

Report to Scrutiny Board (Sustainable Economy and Culture)

Date: 20 December 2012

Subject: Camera enforcement of bus lanes

Are specific electoral Wards affected?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	City and Hunslet, Hyde Park and Woodhouse	
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:		

Summary of main issues

1. Camera enforcement of bus lanes began in August 2011.
2. The scheme has been successful in reducing offences with a drop of about 74%.
3. A methodology has been established for extending the scheme to other sites and the next 5 cameras will be operational shortly.

1 Purpose of this report

1.1 This report is at the request of Scrutiny board (Sustainable Economy and Culture)

2 Background information

2.1 Camera enforcement of bus lanes was introduced at an initial 7 sites, 5 on the City Centre loop and 2 on outer bus lanes. These sites had been identified as a high priority for enforcement due to the large number of offences and the subsequent impact on bus journey times. The first cameras were introduced in August 2011. Due to technical difficulties and delays in government approval it was not possible to introduce all 7 at once. The current scheme is as follows :

Site	Start date
Kirkgate (junction with Vicar Lane)	8.8.2011
Vicar Lane (north of Corn Exchange)	8.8.2011
Headrow (junction with Park Row)	8.8.2011
Boar Lane (near City Square)	20.9.11
Burley Road	23.9.11
New Market Street	2.2.12
Wellington Street	2.2.12

2.2 The scheme is semi automated. There is a database of exempt vehicles known as the white list, which includes the following categories of vehicle :

- Buses
- Ambulances
- Fire Engines
- Marked Police cars
- Hackney Carriages

2.3 When a vehicle is detected using the bus lane, the registration is matched with the white list. If it is not on the database, a video clip is produced showing the incident. This clip is then viewed by an operative who decides whether a ticket is appropriate. The registration is then matched with DVLA, and a notice is produced with 2 still images attached and posted to the registered keeper.

2.4 From this point on the notice is processed in the same way as a Parking penalty, including the right of appeal to an independent tribunal. As the legislative process is identical this work is carried out by Parking Services. Income of about £2m has been generated so far.

2.5 As a result of enforcement the number of offences has fallen dramatically. An outline of the figures is below

Site	No. of offences at introduction	No. of offences at last week Oct 2011	No. of offences at last week Oct 2012	%age drop since introduction	%age drop since Oct11 to Oct 12	Total No. of offences to 30th Oct 2012
Boar Lane	795	587	286	-64.0%	-51.3%	22,448
Burley Rd	252	228	109	-56.7%	-52.2%	7,850
Headrow	602	81	151	-74.9%	86.4%	7,586
Kirkgate (Vicar Ln)	803	363	180	-77.6%	-50.4%	15,496
Vicar Lane	477	265	123	-74.2%	-53.6%	11,109
New Market Street	167		27	-83.8%		2,129
Wellington Street	476		54	-88.7%		4,267
						70,885

2.2 Comparing the total offences from week one to the last week in October gives a reduction of 74%.

2.3 The scheme was well publicised before going live and warning notices were sent out for the first 2 weeks of operation. Surveys from 2009 showed more than 8000 at just the Kirkgate site, suggesting that the reduction due to enforcement could be as high as 98 %.

2.4 Offence levels at all bus lanes have been reviewed and work is currently being carried out to introduce restrictions on the following sites :

- Canal Street in Armley
- A65 (4 cameras)
- Burmantofts Road
- York Street

3 Recommendation

3.1 Scrutiny board are asked to note the contents of this report.