

# BRITISH TRANSPORT POLICE AUTHORITY

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## MINUTES

POLICE AUTHORITY

9<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2008, 10.00AM

at

G1 & G2 - FHQ 25 CAMDEN ROAD

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- Present:**
- Sir David O'Dowd (Deputy Chairman)
  - Mr L Adams
  - Mr R Culley
  - Mr C Foxall (part)
  - Mr R Gisby
  - Mr M Holden
  - Mr J King (part)
  - Ms C Knights
  - Suzanne May
  - Mr R O'Toole
  - Mr J Weimar
- Apologies:**
- Ms M Banerjee (Chairman)
  - Mr I Dobbs
  - Mrs W Towers
- In attendance:**
- 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
  - Mr D McCall, Assistant Chief Constable, Scotland
  - Mrs S Burd, Director of Finance and Corporate Services
  - Ms L Scott, HR Director
  - Mr P Zieminski, Programme Director *Frontlinefirst*
  - Ms M Daniels, Acting Head of Strategic Development
  - Mr L Stringer, Head of Estates (part)
  - Mr A Watson, Chief Information Officer
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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
  - Miss N Mardell, Research Assistant and Data Analyst

## PART I – ITEMS TAKEN IN PUBLIC

### **73/2008 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

Non- Agenda

The Deputy Chairman gave apologies from the new Chairman who had a speaking engagement which had been arranged before her appointment to the Authority.

The Deputy Chairman also gave apologies from Mr Dobbs and Mrs Towers. Mr King and Mr Foxall gave their apologies that they would need to leave early to attend a Passenger Focus Board Meeting.

### **74/2008 MINUTES OF MEETING 30<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2008**

Agenda Item 1

These were approved as an accurate record.

### **75/2008 MATTERS ARISING**

Agenda Item 2

Mr Gisby informed the Authority that he had been asked to join the Olympic Transport Board, which also included John Armitt, Tim O'Toole and other senior executives within the industry.

All actions had been discharged.

### **76/2008 COMMITTEE ISSUES**

Agenda Item 3

#### **Stakeholder Relations and Communications Strategy Committee 07.10.08**

Mr King said that the Committee had asked to see the interim evaluation of Behavioural Assessment (BASS) training. Assistant Chief Constable Pacey said that this was expected to be available in January. He explained that BASS training related to a method of objective searching under section 44.

Stop and searches under section 44 had reduced, and when compared to the populations of the major areas that BTP operate in, was largely proportionate with the Home Office forces in those areas.

Mr King updated that the Independent Custody Visitors (ICV) report had been positive and the Force was participating in the self introduction trial that the Metropolitan Police Authority (MPA) was running. This involved the ICVs introducing themselves rather than being introduced by a custody officer.

The control rooms project was going well with a performance of 84% of calls answered in a set time against a target of 90%. This was significant progress.

The Committee had received an interim National Independent Advisory Group (NIAG) review. This review had identified a need for more meetings and a new code of conduct. Due to timing the Committee had not been able to receive a full report.

The Committee had asked the Force to look into having some demographic research conducted to try and identify the background population of rail users. However, it was proving difficult to engage anyone to take this on, as it was a complicated and large piece of work. Mr King said that the Committee had advised that if the University that the Force had been in discussion with could not help, the Force should not take any further time on this.

Ms Bird, Head of Communications, had given a presentation on the department which had been informative. The overriding message had been that the Force was trying to move from a reactive position to a proactive position on communications.

The Force consultation strategy was working well and good work had been happening around the Victims of Crime Survey. The Force had been looking to see why victims of certain types of crime felt unsatisfied with their treatment and response from the Force.

The National Passenger Survey (NPS) had shown an uplift in passenger satisfaction. Mr King said that there was a lot more work to be done on researching attitudes towards and awareness of neighbourhood policing teams. Mr King said that the effect of graffiti on fear of crime had been probed and the Force would be discussing this with Passenger Focus.

The neighbourhood policing evaluation was looking at two sites which had been long established, two relatively new sites and two control sites with no neighbourhood policing teams. Mr King said that the work had been done and the evaluation was now being written up by Mr Haddock, a draft copy was due to January Committee meeting. Mr Haddock said that the Force had done a lot of work in this area.

Ms Knights noted that the figure quoted under agenda item 10 for the awareness of BTP seemed high.

#### **Professional Standards Committee 23.10.08**

Mr Foxall said that there had been some apprehension regarding an increase in complaint figures for the Force, and the Committee had wanted to know if this was a general trend nationally. The IPCC had released its complaints statistics which had come to the last meeting and these had shown that the Force did not stand out particularly from others. The Committee concluded that this increase was due to changes in reporting and a more efficient Professional Standards Department (PSD) that was capturing complaints more accurately across the Force. The Deputy Chief Constable agreed with the comments regarding the PSD and the staff within it.

Mr Foxall said that it had been noted that the Force had a high number of complaints against PCSOs. It had been considered that this may be a result of the way that the Force uses its PCSOs with their increased powers, and also that BTP PCSOs were likely to come into contact with more people than others as the majority were stationed at the major transport hubs. Mr Foxall said that the Committee would continue to monitor this.

### **Policing Plan Working Group 10.11.08**

The Deputy Chairman said that it had been decided that the Force would have a policing pledge. At present the targets for the next year had been reduced by 3. There had been a serious debate about whether the items removed should remain targets or become mainstream.

Mr King said that the Force was looking at changing the wording of some of its questions on the NPS. Mr Foxall said that Passenger Focus was concerned that the BTP questions would not achieve what the Force was looking for, and there was ongoing discussion around the BTP questions.

The Deputy Chief Constable said that there was a lot of discussion to be had around how the Force engages with passengers generally.

### **Strategy, Budget and Performance Monitoring Committee 18.11.08**

The minutes were noted.

### **British Transport Police Conference 18.11.08**

The minutes were noted.

### **Human Resources and Remuneration Committee 25.11.08**

Ms Knights updated that the Occupational Health vacancies outside of London had been difficult to fill so this had moved to central HR as part of the Transformation project.

The Committee wanted to ensure that the HR targets were within HR's gift to deliver. This meant taking transferees out of the targets as the HR department did not control this.

It had been discussed that the diversity work done by the Authority could be more visible.

The Olympics work streams for the HR Department were currently being dealt with as business as usual but the signs were that the workload would increase.

There had been discussion around adopting the Scottish uniform as the new uniform for the Force. Assistant Chief Constable Thomas had been leading on this piece of work. The budget was no longer sufficient to cover the whole Force and the plan was to start by rolling out the new uniform to the frontline officers and staff.

The Authority needed to be clear of its health and safety responsibilities and following the training scheduled for January a document summarising these would be produced.

PCSO turnover seemed high but there was no average figure to benchmark against currently

Mr Adams had suggested that it would be useful for the Authority to receive a paper on the good work that had been done on improving

estates and the secretariat was looking at which Committee this should go to.

### **Olympics Steering Group 04.12.08**

Suzanne May updated that the money for the dogs had been approved. There had been a second visit to the University of Hertfordshire at Hatfield where accommodation for officers had been identified. The Federation had also joined this visit and were happy with the facilities. The Steering Group had suggested that the Force should enter into some form of contract with the University at this early stage as the deal seemed reasonable and the possibility of this was being explored. The issue of graffiti during the Olympic period had also been raised and an update on how this would be dealt was due to come back to the Steering Group.

Mr Adams said that the accommodation at Stratford was still an issue as it was not fit for purpose. He added that the Liverpool Street accommodation was also an issue.

Mr Weimar updated that three options regarding Stratford accommodation had been explored. He said that there was no room at the station for the size of facility required; there were two other possible sites nearby on Network Rail and London Underground land, but no funding for this; the third option was a site around Stratford but this was not a preferred option.

The Deputy Chief Constable said that the Stratford accommodation was a major problem in its own right regardless of the Olympics as BTP needed a presence at such a large interchange.

## **77/2008 CHIEF CONSTABLE'S REPORT**

### **Agenda Item 4**

The Deputy Chief Constable updated that numbers of crimes in most categories had reduced in the last year but there had been a significant rise in the number of drugs offences. He attributed this to the high visibility policing operations that the Force had been carrying out, such as Operation Shield.

The Force was achieving two of its three cable related targets. The time taken to clear fatalities and get the railways running again remained well below the target of 90 minutes at an average of 73 minutes.

The Deputy Chief Constable advised that the Rail Accident Investigation Branch (RAIB) had published its report into the Grayrigg train crash in October. There was a series of recommendations in the report that were being considered by the BTP investigation team. A file was being prepared for the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS). The Authority agreed that a presentation to a future meeting around the theme of responding to major incidents (using Grayrigg as an example) would be useful.

The Police National Database (PND) was still causing some issues as the Force endeavoured to ensure that it had full access.

The Deputy Chief Constable said that he had spoken with Lord Adonis regarding airports policing. He said the Force was aware of the commercial realities of this and was capable of taking on more if the DfT wanted to engage with BTP on this point, but the Force was not actively seeking for additional business.

The Force's business continuity arrangements had been tested with a fire at the BTP station at Peterborough which had destroyed the building and a smaller fire at the Scientific Support Unit (SSU). There had been some minor loss of paper documents at Peterborough but this did not affect any cases. There had also not been any cases affected by the fire at the SSU.

The Deputy Chief Constable said that the Force was learning lessons from a recent employment tribunal which had been lost despite a high chance of success predicted by legal advisors. The case had involved a lot of paperwork and the Force would be looking at how it managed high volumes of paperwork in these cases.

An analysis of cable theft activity had shown it appeared to be directly related to the cost of copper. Assistant Chief Constable Crowther said there was currently a dip in the levels of cable theft following a drop in the value of copper but he cautioned that this was likely to be a blip with copper prices expected to rise again in 2009.

Mr Adams said that he was very impressed with the performance of London North and felt that Chief Superintendent Newton's leadership had played a significant role in this. The Deputy Chief Constable endorsed Mr Adams comments saying that Chief Superintendent Newton and his team had made a real impact on the Area.

**Agreed:**

- **The Force to provide a presentation to a future meeting around the theme of responding to major incidents using Grayrigg as an example.**

**78/2008 FINANCIAL POSITION**

Agenda Item 5

Mr Gisby said that he was not happy to be entering period 10 and only have period 7 figures, particularly as there were some reasonable variances.

Mrs Burd updated that the period 8 position was largely similar to that of period 7. There had been a slight increase in the revenue underspend due to the police award being less than anticipated. Period 9 had now closed and the finance and area reviews would be taking place in the next week.

Mr O'Toole asked why the Authority did not receive the most up to date figures available. Mr Foxall said this had been discussed before and it had been agreed that the SB&PM Committee did the numbers and these

were copied to the Authority. Mr Foxall said that this was not something that he agreed with.

Mr Gisby and Mr O'Toole both felt that the Authority should see a full set of figures.

Mrs Burd said that a full set of figures went to the SB&PM and were copied to the whole Authority. She said that Members were welcome to put any concerns or questions to her and these would be addressed at the SB&PM Committee.

Mr O'Toole suggested that Mrs Burd look at the periods and the most up to date figures that could be brought to the Authority meeting. Then the Authority could receive the most up to date figures which had gone through the internal processes at its meetings.

The Force estimated a £200k underspend following the VAT reduction. This money would come back to the centre and the current thinking was that it may be used to replace body armour, which needed replacing every 4 years but had currently not been budgeted for. The year end prediction was for an underspend of around £1M. This arose because of a number of factors, including, in particular, a lower than budgeted pay settlement.

Mrs Burd said that there would be an update to the A&CG Committee on the current economic climate and how suppliers were selected. Critical suppliers had been identified and the Force was now looking at enhanced PSAs and what would happen if these were not renewed. Payment terms were also being reviewed. A group had been established to monitor the affects of the credit crunch on the Force.

There had been a slight re-phasing of the projects within the capital programme. The vehicle fleet orders had been delayed but these were all now out and the supplier had assured that they would be fulfilled before the end of the financial year. Some additional vehicles had also been included. There was a revised scheme for Blundell Street and this had been re-phased in the capital programme. Some of the smaller schemes from 2009/10 had been brought forward to ensure that the Force did not lose any of the capital.

Mr Adams was concerned that the custody suite planned for Blundell Street would no longer be going ahead. He said that when he spoke to officers in the London North Area a common complaint was a lack of custody facilities. He added that the Force should have been aware of the costs associated with the development of custody facilities.

The Deputy Chief Constable said that the Blundell Street move had not been solely about custody facilities but also about Operations too. He added that the Force still wanted central custody facilities in London but not at such a high capital cost. He said that the Force was now looking at a Pod approach.

Assistant Chief Constable Crowther expanded on why the costs for custody at Blundell Street had risen. The issue had been the infrastructure of the building which would need to be materially changed to accommodate the cell structure which had multiplied the initial costs making the project untenable. A new site was now being explored for a Pod custody facility.

The Authority requested a paper on the modified capital programme for its next meeting.

**Agreed:**

- **Mrs Burd to provide a paper on the modified capital programme for the next meeting.**
- **Mrs Burd to provide the Authority with a paper on the most up to date figures available at its meetings.**

**79/2008 POLICING PRESENTATION – MANAGEMENT OF POLICE INFORMATION (MoPI)**

Agenda Item 6

Mr Watson gave a presentation on MoPI.

The Deputy Chief Constable said there were currently a number of people who worked in this area and this could be an opportunity of drawing the various functions involved together. He said that the Force wanted to keep the costs to a minimum whilst delivering against the requirements of MoPI. He added that the Force had to decide on its policies in this area, but that it had the benefit of watching the other forces go through this process first and could learn from their experience.

The Deputy Chief Constable said that if any Member would like to assist with this project the Force would welcome this.

The Deputy Chairman thanked Mr Watson for an informative presentation.

**80/2008 BORDERS POLICING**

Agenda Item 7

The Deputy Chief Constable updated that as this stood currently it looked like there would be minimal impact on the Force. However, following recent discussions this situation may change and the Force would ensure that the Authority was kept abreast of any developments.

**Agreed:**

- **The Authority to be kept abreast of any developments.**

**81/2008 POLICE AUTHORITY INSPECTIONS & SELF ASSESSMENTS**

Agenda Item 8

Mr Hemmings said the he felt that this was useful for the Authority and from an initial look it seemed that the Authority was already fulfilling many of the proposed criteria. He added that the response to self assessment would have to be sensitive to the resources available.



The Deputy Chairman said he was concerned that this could result in a large amount of work and he would not want to overburden the secretariat or Members. He suggested that the secretariat contact the authorities that were piloting the self assessment to gain an idea of the amount of time and resource that had been required to conduct this.

Suzanne May suggested that the Performance Monitoring Sub-Group meet to discuss the scope of the self assessment and then decide on an appropriate course of action in line with the time and resources available.

Mr Hemmings said that he had spoken with Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) who had said that they would be happy to discuss an appropriate format of the self assessment taking account of the nuances of the Authority.

**Agreed:**

- **The Authority should undertake a further self assessment.**
- **The police authorities piloting the self assessment to be contacted to discuss time and resources required.**
- **The Performance Monitoring Sub-Group to meet to discuss the scope and way forward.**

**82/2008 POLICING PLAN**

Agenda Item 9

The Deputy Chief Constable said the process for the Policing Plan tried to ensure that it was not too centrally driven and that Areas had a sense of ownership of the targets. There would still be nine central targets, which was a reduction of three from the previous year. He said that cable theft, fatalities and efficiency would still be driven from the centre. He added that recruitment and retention targets were being discussed with HR as these needed to be within HR's gift to control. The Areas were consulting locally and the feedback was that this was going well.

The Force had looked at whether it should have a policing pledge which was something that was coming in for the Home Office forces in the New Year. Then Policing Plan Working Group (PPWG) had been consulted on this and what it would mean for BTP and how the Force could work in the spirit of the pledge.

The Deputy Chief Constable said that one of the big debates was how the Force would deal with the emergency calls pledge. He said that calls came from a number of routes into the Force and often the provincial forces were the first to attend incidents in the more rural areas. The Deputy Chief Constable questioned whether this was something that the Force and Authority would want to change. He felt that working with partners to ensure that they would still be responding was the sensible option, as this was currently working successfully. The risk may be if the provincial forces were under pressure in this area they may reassess the current agreement relating to BTP calls. The Deputy Chief Constable added that changing to a response policing force would have implications for deployment and funding.

The Deputy Chairman said that when the pledge had been discussed earlier there had also been discussion about crime mapping and he asked if the two were being linked.

The Deputy Chief Constable said that crime mapping was difficult for the railways as where crimes were reported was not necessarily where they occurred. He said that crimes were usually reported at stations which would mean that any crime maps would show clusters around the major stations. He added that he would be concerned about how the media would then portray this. It would be vital to ensure that any mapping was seen in context. He said that he was content to discuss the how to take the pledge and mapping forward with the Association of Train Operating Companies (ATOC) and answer any concerns.

Mr Gisby said that he was not aware of the policing pledge or crime mapping and Network Rail would want to be involved.

Assistant Chief Constable Crowther said that he had spoken to Mike Roberts, Chief Executive of ATOC, and the main concerns ATOC had were around the how the crime maps would be received. Assistant Chief Constable Crowther said he had assured ATOC that the Force would not release any data without explaining the context, the nuances of the Force and how these affected the data. He added that the Force would also be looking at the impact by normalising the figures against footfall e.g. the number crimes per 100,000 passengers.

Suzanne May said that she was very reassured by Assistant Chief Constable Crowther's comments, as it was a real concern that passengers could be deterred from using the rail system if the media used this information to sensationalise crime on the railway network.

Mr Holden said that the message needed to get out that stations were controlled environments and could often be safer than the areas outside of them.

Ms Knights said that passenger input was needed.

Mr Holden said that he had some comments on the wording of the draft pledge and he felt that it had been diluted since he had last seen it. He said that he would like to see it sounding sharper. Mr Gisby added that he also had some editorial comments.

The Deputy Chief Constable said that the pledge could be run as part of the policing plan process and go back to the PPWG if Members would like to feed in their comments. He added that the pledge had been adapted and tailored to make it realistic for the Force. The Force was analysing the problem, which may lead to a review of rostering. There may also be an impact on neighbourhood policing teams, and policing styles.

Mr Weimar said the pledge could not be divorced from the Policing Plan work. The Deputy Chairman agreed and said that the pledge would

come back to the PPWG and Members should feed in their comments in the interim.

**Agreed:**

- **The Force to engage with passengers regarding the policing pledge.**
- **The policing pledge to be developed alongside the Policing Plan and go to the PPWG.**
- **Members to feed in comments on the pledge to Mr Furness at Michael.furness@btp.pnn.police.uk**

**83/2008 BTP REGULATIONS**

Agenda Item 10

This paper was **noted**.

**84/2008 CHARGING MODEL CONSULTATION 2009**

Agenda Item 11

Mr Hemmings said that the Authority had said that it would consult on the frequency of which it should update the charging model. He felt that the planning for this should start soon.

Mr O'Toole asked if this would conflict with the Judicial Review. Mr Hemmings said that if the Judicial Review went in the Authority's favour this was not an issue, and if it did not the consultation plans could be delayed. However, he said that he would check with the legal team.

**Agreed:**

- **Mr Hemmings to check with the legal team that starting planning for this would not conflict with the Judicial Review.**
- **Consultation on the frequency of updating the charging model be commenced sooner rather than later, as outlined in the report.**

**PART II – ITEMS TAKEN IN PRIVATE**

**85/2008      DISPUTES      AND      TERMINATION      OF      POLICE      SERVICE  
AGREEMENTS (PSAs)**

Agenda Item 12

Mr Hemmings updated on the current situation.

**86/2008      TADWORTH BUSINESS CASE**

Agenda Item 13

There was a discussion on the future of Tadworth as a training facility.

**87/2008      AOB**

Agenda Item 14

There was no AOB.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**

**Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January 10.00am at G1 & G2 FHQ**

Signed.....

Chairman