

REPORT TO LICENSING BOARD

Subject: Review of Council policy on CCTV in Public Carriages
Cabinet Portfolio: Planning and Environment
Corporate Lead: Service Director of Planning, Transport and Regulation
Meeting Date: 29 January 2013
Status: Public
Contact: Keith Evans, Licensing Officer,
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1.0 Summary:

Clarification is required to remove ambiguities identified in Council policy agreed in June 2011 in relation to the installation of CCTV within vehicles.

Also, to consider a request from two (2) licensed drivers who have requested the installation of a CCTV system in two Hackney Carriage vehicles?

2.0 Recommendation:

To consider the current policy and make any amendments necessary to remove the identified ambiguities, which may or may not lead to the approval of CCTV in certain cases.

Should the Board consider the approval of a secure CCTV system in certain cases then Officer Delegation is sought where a justified request is received.

In order to assist officers, members are requested to agree a specification for approval of CCTV systems as follows:

A camera which is hard wired to the vehicles electrical system

No facility for the driver to disable the camera

Camera to have night vision capability

No visual display from the camera within the vehicle

No audio recording

Any data recording is to be to a secure encrypted file format only accessible to authorised persons

3.0 Reason for recommendation:

The current policy determined by the Licensing Board at their meeting of 28 June 2011 states:

'In car cameras are only permitted if of an approved type for the storage of digitally encrypted images and should comply with the rules of evidence acceptable in a court of law. Images will only be available to Dorset Police and/or Bournemouth Borough Council licensing officers.

Other electronic equipment which is not supplied with the vehicle as standard should be for the receiving and fulfilling of bookings and be of an approved type. Unauthorised equipment for the recording and replay of video and audio is not permitted.'

From this, it is not clear where approval should come from or whether or not approval is required each system or even each vehicle.

4.0 Background detail:

Sections 47(1) and 48(2) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 allow the Council to attach any such conditions to a hackney carriage or private hire vehicle licence as are reasonably necessary.

In 2005 the Council part funded (through a grant from Government Office South West) the installation of CCTV cameras in 70 licensed vehicles.

5.0 Consultation: N/A

6.0 Alternative options:

6.1 Confirm the above policy

6.2 Approve any necessary changes

7.0 Summary of Financial/Resource Implications - N/A

8.0 Summary of legal implications - see 4.0 above

9.0 Summary of Environmental impact N/A

10.0 Summary of Equalities and diversity impact N/A

11.0 Summary of Risk Assessment: N/A

Background papers: None

