BRITISH TRANSPORT POLICE AUTHORITY

MINUTES
OLYMPIC STEERING GROUP
TUESDAY 29th JULY 2008 10.30am
At

THE FORUM – 74 -80 CAMDEN STREET

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

Apologies: **Mr J Weimar**

In Attendance: **Mr S Thomas, Assistant Chief Constable**
Ms S Burd, Director of Finance and Corporate Services
Mr D Farrelly, Project Director
Ms O Butson, Project Manager

Miss L Barrick, Business Support Manager & Minutes

13/2008 **WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**
Agenda Item 1

The Chair gave apologies from Mr Weimar.

14/2008 **MINUTES OF MEETING 22nd APRIL**
Agenda Item 2

The minutes were approved as an accurate record.

15/2008 **MATTERS ARISING**
Agenda Item 3

All actions had been discharged.

16/2008 **BTP PROJECT UPDATE ON PROGRESS AND PLANNING**
Agenda Item 4

Assistant Chief Constable Thomas welcomed Ms Butson as Project Manager. He said that Ms Butson would be reviewing all the project documentation that had been drawn up so far. Superintendent Farrelly had been made Project Director.

Assistant Chief Constable Thomas said that the other major piece of work that was taking place currently was a skills audit. This had been requested by ACPO and the deadline was 15th August. Assistant Chief Constable Thomas said that this work had already been underway but the Olympic project was now funding overtime for this to be completed by the deadline.

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There had been some issues with recruitment but the team was now coming together. An Inspector from Operations had been recruited to the Olympics project. He was reviewing the operational and resource plans that had been drawn up by Superintendent Farrelly and Inspector Burnham and building in the specialist skills required. There were two Civil Contingency officers coming on board to work on resilience planning, of which scenario testing was a large part. The project was also paying for 25% of the time of an Intelligence Officer and 25% of the time of a Special Branch officer; these would become full-time posts in 2010. The Counter Terrorism post was being re-advertised following an unsuccessful recruitment campaign. There were also two Project Support Officers to be recruited, and it was hoped that there may be the opportunity to appoint people with project experience who were being displaced as part of the HR Transformation Project.

The business case for the 10 proactive explosive search dogs and handlers was about to be submitted to the DfT.

Assistant Chief Constable Thomas said that he was now a member of the Home Office's Executive Programme Board (EPB). Through the EPB he had raised the issue of mutual aid and the fact that BTP was not part of the current arrangements for non-specialist mutual aid. Robert Raine, Director for Olympic Safety and Security, had said that the Olympics were too important for current policies to cause a problem. Assistant Chief Constable Thomas said that BTP ideally wanted a one-off agreement for the Olympics. He added that only BTP, MPS and Dorset Police had expressed a need for mutual aid over the Olympic period so far, as such, he felt that this was manageable.

There were 330 possible training camps that the Government would not be funding security for. Assistant Chief Constable Thomas said that the Force had considered the implications of this for BTP and felt that this could be dealt with as business as usual.

Accommodation for BTP officers and those on mutual aid during the Games period was being considered. The University of Hertfordshire had been identified as a possible site and the MPS were also looking at this as a possibility; the site is large enough to accommodate both MPS and BTP needs. There were some questions that still needed answering with regards to the site and the Federation were still to do a site visit. However, the site was well situated close to Hatfield railway station with five trains an hour to London currently serving it. There were also high speed trains that passed through and the possibility of stopping some of these to pick up officers was being looked into.

17/2008 **STRATFORD ACCOMMODATION UPDATE**

Agenda Item 5

Superintendent Farrelly said that a bid had gone in to TfL for an 8,000 square metre police station in the Northern Booking Hall at Stratford railway station. It was hoped that a decision would be received shortly.

The current BTP accommodation at Stratford was due to be knocked down as the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) wanted to open up a walkway for the workforce to access the site easily. The ODA had offered portacabins as temporary accommodation, and if the bid for space in the Northern Booking Hall was not successful this may become a permanent solution.

Mr Holden said that the Force needed to find out who would be paying for the portacabins and whose land they would be erected on.

Action:

- **The Force to find out who would be paying for the portacabins and whose land they would be erected on.**

18/2008 **NEW GOVERNMENT GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS**

Agenda Item 6

Assistant Chief Constable Thomas said that the Government governance arrangements had been revised. The Home Office were now having a far more hands on approach and very much leading the Metropolitan Police Olympic Security Directorate (OSD) programme of work.

Assistant Chief Constable Thomas said the Home Office had appointed him as a member of their EPB. He felt that the new governance arrangements really clarified the BTP role.

19/2008 **NEW TRANSPORT SECURITY GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS AND THE ROLE OF BTP**

Agenda Item 7

Assistant Chief Constable Thomas updated that he had been appointed National Coordinator for Cross-modal Olympic Transport Security. The Group congratulated Assistant Chief Constable Thomas on this. He said this was a bigger role than the one previously discussed with the MPS. This role covered operators' security as well as policing.

Assistant Chief Constable Thomas said that as part of his role he would be chairing the Transport Security Working Group (TSWG). He said that he would be inviting ATOC to come and sit on the TSWG in recognition of their railway industry role. There was a Superintendent at the MPS who was the project manager for this national project and Inspector Burnham would also be working on this. Assistant Chief Constable Thomas said that the TSWG would have a sub-group for each mode of transport (roads, rail, maritime

and aviation). Superintendent Farrelly would be leading the rail sub-group. He said that a list of deliverables was being agreed with the Home Office.

Above the TSWG, the Transport Security Steering Group (TSSG) would be chaired by the DfT / Transec, and as such would be able to require organisations to do things.

Assistant Chief Constable Thomas said that the first meeting of the TSWG would be on 7th August but would still be made up of the current membership. He said it was likely that things would be quiet for a couple of months whilst the Beijing Olympics went ahead.

20/2008 **REVISED BTP BUSINESS CASE**

Agenda Item 8

An interim business case had been presented at the end of 2007 and this had now been revised. Superintendent Farrelly said this was completed in the Force format which did have a tendency to be repetitive. He said there was further work to be done on the business case and with Ms Butson on board this could now be progressed.

Action:

- **The business case to be brought back before the Steering Group at its next meeting following further revision.**

21/2008 **BTP BUDGET PROFILE AND DfT OVERSIGHT ARRANGEMENTS**

Agenda Item 9

Assistant Chief Constable Thomas informed the Steering Group that the first meeting with the DfT to overview our budget and spending was to be held on Friday. He said that currently the Force was under spending by around £200k, but this was largely due to the explosive search dogs and handlers recruitment awaiting agreement. The other main factor was the delay in recruiting staff following the budget being confirmed at a late stage.

Assistant Chief Constable Thomas added that he would be requesting to transfer some items into the following year. He did not see that this would an issue as the funding was agreed over a three year period.

The results of the ANPR work were due in December and as such the Force would find out about its level of funding then as this was entwined in the national picture.

22/2008 **AOB**

Agenda Item 10

There was no AOB.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that a meeting would be arranged for the beginning of December.

Signed…….

Chairman