

Report to the Thames Valley Police & Crime Panel

Title: Topic Selection and Referral Protocol – Request regarding the use of speed cameras

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Background

1. In September 2012 the Panel agreed a Topic Selection & Referral Protocol which would perform two functions:

- i. It would allow potential scrutiny topics to be filtered to ensure that only appropriate topics make it on to the PCP work programme
- ii. It would enable those topics that are better dealt with by a different body to be referred on to that body

Link to Panel meeting (item 6)

<https://democracy.buckscc.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=751&MID=5448>

<https://democracy.buckscc.gov.uk/documents/s26181/TopicSelectionandReferralCriteria.pdf>

2. In March 2014 the protocol was used as a member of the public requested an item on the use of speed cameras. The Panel decided not to scrutinise this area as can be seen from the link below

<https://democracy.buckscc.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=751&MID=6088#A128767>

3. A letter has been received from the same member of public asking for consideration of this issue again. His reasoning is that since this time further compelling evidence in the form of Department for Transport (DfT) policy guidance has come to light that would give just cause for the Panel to reconsider this topic for inclusion within its work programme. In summary the DfT's policy guidance sets out the following requirements:

- (i) Where local authorities are contributing to the cost of speed or camera enforcement they should ensure deployment strategies are published alongside the information about collisions, casualties and speed information.
- (ii) Where local authorities are not contributing towards the costs of speed camera enforcement, the police should be '*encouraged*' to publish a deployment strategy.
- (iii) Police forces should publish total numbers of prosecutions arising or offences pursued from camera enforcement in a year (whether fixed or mobile).

<http://www.info4u-bucksspeedcameras.co.uk/resources/la-letter-penning-20110627.pdf>

<http://www.info4u-bucksspeedcameras.co.uk/resources/working-group-speed-camera-report.pdf>

<http://www.info4u-bucksspeedcameras.co.uk/resources/dft-publication-of-speed-camera-information.pdf>

4. The member of the public also referred to the fact that some other areas were producing speed management strategy and sent this link as an example:-

<http://www.hertsdirect.org/docs/pdf/I/18339258/speed-management.pdf>

5. Current information on speed cameras can be found on the Thames Valley Police website as follows:-

<http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/rdsafe/rdsafe-roadpol/rdsafe-roadpol-speedenforcement/rdsafe-roadpol-speedenforcement-cameras.htm>

RECOMMENDATION

That Members consider the topic scoring criteria in relation to the attached letter and whether the concerns raised in the letter to the Panel Chairman should be an area for scrutiny of the performance of the PCC in monitoring the Chief Constable's administration of speed camera's and therefore added to the Work Programme.