

BRITISH TRANSPORT POLICE AUTHORITY

MINUTES

POLICE AUTHORITY

27th JANUARY 2009, 10.30AM

at

G1 & G2 - FHQ 25 CAMDEN ROAD

- Present:**
- Ms M Banerjee (Chairman)**
 - Sir David O'Dowd (Deputy Chairman)**
 - Mr L Adams**
 - Mr I Dobbs**
 - Mr C Foxall**
 - Mr M Holden**
 - Mr J King**
 - Ms C Knights**
 - Suzanne May**
 - Mr R O'Toole**
 - Mrs W Towers**
 - Mr J Weimar**
- Apologies:**
- Mr R Culley**
 - Mr R Gisby**
- In attendance:**
- Mr I Johnston, Chief Constable**
 - Mr A Trotter, Deputy Chief Constable**
 - Mr A Pacey, Assistant Chief Constable, Operations**
 - Mr S Thomas, Assistant Chief Constable, London & Olympics**
 - Mr P Crowther, Assistant Chief Constable, Crime**
 - Mrs S Burd, Director of Finance and Corporate Services**
 - Ms L Scott, HR Director**
 - Ms M Daniels, Acting Head of Strategic Development**
 - Mr A Clarke, Interim Head of Finance**
 - Mrs E Derrick, PA to the Chief Constable**
 - Mr B Gosden, Chief Inspector**
 - Mr C Dreyfus, Inspector (part)**
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- Mr R Hemmings, Chief Executive & Clerk**
 - Mrs E Pike, Treasurer**
 - Mr P Haddock, Deputy Chief Executive**
 - Mrs S Elvy, Research and Policy Manager**
 - Miss L Bryant, PA**
 - Miss L Barrick, Business Support Manager & Minutes**

PART I – ITEMS TAKEN IN PUBLIC

01/2009 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Non- Agenda

The Chair welcomed everyone to her first meeting and said that she was happy to be taking up the chairmanship of the Authority and looked forward to the challenges ahead.

Apologies were given from Mr Gisby and Mr Culley who was unwell. The Members sent their best wishes to Mr Culley for a speedy recovery.

02/2009 MINUTES OF MEETING 9th DECEMBER 2008

Agenda Item 1

Mr Foxall requested it be noted that it was the underlying principle of the Accounts being signed off by the A&CG Committee that he did not agree with, not the proposal to have more detailed financial information coming to the Authority, which had, in fact, been his proposal.

These were approved as an accurate record with the above note.

03/2009 MATTERS ARISING

Agenda Item 2

A schedule of Authority and Committee meetings and the Force's financial cycle was being drawn up; so that it was clear which periods' figures would be available for each meeting.

The Policing Plan and Pledge had been agreed at the last meeting of the Policing Plan Working Group (PPWG) and would be coming to the March Authority meeting for final approval. The Policing Pledge worked as a stand alone document encompassing the principles and the values of how the police work. The targets would be available separately in the Policing Plan but cross-referenced throughout. The crime maps issue had been challenged but it had been decided that it was appropriate to include these. The crime maps were nearly ready and Members would be sent a link to the website once these went live.

The charging model consultation was due to start in the middle of the year, depending on the outcome of the Judicial Review. The legal team had confirmed that making arrangements for this would not affect the case in any way. The current PSAs would be terminated before 31st March to make way for the new PSA, and it had been confirmed that this would not prejudice the case in the Judicial Review.

The Learning and Development Strategy had to be in place before estates decisions could be fully developed around the Tadworth situation. The Strategy had been due to go to the February HR&R meeting, but as a new Head of Learning and Development was currently being recruited this may be in draft only, as the buy-in of the new Head of Learning and Development to any strategy would be a key component. This was agreed but it was also noted that a close eye would need to be kept on exposure and risk.

04/2009 CHIEF CONSTABLE'S REPORT

Agenda Item 3

Members were updated that a derailment had occurred early that morning in the Kilmarnock area. No-one had been injured and the scene was under control, but there was significant infrastructure damage as a bridge had collapsed and power lines had been damaged.

The Force was achieving 70 of its 88 local targets and 14 of its 22 national targets. The headlines were that notifiable crime was down 3% on the previous year and the Force was confident it would reach its target by the year end. The cable theft targets were being hit with the Force's detection and arrests for cable theft above target; it was acknowledged that the reduction in the value of copper had helped. It was recognised that the robbery and detection rates were good, especially for London. The Force was behind on the recruitment and progression targets, which it admitted had been optimistic, although it was noted that initiatives to address these matters had been rolled out.

The Home Office had asked if the Force would be prepared for Assistant Chief Constable Thomas to become an employee of the Olympic Directorate, this had strong support from the DfT. He would continue to lead on the Olympics for BTP but there would be issues around what happened with his other BTP responsibilities. Assistant Chief Constable Thomas said that the Home Office wanted its team in place by May. This was currently being considered.

The first team which was part of the additional 50 officers funded by the Mayor of London had been launched in Bromley. The funding was for two years, and a product of negotiation largely for high crime areas, gaps recognised and industry priorities. The additional 50 officers would form Neighbourhood Policing Teams (NPTs) and would mean that BTP had NPTs in every London borough. The Authority requested that progress against the baselines for these areas was presented to the SR&CS Committee.

The Authority questioned what would happen with these officers when the funding came to an end. The Force answered that there was discussion with TfL as to whether they would want to keep the additional 50 and they could be subsumed into the recruitment for 2011/12 when the funding ceased.

Assistant Chief Constable Crowther had attended the Home Affairs Select Committee on behalf of the Force to discuss the ability to carry out a search as a condition of carriage on public transport. The support from the industry on this issue was mixed. It was noted that not all users of public transport or stations were ticket holders so this must be carefully considered for it to deliver the desired result.

Detective Constable Silvestro was congratulated on his MBE which was awarded for his role in the rescue operation of the July 2005 bombings.

The Home Office had offered the Force 400 tasers but a decision had not been taken yet as to whether or not to take this up. If the Force was

to distribute tasers to officers there would be training and infrastructure costs associated with this which would have to be considered along with the issues around the style of policing. The Force would liaise with the rail industry and passengers groups before coming back to the Authority to take a decision on this. It was noted that the majority of forces had some tasers and they were now being rolled out to non-firearms officers. The Authority requested that when this came back on their agenda any paper included a summary of the existing research in this area.

Agreed:

- **Progress against the baselines for the new NPTs formed from the 50 additional officers be presented to the SR&CS Committee.**
- **The issue of tasers to come back to the Authority before any decisions are taken and any paper to include a summary of the research in this area.**

05/2009 FINANCIAL POSITION SUMMARY REPORT

Agenda Item 4

The current forecast was for an underspend of £1.6M. This was largely the result of income related to the CTRL PSA and the VAT reduction. This meant the Force was in a better position going into 2009/10, as some of the pressures on this budget could be brought forward to 2008/09.

The capital programme was being monitored on a fortnightly basis as this had been revised following the change to the custody plans. The Force was working hard to redirect the freed up capital by bringing forward other capital projects from 2009/10 to ensure that the money was spent by the year end. The Chief Constable assured the Authority that only essential projects would be implemented.

There were questions raised as to the treatment of the VAT reduction and whether this could still be charged. The Force was proposing that any underspend resulting from this could be fed into the 2009/10 budget to relieve the pressures within it. Alternatively, it could be spent in the current year by bringing forward some activities currently in the 2009/10 budget proposals.

There were mixed feelings within the Authority regarding this. Some felt if this was transparent it was acceptable, others were not convinced, and it was decided that this would be readdressed when a decision was being made on the budget. It was noted that it would be useful to have the VAT part of the underspend made explicit and a breakdown of how much of it could be distributed amongst the PSA holders.

Agreed:

- **The decision as to how the VAT underspend be dealt with be delayed to the next meeting.**
- **The next meeting to have the VAT part of the underspend made explicit and a breakdown of how much of it could be distributed amongst the PSA holders included in the paper.**

06/2009 POLICING PRESENTATION – CONTACT MANAGEMENT

Agenda Item 5

Assistant Chief Constable Pacey gave a presentation on the control rooms and contact management project. The project had nearly reached its end and there were already significant improvements in the call statistics. The data and supervisory structure were much improved and the technology allowed for more accurate response times to be estimated. The project was considered to have been a great investment and Chief Inspector Gosden was commended for his delivery of the project.

The SR&CS Committee had been monitoring the project and would be holding its next meeting in Birmingham in order to visit the new facility. The Chair of the Committee invited Members to join the meeting or pass on any questions they had to the Committee to ask on their behalf.

The Authority congratulated the Force on its delivery of the project.

Agreed:

- **Members were invited to join the SR&CS Committee on its visit to Birmingham on 6th April should they wish to do so, or to pass questions on to the Committee to raise.**

07/2009 REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET PROPOSALS 2009/10

Agenda Item 6

The Force recognised the difficult financial climate for all. The budget proposals included in the paper were designed to implement and support the commitments in the Strategic Plan. These included taking cognisance of the terrorism threat, which was still a serious issue, and fear of crime which was on the rise. It was noted that in addition to this, an increase in crime levels was a likely result of the recession. There was also the three-year pay deal which the Force was locked into, and football was continuing to be a major challenge.

It was recommended that discussions for the 2010/11 budget take place early in 2009/10 to ensure that the Force did not take on commitments that could not be maintained in 2010/11. The Force agreed saying it was monitoring its commitments and thinking ahead in terms of long-term commitments of new purchases in the current climate.

The question was raised as to why in the current economic climate the Force was struggling to keep its proposed budget increase to the August RPI level. The Force answered that it was going through the process of challenging bids currently, and added that the three-year pay deal was a significant factor.

The Members noted that there had been a decrease in passenger growth on the railways and heavy discounts already had to be made on tickets. It was suggested that the context of 2011/12 budget needed to be seen when setting the 2010/11 budget as a possible RPI figure in August 2009 could a minus figure. The PSA holders had accepted the principle of RPI only increases over 3 years but with the country going into recession this would need to be flexible.

The Authority appreciated that the industry was under pressure, but added that a strategic picture of what the Force needed to achieve for passengers and rail staff was required. The Authority could then look at how that could be achieved. This gave an opportunity for a real strategic look at how policing was delivered.

There was a consensus within the Authority that the Force would need to look at how it could deliver the same for less in the current economic climate.

It was noted that if the Authority allowed a budget at 4.8% this could leave both the Authority and Force open to reputational risk. It was proposed that the Force come to the SB&PM Committee with a proposal at 4.8% and alternative options which included a sensitivity analysis. The underspend would need to be factored in to any proposals.

Agreed:

- **The Force to come to the SB&PM Committee with a proposal at 4.8% and alternative options which included a sensitivity analysis.**
- **The underspend would need to be factored in to any proposals.**

08/2009 BTPA BUDGET PROPOSALS 2009/10

Agenda Item 7

It was agreed that the Authority would also revisit its budget and present options along with sensitivity analysis to the SB&PM Committee meeting.

Agreed:

- **The Authority to revisit its budget and present options along with sensitivity analysis to the SB&PM Committee meeting.**

09/2009 COMMITTEE ISSUES

Agenda Item 8

Olympics Steering Group 04.12.08

A verbal update had been given at the previous meeting.

It was asked if there had been any movement on the Stratford accommodation issue. This was reported that to be an ongoing challenge for the Force.

Audit & Corporate Governance Committee 16.12.08

The Committee had discussed the financial crisis and the implications of this for the Force in some detail. It was noted that the Force had an internal group monitoring creditors and debtors.

The pensions issue had been discussed and the Authority was doing some ground work on this before the Chair's meeting with Lord Adonis. An agreement had been made regarding funding for the pension shortfall and the valuation was in hand.

The internal audit reports had been encouraging with London North and Wales and Western Areas receiving good audit results. The estates audit had also taken place and the controls that had led to the previous issued had been remedied. The London Underground (LU) Area audit gave some concern to the Committee due to the anomaly of the hybrid charging arrangements. It had been agreed that this would be discussed with input from the National Audit Office (NAO).

The Force had done some good work on business continuity and this was now progressing well.

New auditors had been appointed and their contract would commence in April this year.

**Stakeholder Relations and Communications Strategy Committee
20.01.09 (verbal update)**

There had been a very full agenda for this meeting and a full update would be given at the March meeting once the minutes had been circulated. The only pressing matter was the Neighbourhood Policing Evaluation, which was still at an early stage in its write-up, and would be coming to the March Authority meeting. A thematic approach was being taken, ensuring that the findings would be robust. The paper that would be coming to the March meeting would not be the final product but it would be a well developed draft.

PART II – ITEMS TAKEN IN PRIVATE

10/2009 UPDATE ON DISPUTES

Agenda Item 9

The date for the Judicial Review Hearing was 11th February and it was down for four days. All the appropriate documents had been shared between the parties and all evidence submitted.

11/2009 AOB

Agenda Item 10

Members were asked if they would be happy to trial the minutes without identifying people. The Members said that they were amenable to this.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Thursday 12th March 10.00am at FHQ

Signed.....

Chairman