Standards the current policy allows the proprietor of any vehicle that it has authorised to be used as a hackney carriage or private hire vehicle to install CCTV cameras in their vehicle subject to the following requirements:
- No installation of a CCTV system shall take place within a licensed vehicle unless the proprietor of the vehicle has notified the Council in advance.
 - All CCTV systems which are installed into licensed vehicles must be compliant with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 2018. The system must also be compliant with the Information Commissioner's requirements in respect of registering the system and the capturing, storing, retaining and using any recorded images.
- 3.3 At the present time it is noted that only a small number of licensing authorities have so far made it a legal requirement (8%) for all taxi and private hire vehicles to be fitted with mandatory CCTV systems. These authorities have been able to demonstrate through evidence and intelligence that such a policy was necessary. More recently these have included Barnsley Council, Portsmouth and Southampton, Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire District Council. Swindon Borough Council did mandate it but reversed the decision due to a number of challenges. There are no local authorities across Worcestershire that have mandated CCTV in vehicles.
- 3.4 The initial Guidance highlighted that licensing authorities who legally require the installation of CCTV systems in taxis and PHV will be fully responsible for any data obtained; they in effect become the "System Operator" and the "data controller".
- 3.5 In July this year a report was brought to this Committee outlining the research that had been undertaken by officers through complaints analysis and intelligence gathering in WRS and collecting data from West Mercia Police colleagues to assure members of the committee that at present there was no evidence to suggest that a further formal

consultation would be required to introduce a policy to mandate CCTV in vehicles.

- 3.6 Members asked for further reassurance and requested a light touch consultation to be undertaken with the Trade to understand their thoughts and opinions.
- 3.7 Officers have liaised with the Bromsgrove taxi representative regarding the installation of CCTV in hackney carriage and private hire vehicles. In response, the trade representatives agreed with the proposal in principle and acknowledged the potential benefits for both licence holders and passengers, particularly in enhancing safety and accountability. However, they expressed serious concerns that the associated costs and administrative requirements would be too prohibitive at the present time.
- 3.8 The trade representative explained that the taxi and private hire trade is facing significant financial pressures due to rising operational costs, increased competition from online platforms and vehicles and drivers licensed by other local authorities, and a general downturn in passenger demand. These challenges have made it difficult for drivers and operators to commit to any additional expenditure, even for initiatives they support in theory. The representatives also highlighted the need for further consultation and potential financial support or phased implementation to make such measures more viable for the trade".
- 3.9 To obtain further information officers carried out an informal survey with the current 103 Bromsgrove licence holders to ascertain whether they firstly already had CCTV, would they agree with a mandatory policy on CCTV and then allowed them to make comments.
- 3.10 There were 30 responses received to the consultation. 63% of respondents said they would not welcome the introduction of a mandatory policy on CCTV. 30% of respondents said yes and 2% said they 'didn't know'.
- 3.11 Analysis of the comments as to why licence holders did not feel they supported a mandatory policy included the high cost of installation and a number of respondents asked if funding was available then they may consider it. Of the 30 respondents that replied 8 already have CCTV installed.
- 3.12 As a result of some of the comments made as part of this consultation officers carried out some further research on the costs of systems that meet the National Standards and the current cost for the equipment itself is £500 plus an installation cost of between £100-£150. Many local

authorities state the minimum equipment specification and also provide an approved suppliers list.

- 3.13 At a current Transport Committee in parliament CCTV was discussed at length and there were concerns that local authorities were mandating CCTV in vehicles without clearly understanding the technology and that they didn't understand that CCTV is for the safeguarding of the travelling public not the driver.
- 3.14 The mandating of safeguarding training for taxi drivers has been introduced in order to mitigate such situations and covers both drivers' personal safety and safeguarding responsibilities.
- 3.15 In light of the evidence collected from intelligence sources and the information put forward from the consultation with both the Bromsgrove Trade Representative and licence holders officers remains of the view the current policy remains in place.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1.1 The costs associated with carrying out any recommended consultation will be met from existing budgets held by Worcestershire Regulatory Services.
- 4.1.2 The cost associated with a recommendation to introduce mandatory CCTV equipment and ongoing running costs will need to be met by the licence holder or by alternative means.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 All CCTV systems which are installed into licensed vehicles must be compliant with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 2018. The system must also be compliant with the Information Commissioner's requirements in respect of registering the system and the capturing, storing, retaining and using any recorded images.

6. OTHER - IMPLICATIONS

Relevant Council Priority

- 6.2 Any policy introduction would need to have regard for and align with the Council's corporate policy in relation to data protection and information management.

Climate Change Implications

- 6.3 There are no Climate change implications

Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 6.4 The Licensing Committee will ensure it has regard to the desirability of exercising its functions regarding the need to eliminate discrimination and to increase equality of opportunity. On this occasion no Equality Implications have been identified.
- 6.5 Any recommendation to introduce mandatory CCTV equipment will require an initial Equality Impact Assessment.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 If the council fails to review its policy in line with the Department for Transport's recommendations it may be challenged by the Police and Crime Commissioner and Department for Transport through audit or policy review.

8. APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

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9. REPORT SIGN OFF

Department	Name and Job Title	Date
Portfolio Holder	Please record the name of the relevant Portfolio Holder who has signed off the report here.	Please give the date they signed off the report here.
Lead Director / Assistant Director	Please record the name of the relevant lead Director / Assistant Director who has signed off the report here.	Please give the date they signed off the report here.
Financial Services	Please record the name of the relevant Officer in Financial Services who has signed off the report here.	Please give the date they signed off the report here.
Legal Services	Please record the name of the relevant Officer in Legal Services who has signed off the report here.	Please give the date they signed off the report here.
Policy Team (if equalities implications apply)	If applicable, please record the name of the relevant Officer in the Policy team who has signed off the report here.	If applicable, please give the date they signed off the report here.
Climate Change Team (if climate change implications apply)	If applicable, please record the name of the relevant Officer in the Climate Change team who has signed off the report here.	If applicable, please give the date they signed off the report here.