

Public
Key Decision - No

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Title/Subject Matter: CCTV in Taxi Consultation

Meeting/Date: Licensing & Protection Committee – 22 October 2025

Executive Portfolio: Executive Councillor for Resident Services and Corporate Performance – Councillor Stephen Ferguson

Report by: Michelle Bishop – Licensing Manager

Ward(s) affected: All Ward

Executive Summary:

This report is to provide feedback on the consultation carried out in response to the possibility of mandating CCTV in Taxi & Private Hire vehicles licensed by Huntingdonshire District Council.

Recommendation(s):

- I. That Members of the Licensing & Protection Committee note the contents of the report and the consultation feedback received, and permit officers to undertake further engagement with the licensed trade and the public prior to making a final decision on whether to mandate CCTV in all vehicles licensed by the Council.**
- II. That, following a further period of engagement and consultation, an updated report be prepared and presented to the Licensing & Protection Committee for consideration.**

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to allow members of the Licensing & Protection Committee the opportunity to review the consultation carried out in response to the possibility of mandating CCTV in vehicles licensed by Huntingdonshire District Council.

2. WHY IS THIS REPORT NECESSARY/BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At the previous meeting, Members of the Licensing and Protection Committee requested that the Licensing team undertake a consultation to gather views from both the taxi trade and the general public regarding the potential introduction of mandatory CCTV in Taxi and Private Hire vehicles licensed by this Council

- 2.2 The Department for Transport (DfT) published its Statutory Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Standards in July 2020 with a strong focus to protect all passengers and users of taxis and private hire transport services

- 2.3 The statutory guidance clearly states that the Government expects its recommendations to be implemented unless there is a compelling local justification for not doing so. In response, the Council adopted a significant number of these measures in 2024 whilst updating the Taxi & Private Hire Policy.

- 2.4 The Statutory Guidance also states:

“All licensing authorities should consult to identify if there are local circumstances which indicate that the installation of CCTV in vehicles would have either a positive or an adverse net effect on the safety of taxi and private hire vehicle users, including children or vulnerable adults, and taking into account potential privacy issues”.

The DfT's view is that CCTV can provide additional deterrence to prevent potential risk to public safety when passengers travel in taxis and private hire vehicles and has investigative value when it does. Its view is that “The use of CCTV can provide a safer environment for the benefit of taxi/private hire vehicle passengers and drivers.

- 2.5 Due to the distinct differences in licensing regulations, the nature of work carried out by hackney carriages and private hire vehicles can vary considerably. However, together they play a vital role in supporting local transport networks. The following are just some of the many areas where taxis and PHVs operate:

- School run services
- Transport for children or adults with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)
- Airport transport
- Corporate/Executive travel
- Late night economy transportation
- Hospital and community trips

3. OPTIONS CONSIDERED/ANALYSIS

- 3.1 Whilst the current recommendation is not currently seeking to mandate the use of CCTV, its position regarding in-vehicle CCTV in Taxis and Private Hire Vehicles licensed within the Huntingdonshire District is to permit its use, provided the vehicle licence holder complies with the conditions outlined in the local policy. These include, among other requirements, adherence to human rights and privacy legislation, as set out in the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) guidelines.

The licence holder remains responsible as both the data controller and processor.

- 3.2 If deemed necessary, through enforcement action we can add conditions to individual licence holders making it a requirement for them to install CCTV inside their licensed vehicle. This would be on a case-by-case basis.

4. KEY IMPACTS / RISKS

- 4.1 To mandate a policy on CCTV there needs to be a clear local evidence base of an overwhelming need for CCTV within the area

5. WHAT ACTIONS WILL BE TAKEN/TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

- 5.1 The Licensing Team will continue to engage with the Licensed trade, members of the public and partners in a further consultation/engagement exercise.

6. LINK TO THE CORPORATE PLAN, STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND/OR CORPORATE OBJECTIVES

- 6.1 In line with the Council's commitment to Do, Enable, Influence, this consultation exercise promotes collaboration among licensed Taxi & Private Hire trade, residents, and the Council. By fostering this partnership approach, we aim to create a supportive environment and find a suitable balance for the needs of public and our licence holders.

7. CONSULTATION

- 7.1 A public consultation period was active from 25th July to 24th September 2025. General feedback was sought from the licensed trade and the public.
- 7.2 During the consultation period we received 131 responses, a summary of the results can be seen below. Full details including comments are at **Appendix A**

	In Support of CCTV	Object against CCTV
Driver	9	65
Operator	2	1
Both Driver & Operator	14	3
Public	22	13

- 7.3 The cost of installation and the worry of an invasion of privacy were identified as the two most significant reasons for those not in support of CCTV in licensed vehicles.

It is clear from this feedback that further consultation is required to investigate these concerns.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 Under GDPR data protection laws, individuals and organisations considering the use of surveillance technology must carefully assess the potential impact on personal privacy before implementation. Any CCTV system installed must meet the specifications and requirements set out by the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO)

- 8.2 If a blanket approach to CCTV is introduced requiring all Taxis and private hire vehicles to install CCTV the Council could be responsible as the Data Controller for the data in each individual licensed vehicle and held liable for any breach of data protection by a driver/operator.

In these circumstances the Council would have to specify the CCTV's technical and system requirements to ensure compliance, requiring encrypted and secure data storage.

This would inevitably mean increased costs to the Council in administration and monitoring compliance, with increased checks being made to ensure systems are correctly fitted and compliant, as well as increased enforcement activity ensuring cameras are active and data is stored correctly.

- 8.3 Another legal implication of making CCTV compulsory is that any failure in the system would require the vehicle to be taken off the road whilst the issue was resolved in order to avoid the licence holder and/or the driver committing a breach of licence condition that is considered an offence. This could result in a loss of earnings for those affected

9. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The cost of conducting the consultation is covered by income generated from licence fees.

10. COST IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 In addition to increased costs to the Council, there would be increased costs to the trade themselves, as it is estimated that a suitable CCTV system would cost in the region of £500 to £1000 to purchase, and there would also be ongoing maintenance costs whenever a vehicle needs to be updated, or faults occur. Any increase in costs incurred by the trade will inevitably be passed onto those using the service

- 10.2 Any increased expenditure in administration and enforcement could be passed to the hackney carriage and private hire trade in vehicle and operator licence fees.

11. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDED DECISIONS

- 11.1 Looking at the consultation responses including the comments made, we feel that a more detailed consultation including public & trade engagement is required before proceeding in a decision.
- 11.2 In light of the Casey Report and its implications for taxi licensing, it is prudent to delay any significant changes at this stage. There is a possibility that national standards may be introduced in the near future, and aligning with these would ensure consistency and compliance across the sector

12. LIST OF APPENDICES INCLUDED

Appendix A – Consultation Responses

13. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Revised guidance issued under S.182 of the Licensing Act 2003 February 2025

[Revised guidance issued under section 182 of Licensing Act 2003 - GOV.UK](#)

CONTACT OFFICER

Michelle Bishop – Licensing Manager
Email: michelle.bishop@huntingdonshire.gov.uk