

**Committee:** Licensing and Environmental Health

**Agenda Item**

**Date:** 9 September 2015

**5**

**Title:** CCTV in licensed vehicles

**Author:** Joanne Jones

Item for decision

---

### Summary

This report has been submitted for members to consider how the Council should proceed with requests from individual proprietors who wish to install CCTV equipment in their vehicles.

### Recommendations

1. The Committee determine the procedure to be adopted with regard to proprietors who wish to install their own CCTV equipment.

### Financial Implications

2. None. There are no costs associated with the recommendations

### Background Papers

3. None.

### Impact

- 4.

Communication/Consultation	New operators have said that they wish to install CCTV equipment.
Community Safety	The installation of CCTV could help to secure the safety and comfort of the travelling public. However, if the use of equipment is not well administered it could undermine public confidence in the use of CCTV.
Equalities	None
Health and Safety	None
Human Rights/Legal Implications	The Data Controller is responsible for complying with Data Protection legislation, including being registered with the

	Information Commissioner.
Sustainability	None
Ward-specific impacts	None
Workforce/Workplace	If option B is chosen additional officer time will be required to work on conditions and administer the system.

## Situation

5. In 2011 the Council purchased 15 CCTV camera systems with funds provided by Essex County Council to be installed in vehicles whose proprietors were members of the Quality Taxi Partnership. At the time a Code of Practice was drawn up and proprietors who wished to install an in-car camera system had to sign an agreement to comply with the Code.
6. No further funding is available for the Council to purchase additional systems, but some proprietors have come forward saying that they intend installing their own systems.
7. We do not currently have a policy or any conditions relating to CCTV cameras that have not been provided and installed by the Council. Members should consider whether or not to introduce any controls to manage the use of CCTV. Those proprietors who have CCTV installed do feel that there are benefits to having cameras in the vehicle such as reducing the fear of crime and increasing the safety of both drivers and passengers. Cameras could also be useful in helping the police to investigate crime providing that the images have been properly stored and downloaded.

## 8. Options

- a. **To allow proprietors to purchase and install their own systems with no conditions attached.** The proprietor would be the data controller and responsible for ensuring that data protection legislation is observed and that breaches of privacy do not occur. However, If no conditions are imposed by the Council it is possible that cameras may be installed which are not satisfactory for use in licensed vehicles and do not meet best practice guidance. Members of the trade who already have CCTV cameras installed have expressed concerns that poor quality equipment with poor images would undermine the value of cameras already installed in licensed vehicles. Consultation with other Essex Authorities shows that this approach can lead to complaints. Following one such complaint Chelmsford has now issued their drivers with guidance, Basildon allows the installation of CCTVs subject to conditions and Braintree is looking at bringing in a policy. One of the issues in respect of installing CCTV is the cost. Allowing proprietors to install their own systems without conditions would enable drivers to choose a system that meets their budget.
- b. **To allow proprietors to purchase and install their own systems with conditions** being imposed on their licences relating to the installation and use of

CCTV similar to those which we impose on systems already installed by the Council. The proprietor would be the data controller. This option would mean that the Council could be confident that cameras are installed which meet industry standards and that images are stored and downloaded in a way that does not infringe current legislation. Members of the public would also have more confidence in the integrity of the system.

This option would mean that the cost of purchasing a system would be higher as the cheaper and more basic CCTV systems may well not really be satisfactory for use in licensed vehicles.

- c. **To ban the installation of CCTVs in licensed vehicles unless they have been provided and installed by the Council.** This would effectively mean that no new cameras would be available as there is no further funding available. This option would mean that new operators/proprietors would be disadvantaged as they would not be able to enjoy the benefits of CCTV. To choose this option would mean that the current system would continue.

## Risk Analysis

9.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
If no conditions are in place drivers may install systems which are not satisfactory for use in licensed vehicles.	2. Currently interest is low, however a few enquiries have been made so it would be prudent to consider taking action.	Passengers' human rights could be infringed. Cameras may be incorrectly installed and present an impact danger to passengers. Images may not be correctly stored and downloaded and evidential integrity would not be ensured.	Issue conditions which are regularly reviewed to comply with legislation and current practice.

1 = Little or no risk or impact

2 = Some risk or impact – action may be necessary.

3 = Significant risk or impact – action required

4 = Near certainty of risk occurring, catastrophic effect or failure of project.