

Report of Taxi & Private Hire Licensing Manager

Report to Chief Officer Elections and Regulatory

Date: 31 March 2021

Subject: Waiver of Contracts Procedure Rules No 8.1 and 8.2 (Intermediate Value Procurements) to award Reveal Media for the purchase of personal bodycams and supporting hardware for Taxi & Private Hire Licensing

Are specific electoral Wards affected?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):		
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number:		
Appendix number:		

1. Summary of main issues

The Chief Officer Elections and Regulatory is asked to approve a procurement of body cameras for the Taxi & Private Hire Licensing enforcement officers at the end of the previous software period without following the usual corporate procurement rules. This report sets out how the council will acquire new bodycams and software at a lower cost over the next three years than renewing with the current provider.

1.0 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To seek approval for the new procurement for Taxi & Private Hire Licensing to use the bodycam provider without a full procurement.
- 1.2 This change will enable the team to acquire working bodycams ahead of the re-opening of entertainment venues in April.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 Personal Body worn CCTV equipment is provided for all enforcement officers to minimise the risks in relation to enforcement activities, this equipment has the facility to record both visual and audio information. The main benefits are to show a clear and accurate account of any incident, deter and minimise the risk of

confrontation, record audio and video evidence in support of any enforcement action and to support an officer's account in the event of malicious allegation or complaint.

- 2.2 On all occasions when enforcement officers are undertaking enforcement activities, which may have potential to subject them to a confrontational situations, body worn CCTV equipment must be utilised as follows:-
- 2.3 When undertaking enforcement activities all officers are to wear the Body Worn cameras provided. When 'Lone or Isolated work is undertaken the enforcement officer must wear and operate the equipment. The cameras must be activated by officers when approaching a vehicle or driver to ensure the whole incident is captured. The Body worn camera must be used responsibly by officer in line with their training and legislation.
- 2.4 When utilising this equipment the responsible officer/wearer is required to check that it is operational prior to leaving the site and before commencing their field operational activities. (Any defects are to be reported to the Line Manager)
- 2.5 The equipment is used to re-enforce authority and capture evidence. It should be operated when approaching vehicles to complete inspections, in the event of a confrontational situation or for identification purposes i.e. Driver not carrying Identification, etc. It can also be utilised by the officer on any occasions when they feel vulnerable, at risk or threatened.
- 2.6 The current equipment is
 - 10 Edesix VB200 Bodycams and Software Manager installed on a standalone laptop used to access / manage the bodycams, store and remove footage for evidential purposes.

The current model of bodycams the Edesix VB200, these were purchased in 2016 direct from Edesix (Now trading under Motorola Solutions) and require a yearly subscription licence for each individual bodycam to allow software updates and downloading / storage of footage.

- 2.7 The current VB200 Bodycams are having issues retaining charge and this has led to incidents when the bodycams have become un-functional whilst officers have been out on patrol. Motorola Solutions have confirmed that the VB200 is now an obsolete product, and that the failing of the PCB and batteries may be end of life, and the repairs may be costly.
- 2.8 To ensure that bodycams are kept on constant charge in a secure place when not in use, a price has been obtained for a 7 unit multi – docking station charging unit which would enable constant charging when not in use for 7 bodycams. This however would mean that we would still have 3 bodycams at any one time that were not being charged.
- 2.9 The current version of Video Manager is no longer supported therefore an updated version would have to be purchased, at a significant cost.

3.0 Main Issues

- 3.1 The council faces a choice – whether to renew the software and accept the poor battery performance of the existing provider, or to procure new bodycams which would reduce the risk of software and battery performance issues for the next few years.
- 3.2 The cost of updating the Edesix VB200 is shown in the table below

10 x licences video manager for each bodycam £280 – Total £2,800	£2,800.00
Annual Individual Licence cost per bodycam - £59 – Total £590	£590.00
Seven Slot Charging / Docking Station - £510	£510.00
Delivery	£20.00
Total	£3,920.00

3.3 It is our opinion that this is not a cost effective option, due to the current condition of the bodycams and the likelihood that the units will fail and result in costly repair costs for bodycams that are at the end of their expected life.

3.4 The following replacement options are considered.

- Motorola Solutions - (Previously Edesix)
- Reveal media

Quotes for both have been obtained and attached to this report. The quote is for

Motorola

10 x VB400 Bodycams	£4,300.00
14 port multi charging / docking station	£565.00
10 x licences video manager for each bodycam	£2,800.00
Delivery	£20.00
Total	£7685.00

With Additional Optional Warranty Costs

10 x Video Manager software assurance – for 12 months after initial 12 months	£600
10 x Warranty for VB400 Bodycams – Hardware Only – extended Warranty after 12 months	£1,100
Total	£1,700

Reveal Media

Reveal D3 Body Camera & DEMS Software License Bundle (inc S/W S&M for year 1)	£5,490.00
D3/D5 Smart Dock -18 port	£2695.00

Delivery	£30.00
Total	£8215.00

Additional Optional Warranty Costs

Extended Warranty Cover for D3/D5 Smart Dock -18 port – After 12 Months	£199.00 Year 1 £299.00 Year 2 and after		
10 x Software Support and maintenance cover for bodycam after 12 months £39 per Bodycam	£390.00		
10 x Warranty for bodycams after 12 months	*Full Manufacturer's Warranty £290	*Full Manufacturer's Warranty *Damage from Normal Operational Use £490.00	Full Manufacturer's Warranty *Damage from Normal Operational Use * Warranty Cover for Battery £690.00
Total After Year 1	£879.00	£1079.00	£1,279.00
Total After Year 2	£979.00	£1179.00	£1,379.00

Considerations

- 3.5 Both Motorola Solutions and Reveal Media bodycams are both high quality bodycams that are fit for purpose for the role of the Enforcement Team and will both provide excellent CCTV Footage that can be used to support the Officers in collecting evidence and also assist in maintaining their personal safety.
- 3.6 The Reveal Media Bodycams differ in that they also have a front facing LED screen which has a proven calming effect on people being recorded and maximises transparency with the public. The screen would also allow the Officers to view the video playback whilst away from the office without a need to download the footage first.
- 3.7 Currently Parking Services within Leeds City Council, are using Reveal Media Bodycams and they have no issues.

Preferred Option – Reveal Media

3.8 Having reviewed all the options, our preferred option is the Reveal Media bodycams due to

- lower ongoing warranty costs, which provide full cover for the devices which will save money over the estimated shelf life of the devices (Est. 5 years)
- Additional safety feature of the forward facing LED screen which will increase Officer Safety and potentially reduce conflict with members of the public and the licensed trade when carrying out Enforcement Duties

4.0 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

4.1.1 No new consultation is required in order to procure the new bodycams.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

4.2.1 There are no major implications for equality and diversity /cohesion and integration.

4.3 Council Policies and City Priorities

4.3.1 This change is in line with council policies and has been discussed with the council's Finance team.

Best Council Plan

Towards being an Enterprising Council

Our Ambition and Approach

Our Ambition is for Leeds to be the best city and Leeds City Council to be the best council in the UK – fair, open and welcoming with an economy that is both prosperous and sustainable so all our communities are successful.

Our Approach is to adopt a new leadership style of civic enterprise, where the council becomes more enterprising, business and partners become more civic, and citizens become more actively engaged in the work of the city.

Our Best Council Outcomes

Make it easier for people to do business with us.

Our Best Council Objectives

Promoting sustainable and inclusive economic growth – Improving the economic wellbeing of local people and businesses. With a focus on:

- Helping people into jobs;
- Boosting the local economy; and
- Generating income for the council.

Ensuring high quality public services – improving quality, efficiency and involving people in shaping their city. With a focus on;

- Getting services right first time; and
- Improving customer satisfaction.

The Taxi & Private Hire Licensing policies contribute to priorities:

- Reduce crime levels and their impact across Leeds;
- Effectively tackle and reduce anti-social behaviour in communities;
- Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults:

4.3.3 Leeds City Council has both a moral and legal obligation to discharge its duty of care in respect of children and vulnerable adults across all of its services. This cannot be achieved by any single service or agency. Safeguarding is ultimately the responsibility of all of us and depends on the everyday vigilance of staff who play a part in the lives of children or adults at risk of harm.

5.0 Resources and Value for Money

5.1 The use of the new bodycams will enable the service to help the council resume services following lockdown.

6. Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

6.1 The council's Legal Services team are aware of the waiver approach, and there are no further requirements relating to access to information. The report is not available for call in.

7. Risk Management

7.1 The following risks can be identified.

- **Risk of not updating bodycam software and battery life.** If the council opted not to update its bodycams in taxi and private hire licensing, there is a risk that bodycams would not be operational at the start of a shift, or not reliable when used to refer to following on street enforcement.
- **Risk of Leeds not conducting on street enforcement until full procurement complete.** If the council opted not to conduct enforcement until a full procurement is complete, it would hamper enforcement, on street presence and public confidence as lockdown resumes.

8. Conclusion

8.1 The Taxi and Private Hire Licensing service has made arrangements for replacing the existing bodycams, which are mandatory for enforcement and principal enforcement officers when working on street.

8.2 The combination of software and battery life means that the current bodycams are not fit for purpose and need to be replaced. The Virtual Media product represents the best value for money over the next three year period, and aligns the service with the supplier to Parking Services.

9. Recommendations

9.1 The Chief Officer Elections and Regulatory is asked to approve the procurement of the Virtual Media bodycams as set out in this report.