Appendix B

CCTV Enforcement Camera Locations

1.0 SUMMARY

1.1 This appendix outlines why CCTV cameras used for Parking Enforcement are located at their current sites.

2. Background

2.1 In January 2006, the Borough Council approved to undertake CCTV enforcement of bus lanes, some parking contraventions and moving traffic offences. After obtaining approval from the Secretary of State via London Councils, and carrying out a procurement exercise, the first CCTV enforcement cameras went live in July 2007.

2.2 Whilst the policy of introducing CCTV enforcement was agreed by Members, the location and operational roll out of cameras was decided by the former Head of Parking in consultation with the Divisional Head of Public Realm.

2.3 As current Head of Parking and Traffic Enforcement, I have reviewed the camera sites and have found they are mainly located on main roads near junctions. The cameras cover various roads forming the junctions and bus lanes. Some of the cameras are dual use and therefore also used for monitoring Community Safety incidents.

2.4 I have also found that over 60 percent of PCNs are issued to motorists who live outside the Borough.

3. CCTV Policy

3.1 The following protocols are included in the overarching policy document due to be presented to the Executive in December ’10 or January ’11. These procedures follow best practice guidelines within the industry.

3.2 **CCTV** - We use CCTV cameras for Traffic Enforcement and Community Safety purposes. Currently cameras that are used for parking and bus lane enforcement have a dual use for public safety, in which instance the public safety element always takes precedence.

3.3 **Bus Lanes/ Routes** - We consider it is appropriate to use CCTV for the enforcement of contraventions in relation to bus lanes, as it is the only effective means of enforcement available. The absence of CCTV enforcement would result in drivers using bus lanes thus reducing the beneficial effect for public transport users during operational hours by increasing route-running times.

3.4 **Main roads within the Borough** - As part of our commitment to ease traffic congestion and improve road safety, London Borough of Hounslow use a
network of CCTV cameras to enforce parking contraventions. Enforcement of parking restrictions on main routes/roads ensures that amongst others waiting and loading restrictions are enforced during the prescribed hours.

3.5 **Areas of non-compliance unless a constant presence is assigned to the location** - There are some areas of the Borough where the only way of achieving compliance is to allocate permanent resource to a location, Civil Enforcement Officers (CEO’s) will spend time moving vehicles on which in turn can cause confrontation with the motorist and presents a Health and Safety risk, local business’s also feel that the CEO presence is damaging their trade. A CEO has a large area to patrol during the course of the day and this type of scenario can lead to other areas seeing a reduction in enforcement cover. The only practical solution is to patrol the area using CCTV cameras, this removes potential confrontations and ensures constant monitoring to gain compliance and maintain traffic flow.

3.6 **Areas isolated by location** - There are small pockets of the Borough that still require enforcement. These may include small shopping parades or double yellow lines on junctions. Often due to the restricted CEO presence compliance can be difficult to achieve as in addition to the time spent at site, some time is lost travelling to and from. An example of this is the Bear/Swan Road site in Hanworth, prior to CCTV, CEO’s travelled from either Feltham or Hounslow town centres to enforce the restrictions which reduced compliance in the town centres. In these locations Fixed or Mobile CCTV offer’s the most effective means of enforcement.

3.7 **High volume areas** - Some areas that have considerable through traffic where there are a number of restrictions to enforce, certain types of inconsiderate parking not only restricts traffic flow but can be dangerous. CCTV camera enforcement is a valuable tool for enforcing against offences such as vehicles stopping on the white zig zag lines at pedestrian crossings, parking on the footpath, bus stops and in “Loading Only” bays. By achieving compliance at these locations we ensure that vehicles that have permission to stop and park can do in the allocated road space, this maintains traffic flow and reduces congestion.

3.8 **Mobile CCTV vehicle** - The CCTV van can observe vehicles parked in contravention whilst being driven or stationary. Evidence of the contravention is recorded by an on board CCTV camera and then reviewed by an officer prior to a Penalty Charge Notice being sent out to the registered keeper of the vehicle. The vehicle concentrates on offences such as School keep clear zig zags, Bus Stops, Pedestrian crossings and vehicles parked on the pavement in areas where it is not permitted.

4 **CCTV Performance**

4.1 **Appendix C1** shows the number of CCTV PCNs issued by each camera per month. Those cameras issuing low numbers of PCNs are where there are technical problems with wireless communication and images cannot be captured to the required legal standard. We are working on fixes for these.

4.2 Please note:
- data relates to this year only as older information was kept on the previous Parking IT system. Its information is archived and reports of this nature are not readily available.
The cameras switched off at the request of the Executive pending the July review, resulted in a fall overall in PCN numbers. However, with resources focussed on fewer sites more contraventions were picked up in the remaining areas.

4.3 All cameras have now had updated signs and sites advertised in accordance with the minutes of the Executive July 2010.

5 Conclusion

5.1 The officers responsible for locating enforcement cameras used best practice and objective guidance in choosing sites. Whilst complaints may have been considered for some locations like school routes, there was no member involvement albeit the Lead Member at the time would have been kept abreast of developments.

5.2 Where there are controls in place it is the Council’s duty to enforce these. Various means can be used to enforce including CCTV.

5.3 The yield of PCNs so far supports the need for continuous enforcement at the sites chosen. When an acceptable level of compliance is reached in the specific zones, the cameras can be relocated to other sites.