January 2013 BWVSG meeting minutes:

Introduction:

Chief Superintendent Wayne Jones opened the day and made the following key points:

-Police forces are cash rich but revenue poor. Despite all forces needing to meet stringent savings targets, there is money available to be invested in more efficient services.

-Police forces must not expect to make a one off purchase but sustain the replacing of kit as BWV is likely to go personal issue **(in the years to come)**

-CS Jones predicts that in the next 5-7 years body worn video will become so common that during court cases, if body worn video was available but not used, the defence will be successful in getting the case thrown out of court.

Session one: How to get Body Worn Video into your organisation:

To put together the most effective business case in introducing BWV within your force, the following team is preferable:

- Procurement – These should be the first to get involved, they can set the wheels in motion for the rest of the procurement process whilst you gather the rest of your team and consider other factors within the project.
- Someone that controls the money. This can be an association lead (ACPO) or your PCC.
- Senior member of I.T team.
- Operational officer – This must be an advocate of BWV and will be the end user.
- ACC involvement is also essential to ensure the project is supported on the right level.

Annual funding and future proofing should also be considered at the early stages. Sussex had no future proofing or annual funding and it causes the project to temporarily grind to a halt.

How to get through the procurement process with Martin Nel:

Martin Nel, Service Support & Vendor Manager within ICT of Hampshire and Thames Valley presented the different options for procurement. Martin was fortunate that he has an I.T background as well as procurement. Body worn video is often described as troublesome from an I.T department's point of view due to amounts of storage and bandwidth required as well as data integrity.

If your organisation's policy allows it, purchasing directly from the supplier should be the simplest solution but other formal procurement options include:

EU Procurement or similar compliant tender:

This option is unadvisable as realistic timeline to complete 9-12 months. If you do decide to take this route, don't describe the technical details of the product you desire, describe what you want the product to do. It was also pointed out that the tendering process can discriminate against worthy suppliers and lead to operationally poor equipment being procured.

Sprint II Framework Contract:

The Sprint II framework is a 'one stop shop national framework agreement'. The Home Office state that Police Forces must use it for all commodity ICT purchases. The Sprint 11 framework is managed by SCC. This is an advantageous method to procuring for various reasons including:

- Sprint II allows equipment to be purchased immediately
- No tender process
- No maximum value
- It maintains compliance with all local Standing Orders and EU Procurement Directives
- It provides a highly flexible contracting platform now and into the future
- There are low fixed margins

You will be required to pay a small margin to procure through SCC (1.9% for hardware). Payment cycles to suppliers can also be significantly extended when processed through SCC, so it isn't uncommon for suppliers to ask for a deposit or reduced payment terms. Both these factors are negligible compared to the cost and time of going to tender.

There are benefits to be gained by forces choosing a common set of suppliers.

Sprint II is a platform to make procurement easier and you can continue to engage directly with your supplier. The supplier will be offering support for your cameras and can offer advice on rolling out your projects.

Session two: Preparations for using the equipment:

Policy and procedures with Warren Franklin:

Warren Franklin presented on their policy and procedures. Warren and Sussex Police have kindly agreed to share their policy and procedure document within the BWVSG. If you have not received a copy please email jack@revealmedia.com

Training:

Warren Franklin and Sussex Police generously agreed to share their NCAL training package with the BWVSG. The MET Police (Lambeth) have been using Sussex's training package and

found it very useful. The NCALT eLearning, which contains legislative and some user guidance on operation of the camera, can be accessed by requesting logon details from:

Alison Sleat   alison.sleat@sussex.pnn.police.uk or Scott Edwards scott.edwards@sussex.pnn.police.uk

Session three: Technical Solutions with Sam Mullahy (Hampshire and TVP IT project manager) .

BWV creates large amounts of data which needs to be managed securely and evidentially with back office software. When a force rolls out cameras, there are three options to handle the data:

Standalone:

Each site has a non-networked standalone computer where the footage is downloading from the cameras. The database of users and the videos are separate and within their own databases in each site.

Advantages:

- Minimal I.T support needed in initial roll out.
- Single charging/uploading point for cameras

Issues:

- Local support needed as the solution is stand alone
- Videos can only be played back at the location they were downloaded
- Incidents only searchable from location they were downloaded
- Not centrally back up

Semi Networked Solution:

Networked version of back office software installed and database of users and list of footage are stored centrally. Videos are still stored locally at the point of download; no footage is transferred across the network. Videos can be downloaded at any site but only viewable at point of download.

- Advantages over standalone:
- All incidents searchable from any locations
- PC is remotely supportable
- Active directory for user login

- Cameras easily used at any location
- Report can be run on entire system.

Issues:

- Media is only stored locally and cannot be played back from other locations

Fully Networked Solution:

Networked version of back office software installed, database and all footage stored centrally. Footage can be downloaded and viewed in any location.

Advantages over semi-networked option:

- Fully centralised solution
- Media files can be viewed across the network.

Limitations:

- Sufficient network capacity needs to be in place
- Sufficient network storage needs to be in place.

Clearly the fully networked solution is the most desirable setup, but requires significant bandwidth and storage. The required amount depends on volumes. It is worth engaging with your supplier about your requirements.

Session 4: The future of BWV and project Hyperion:

The appetite for body worn video has significantly increased over the last 18 months. Various Forces and organisations are increasing their number of cameras enormously. We have also seen BWV included in budgets and forecasts, rather than being a purchase with 'left over' money.

Operation Hyperion with Steve Goodier (Hampshire Police):

Operation Hyperion is a project to study the benefits of BWV becoming personal issue within a contained environment. Every frontline officer at every station on the Isle of White will be equipped with cameras. Portsmouth University have been commissioned to evaluate the following:

- Impact on recorded crime
- Impact on complaints against police/time to resolution
- Impact on the number of assaults against police officers
- Impact on criminal justice process
- Review of IT requirements methods and procedures
- Impact on public perception and confidence

- Changes in police officers and other users perception and use of BWV
- Cost benefit analysis

The report will take approximately 14 months to complete, 12 months of field use and 2 months for Portsmouth University to complete their findings. The report will be available to the BWVSG and any interim reports will be made available and the next BWVSG meeting.

Other research areas include:

- Understanding person description
- Frontline interactions
- Information recording

Operation Hyperion will also give useful indications of future use including; voluntary interviews, streamlined process and statements evidence in-chief. Hampshire will be testing voluntary witness (suspect not under arrest) video interviews replacing the need for written statement. Currently video evidence can only be in addition to written statement.

It should be noted that the BWVSG want to work with CPS to understand what evidence CPS need. At the moment the CPS say they are getting too much information, but it is not clear what needs to be provided.