

BRITISH TRANSPORT POLICE AUTHORITY

Report to: POLICE AUTHORITY

Date: 30TH SEPTEMBER 2008

Subject: POLICING PLAN & BUDGET CONSULTATION PROCESS
2009-10 – PROGRESS

Sponsor: CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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For: INFORMATION

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 To update Members on the current arrangements for setting the Force's annual Policing Plan and budget and update on progress for this year's planning cycle.

2. CURRENT PROCESS

- Policing Plan
- 2.1 For the last three years the Force's annual Policing Plan has been developed by a sub-group of the Strategy, Budget and Performance Monitoring Committee. The Policing Plan Working Group (PPWG) has been Chaired by the Vice Chair of the Authority and is attended by three Authority Members, the Deputy Chief Constable and additional representatives from the Force's Strategic Development Department and the Authority Secretariat.
- 2.2 This group meets three times between October and March each year to receive evidence from the Force, and external sources, on current national and rail specific policing pressures and the outputs from a number of consultation activities. The group explores both the structure and content of the annual Policing Plan and considers various iterations of the draft Policing Plan before recommending a draft to the Authority in March for final approval.

Meeting date	Purpose	Outputs
Meeting 1 Oct	To receive and consider; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Outputs from BTP/A consultation activities ▪ Feedback on current Policing Plan ▪ Outputs from strategic assessments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Agreed shape of the Plan and indicative Policing Plan themes
Meeting 2 late Dec/early Jan	To receive and consider; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Outputs from Area consultation activities ▪ A draft Policing Plan with indication of possible national and local themes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Agreed themes, and likely direction of travel (e.g. maintenance, reduction or increase)
Meeting 3 mid Feb	To receive and consider; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A draft Plan with numerical targets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Draft Plan recommended to the Authority for approval

- 2.3 The Chair of this group for the 2009-10 will again be Sir David O'Dowd; we are currently exploring options for the Membership of this group

Budget Consultation Process

- 2.4 The budget consultation process supports development of the Policing Plan and is the main mechanism by which the Authority formally engages with industry stakeholders on current priorities. To date the Authority has engaged with stakeholders at fixed points in the year following the consultation cycle as set out at Appendix A. In 2007-8 the Authority conducted formal interviews and hosted consultation workshops which focused on the development of the 2008-11 Strategic Plan. At its May 2007 meeting the Authority decided not to hold additional budget workshops but wrote to stakeholders inviting them to submit further feedback by post. At the same meeting it was suggested that the budget consultation process be revisited for the 2009-10 planning cycle.
- 2.4 At its full meeting in May 2008 Members took the decision to retain the current planning process but to streamline consultation activities with stakeholders to focus on a single workshop meeting. Members were supportive of continuing to offer 1:1 meetings between Members and senior representatives from holding groups.

3. PROGRESS

- 3.1 Since the full Authority meeting in May the Secretariat has written to ATOC to inform them of our decision to scale back the number of consultative workshops planned. We have not received any indication from them that our proposals are not acceptable.
- 3.2 We are awaiting confirmation from the Force as to the most appropriate timing for a single stakeholder workshop to discuss budgetary and Policing Plan issues. When this has been agreed we will contact industry and passenger stakeholders to invite them to attend or otherwise feed into the process.
- 3.3 We will also be writing to holding group owners in due course to invite them to take part in 1:1 meetings with Members to discuss policing and budgetary themes as well as more general issues.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Authority will want to ensure that any proposed budget and Policing Plan consultation activities offer value for money and so will want to be sure that the approach is both effective and not duplicated by any other of the Authority or Force's existing processes.
- 4.2 It is not envisaged that the process set out above will result in any expenditure beyond that planned and provided for in the Authority's budget for 2008/9.

5. DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The programme of consultation activities the Authority has endorsed will need to ensure that it reaches a range of stakeholder groups. The Authority will therefore take into consideration following during the planning phase;
 - Who our stakeholders are and whether they are included in our current and proposed consultative processes
 - The accessibility of our consultative information – we may need to make information available in a range of alternative languages/formats
 - The accessibility of any venues we choose for our consultative events. We will need to establish whether any attendees have any special access requirements and where reasonable to do so, we will try to meet these needs.

6. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Without proper consideration of the inputs and outputs of the consultation process, activities may be duplicated and/or particular stakeholder inputs may not be captured at all. This risk will be mitigated by robustly planning and effectively communicating the structure and purpose of the budget and Policing Plan consultation arrangements and the role each of our stakeholders are invited to play in it.

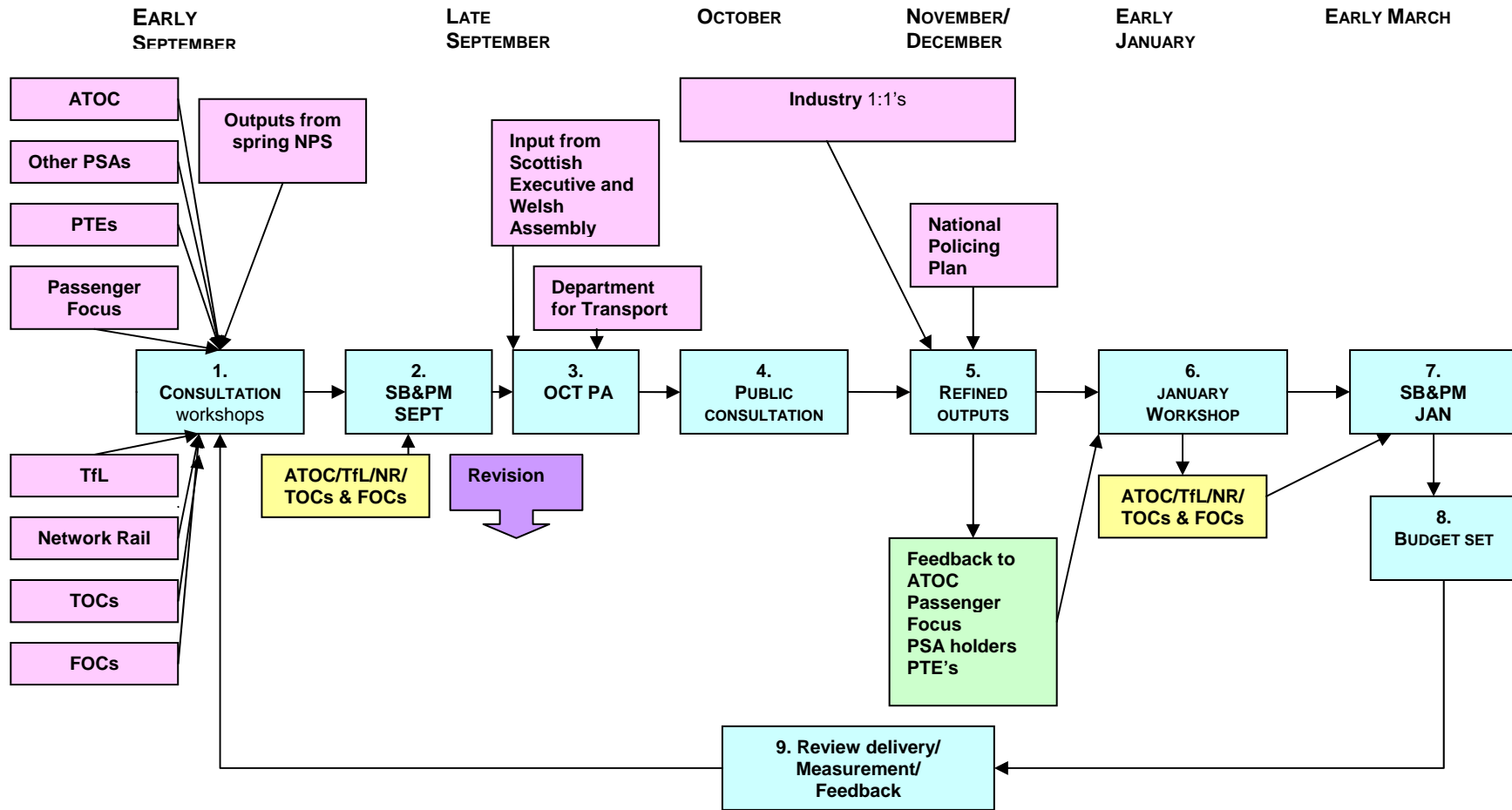
7. FOR INFORMATION

- 7.1 Members are invited to note progress with the Policing Plan and budget process for 2009/10.

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APPENDIX A

BUDGET & POLICING PLAN PROCESS



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