
BRITISH TRANSPORT POLICE AUTHORITY

MINUTES
OLYMPIC STEERING GROUP
THURSDAY 4th DECEMBER 2008 11.00am
At

THE FORUM – 74 -80 CAMDEN STREET

Present: **Suzanne May (Chair)**
 Mr M Holden
 Mr J Weimar

In Attendance: **Mr S Thomas, Assistant Chief Constable**
 Mrs S Burd, Director of Finance and Corporate Services
 Mr D Farrelly, Project Director
 Mr M Burnham, Inspector

Miss L Barrick, Business Support Manager & Minutes

23/2008 APOLOGIES

Agenda Item 1

There were no apologies.

24/2008 MINUTES OF MEETING 29th JULY 2008

Agenda Item 2

The minutes were approved as an accurate record.

There was some discussion on the content of the minutes and updates given.

The Chair asked what had happened with regard to the funding for the dogs. Assistant Chief Constable Thomas said that this had been approved and full funding granted. He added that there was a pool of people ready to be trained as dog handlers.

Superintendent Farrelly gave an update on the officer accommodation options for the Olympic period. He said that there had been a second visit to the University of Hertfordshire at Hatfield which the Federation had joined. The TSSA had been invited but had been unable to attend. The feedback from the Federation had been very positive. Superintendent Farrelly had been invited to present to their conference in 2009 on the site and its facilities. A contract between BTP and the University had not been drawn up at this early stage, but a memorandum of understanding was being drafted for signing by both parties.

Superintendent Farrelly said that the Force had held discussions with First Capital Connect, who ran the train services through Hatfield, regarding increasing the number of services stopping at Hatfield during the Olympic period. This would allow BTP to deploy officers by train to London. There were also discussions taking place with First Buses on resilience aspects, should there be a problem with the East Coast Mainline.

The Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) was also in discussions with the University of Hatfield regarding accommodation for mutual aid officers.

Superintendent Farrelly said that the benchmark rate was £60 bed and breakfast plus one further meal. He said that procurement would be involved in negotiating on this. He added that the Force was not yet sure whether the accommodation would also be required for the duration of the Paralympics.

Mr Holden felt that this was a good deal and the Force should be wary of competition from other organisations closer to the Olympics. He suggested that it may be possible to sign up to an index contract so that inflation would not be an issue for the University and this would secure the accommodation for BTP. Mr Weimar agreed with that securing this accommodation seemed to be the right way forward. Superintendent Farrelly said that he would look into this and discuss it with procurement.

Agreed:

- **Superintendent Farrelly to look into securing the Hertfordshire accommodation as discussed.**

25/2008
Agenda Item 3

MATTERS ARISING

All actions had been discharged.

26/2008
Agenda Item 4

BTP PROJECT UPDATE ON PROGRESS AND PLANNING

Assistant Chief Constable Thomas updated that the Costed Security Plan (CSP) for the Olympics was due for ministerial sign off at the end of February. He said that BTP's costs were included in this. It had been agreed with the DfT that there would be no movement within the BTP costs. However, for his national role, Assistant Chief Constable Thomas said that he had a budget of £58M which was made up of BTP's budget, a budget for Network Rail and London Underground for platform and track checks and for the Control Room and on road security staff of TfL London Buses. Assistant Chief Constable Thomas said that the view was being taken by Government that the operator costs sat outside of the Olympics. The concern was that operators would not pick up these costs if they were removed from the Olympics budget, and the risks of this were set out in the CSP. He added that DfT was looking into this.

Mr Holden asked what the £23.6M covered as it appeared to have reduced. Assistant Chief Constable Thomas said that it had not been reduced recently but from the initial figure the £2.4M capital for Stratford accommodation and £750k for a CCTV feasibility study had been removed.

Assistant Chief Constable Thomas confirmed that the DfT had agreed a budget of £23.6M over 4 years. They had written to the Authority confirming that £9.4M was available for the current comprehensive spending review (CSR) period, and that they would work with the Force for the second CSR. This was confirmed before the CSP had been developed. The DfT had been clear that the revenue and capital costs to BTP would not fall on the PSA holders.

Assistant Chief Constable Thomas said that the Force was meeting with the DfT on a quarterly basis to go through the Force's Olympic spend. The last meeting had been on the 3rd December and the process was working well. The budget had slipped, but the DfT had said that the Force could profile it over the 3 years rather than year on year. The reasons for the slippage were that the office for the project team at Canary Wharf had been put on hold and the dogs had been delayed. These were both following Government issues. There had also been some slippage on the GIS system but this was an internal issue.

Mr Holden asked what would happen if the £23.6M was not enough. Assistant Chief Constable Thomas said that he did not see that there was a risk of this as the budget had gone through very robust analysis and challenge panels. However, should there be a problem this would be put to the DfT.

Mr Holden asked what the entry in the business case regarding private security was alluding to. He felt that this was understating the current arrangements that many TOCs had in place with private security firms. Superintendent Farrelly said it was envisaged that currently there would be a shortfall of thousands of accredited security staff for the Olympics. To try and counter this people starting at college in the years prior to the Olympics would be offered the opportunity to complete courses to become accredited security staff to try and increase the numbers of people available. Superintendent Farrelly added that there was also a cost element as other companies had been known to increase their pay rates during the Olympic period, which could result in accredited security staff taking on other positions for the extra money.

Assistant Chief Constable Thomas said that PCSOs and Specials could not be used for Olympic security functions. The majority of PCSOs were tied to enhanced PSAs and Specials were often railway staff and would be needed by the industry for their own enhanced services.

Mr Weimar said that the message that BTP would not be doing crowd management on and outside stations would need to be well communicated.

The Chair asked if there had been any success regarding the reduction in categorisation of the football matches. Assistant Chief Constable Thomas said that the Home Office forces had reduced these to Category B, but BTP had retained their Category A, low level threat categorisation, as there was no history of crowd trouble at Olympic football matches.

Assistant Chief Constable Thomas updated that there had been more changes in the Home Office governance arrangements. The Olympics now sat with the Office for Security and Counter Terrorism within the Home Office. There was currently a temporary Senior Responsible Owner (SRO) and the recruitment process for a new permanent replacement was just beginning.

Assistant Chief Constable Thomas updated that there had been two meetings of the Transport Security Steering Group (TSSG), which was chaired by Niki Tompkinson of TRANSEC. There had also been two meetings of the Transport Security Working Group (TSWG) which he chaired. The TSWG membership was slowly widening and Assistant Chief Constable Thomas had held a meeting with the rail industry in the last week to populate the modal group for rail. The Steering Group asked to receive the minutes of the Rail Sub-Group once it was properly established.

Mr Weimar asked what the current situation with Airwave was for the Olympic site. Assistant Chief Constable Thomas said that there were two main issues which were capacity and coverage. Capacity had not previously been an issue for the Force at major events. However, the busiest days could present a problem as the capacity required would outstrip anything previously tested. Assistant Chief Constable Thomas said that the coverage was the more pressing issue. There was coverage at the site now but this was before the shopping centre and rail developments had been completed. He added that the High Meads loop would be a covered section of railway.

Superintendent Farrelly said that it was usually the responsibility of the developer to ensure Airwave coverage. It should not be an issue to have specialist Airwave cover but the finances of this could prove to be a difficulty. Airwave coverage was not just an issue for BTP but for all the emergency services.

Mr Weimar asked for an update on mutual aid. Assistant Chief Constable Thomas updated that currently BTP was not, and did not want to be, part of the current mutual aid agreement. He said that ACPO and the Home Office had recognised that a one-off arrangement would need to be put in place for the Olympics. He did not envisage a problem with capacity as only BTP, MPS and Dorset

Police had currently expressed an interest in mutual aid. The Chair said that this was good progress.

Assistant Chief Constable Thomas said that in future he would submit the BTP Project Progress Report to the Steering Group along with the BTP Project Board minutes.

Agreed:

- **The Steering Group to receive the minutes of the Rail Sub Group once it is properly established.**
- **Assistant Chief Constable Thomas to submit the project progress report to the Steering Group along with the Project Board minutes.**

27/2008

Agenda Item 5

STRATFORD ACCOMMODATION UPDATE

Assistant Chief Constable Thomas updated that he had been working with TfL and the MPS to resolve this issue. He said that the Mayor's aspiration was for integrated neighbourhood policing teams at transport hubs, and this could be the first base where a BTP/MPS team would be working together in a shared location.

Mr Weimar said that the justification for this was clear and he hoped to resolve this issue shortly.

Assistant Chief Constable Thomas said that the portacabins suggestion that had previously been raised by the ODA had not proved workable, but options were still being explored with ODA.

28/2008

Agenda Item 6

POLICING PRIMACY PROTOCOL

Assistant Chief Constable Thomas said that protocol made it clear that the policing primacy for railway infrastructure in the Olympic Park during the construction phase was with the MPS. BTP would only take over once trains were running.

29/2008

Agenda Item 7

AOB

The Chair asked what the plans were to deal with graffiti. Inspector Burnham said that BTP had presented to the MPS on graffiti and counter terrorism, both of which had been well received. He said they were well aware of the threat and plans were emerging regarding site and perimeter security which would encompass solutions for graffiti. Inspector Burnham said that he would bring something back to the Steering Group when there was something tangible to comment on.

The Chair asked what the impact on commuters had been in Stratford with the increased flow of construction workers to the Olympic site. Assistant Chief Constable Thomas said that currently the Force was not picking up any increase in crimes but anecdotally he was hearing that the peak hours were becoming quite stressful with the increased footfall. Inspector Burnham added that

Docklands Light Railway was increasing its capacity to try and alleviate this issue.

Agreed:

- **Inspector Burnham to bring back the emerging plans on graffiti management once developed.**

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that a meeting would be arranged for March.

Signed.....

Chairman