



To: Communities and Neighbourhood Scrutiny Board (4)

Date: 29th January 2026

Subject: CCTV in Taxis Task and Finish Group

1 Purpose of the Note

- 1.1 To inform Communities and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board (4) of the recommendations from the CCTV in Taxis Task and Finish Group.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Communities and Neighbourhood Scrutiny Board (4) are recommended:

- 1) That the Cabinet Member for City Services:
 - a. Formalise the process for reporting taxi licence revocations under delegated powers to ensure Licensing Committee are kept informed of licenses that have been revoked.
 - b. Support the Council to formally respond to the Government's national consultation concerning taxi licensing regulations, considering responses from the CCTV in Taxis Task and Finish Group before the closing date of 1st April 2026.
 - 2) To agree that a letter is sent to the Secretary of State for Transport, the Mayor of the West Midlands Combined Authority and the Police and Crime Commissioner for the West Midland requesting clear timescales for progress on this matter following the closure of the public consultation.

3 Information and Background

- 3.1 At their meeting on the 17th of July 2025, Communities and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board (4) agreed to establish a task and finish group establish whether the Council should require taxis to have CCTV as part of Licensing requirements.
- 3.2 Mandatory CCTV had been considered previously by way of a Cabinet Member report in 2022, a 12-week consultation was undertaken, where 67.9% of respondents did not support the proposal.
- 3.3 In January 2025 a taxi driver from Coventry was jailed for sexually assaulting a woman in the back of his cab in December 2022.

3.4 Membership of the task and finish group was:

- Cllr J McNicholas (Co-Chair)
- Cllr F Abbott (Co-Chair)
- Cllr E Ruane
- Cllr T Sawdon
- Cllr R Thay

3.5 The task and finish group considered several factors regarding the mandatory use of CCTV in licensed taxis, including national legislation, guidance, current policy, crime data, local comparators, costs to the council/drivers and impact on vulnerable groups.

4 Meetings of the Task and Finish Group

4.1 The Task and Finish Group have met twice so far. The first meeting was to agree the scope of the Task and Finish Group, as well as to provide some background and context to the work being planned.

4.2 In meeting one officers outlined context of the with CCTV in taxis current policy, the national governments position, the current policy in Coventry and its immediate neighbours in the WMCA area.

4.3 Officers further answered questions detailing costs and benefits of CCTV installation, including the cost to drivers and how that may be mitigated, public support/opposition to installation, its impact on safeguarding and data security.

4.4 Issues related to cross-border hiring were raised highlighting the larger number of taxis in Coventry not licenced in Coventry. Any licensing requirement in Coventry would only impact vehicles licenced in Coventry, not all taxis would be affected, and the implementation could encourage taxis to choose to licence outside of Coventry.

4.5 Members considered that the introduction of CCTV could potentially address certain safeguarding issues but had some shortcomings and would need to be monitored and appropriately implemented to be fully effective. The council acting as the data controller would need to guard the data and adopt a clear policy regarding its use. Furthermore, the council would need to consult with relevant at-risk groups as there would always be risks of cross-border licenced taxis avoiding regulation and licence revocations in Coventry.

4.6 Members requested that:

- Information be gathered from other local authorities that have implemented CCTV in their taxis.
- Engagement with victims, women's and disability groups to provide their positions alongside any relevant information be considered.
- Take account of the recommendations in the National Audit on Group Based Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (The Casey Report).
- A representative from the police data department be invited owing to the lack of data surrounding crime involving taxis or taxi drivers.

4.7 The second meeting was to consider research summarising key points from other local authorities' experience, as well as information on data collected by the police.

- 4.8 A representative from the police laid out the significant limitations on the current system when it came to logging whether crimes were committed by or against taxi drivers, and whether the crime took place in a taxi. There was therefore minimal new data that could be provided to the board to inform their decisions.
- 4.9 Officers presented the information requested at previous meetings laying out the council and combined authorities' current policy on CCTV. It was noted data collection may improve if the process surrounding taxi licence revocation was formalised under delegated powers. Information was also circulated on the implementation of CCTV in Taxis in other local authorities, providing insight on their effectiveness and key takeaways applicable to Coventry.
- 4.10 Information was circulated on the Governments proposals on national taxi licensing in response to the recommendations in the National Audit on Group Based Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse. Members were informed that the Department of Transport are proposing to launch a consultation on national standards for taxi licensing. Although there was no specific timeline on this and some of the details were still to be announced it was noted this could impact and recontextualise any recommendations made by the task and finish group on taxi licensing requirements.
- 4.11 The Government launched a consultation on Local transport authorities and the licensing of taxis and private hire vehicles on 8 January 2026 to run until 1 April 2026.¹
- 4.12 The consultation focuses on identifying the right level of regulation for taxis and whether local transport authorities should be responsible for taxi and PHV licensing as proposed in the English Devolution White Paper.
- 4.13 Members of the T&F group will meet one more time to consider the questions contained in the government's consultation and request that the Council formally respond within the given consultation period.

Appendix A: Scoping Document

Appendix B: Presentation

Appendix C: Key issues from other Local Authorities

Gennie Holmes
 Scrutiny Co-ordinator
gennie.holmes@coventry.gov.uk

Asher Veness
 Democratic Services Officer
asher.veness@coventry.gov.uk

Law and Governance

¹ [Local transport authorities and the licensing of taxis and private hire vehicles - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-transport-authorities-and-the-licensing-of-taxis-and-private-hire-vehicles)