

## Member's Questions – 2021

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**R: 04.01.21**

**S: 05.01.21**

**A:**

Cllr Richard Britton

Would you agree that Automatic Speed Watch cameras appear to be a powerful response to communities' anger about speeding, especially in our rural communities, and their frustration with the police's limited capacity to deal with this menace? And in view of the apparent success of trials in other force areas will he commit to undertake an investigation into the deployment of Auto Speed Watch devices in Wiltshire?

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**R: 19.02.21**

**S: 22.02.21**

**A: 01:03:21**

Cllr Richard Britton

To what extent does the Force use the government-backed Blue Light procurement service and how do you satisfy yourself that police procurement delivers value for money?

**Response:**

*Wiltshire contribute, use and are an active member of the South West Police Procurement Department (SWPPD). By obtaining procurement services from the 5 Force collaboration we are able to benefit from economies of scale by buying with our local forces (total 5 force budget of circa £950m compared to £120m on our own). Where possible joint contracts are let for all 5 Forces which also reduces administration costs.*

*It also means that we can benefit from category management which we probably would not be able to afford as a single organisation. Category management allows you to have professional procurement officers who focus on a specific area of the business. In SWPPD the categories include Professional Services, ICT, Fleet and Estates. These specific procurement officers better understand the market and the opportunities in these areas, this would not be the case if they were trying to cover*

*the whole procurement need. SWPPD Boards occur monthly with my Chief Finance Officer representing Wiltshire's interests and needs.*

*We are one of the few regions who have this joined up service which has enabled us to drive improvements. An annual report on the performance of the unit is produced and scrutinised by all 5 PCC's. The report produced in September showed savings of over £2m with £0.3m relating to Wiltshire and many significant contracts let (for instance the procurement of services to undertake the Royal Wootton Bassett refurbishment). All these procurements occur in line with our own regulations which specify the number of tenders to be received at various spending levels to ensure Best Value is achieved.*

*Bluelight Commercial has been mandated by the Home Office. Bluelight will provide an interface between the Home Office and local forces. They will provide a National Supplier Management Strategy and Pillar Strategies. An example of this will be for Fleet. They will work with Fleet Managers, Operational Users and Finance Directors to identify what the 'whole' service request is and what specifications vehicles must have to fulfil certain roles. This is expected to gain better prices and more interest from suppliers. A national contract has been in place previously with a single force leading on this for the service. By having specific staff to undertake this role is expected to deliver better value. There are a number of other services which are expected from Bluelight Commercial which is illustrated on their website (<https://bluelightcommercial.police.uk/about-us/governance/>), this includes improving the skills of the local procurement teams.*

*SWWPD and Bluelight have a good relationship with a number of the new Bluelight team being recruited from SWPPD. This will give the region an early insight into opportunities. Funding for Bluelight is provided by a national top slice from the whole Police budget and is guaranteed for 3 years. Bluelight have committed to provide a full statement of the value it has added and a business plan for its continuation post the initial funding period by January 2022. At this stage we will see what benefits have been delivered and whether we need to amend the services provided by SWPPD.*