

**BRITISH TRANSPORT POLICE COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT FORCE HEADQUARTERS LONDON
ON THURSDAY 12 DECEMBER 2002 AT 1.30 PM**

Present

Mr James Jerram CBE (in the Chair); Prof. Helen Atkinson; Mr David Heseldin;
Mrs Diana Lamplugh OBE; Sir David O'Dowd CBE QPM; Dr Mike Mitchell; Mr Adrian Shooter;
Mr Iain K Brown; Mr Mike Brown

In Attendance

Mr I Johnston CBE QPM, Chief Constable; Mr. A Lake, Deputy Chief Constable;
Mr P Robb, Assistant Chief Constable; Mr D Mulhern, Assistant Chief Constable, Scotland;
Mr C Somani, Finance & Admin. Director; Miss K Sanderson, Treasurer to the Committee;
Mr D Riddle, Clerk to Committee; Inspector W Baker; Mr Leigh Stringer, BTP Property Manager

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80PL2002 MINUTES 17 OCTOBER 2002

The Minutes of the meeting held on 17 October were approved.

81PL2002 MEMBERSHIP – PROFESSOR HELEN ATKINSON

The Chairman reported that Prof. Atkinson had decided not to seek re-appointment when her present term of office ended in February 2003. The Chairman paid tribute to the contribution that Prof Atkinson had made to the Committee, and wished her well for the future. The Chief Constable expressed his appreciation for the support that Prof Atkinson had given him and the Force.

82PL2002 CHIEF CONSTABLE'S REPORT

Presenting his report on the previous quarter and on topical issues, the Chief Constable briefed members on the terrorism threat, and on the steps being taken by BTP to secure government funding towards the extraordinary costs involved in their response as part of the national effort. Adrian Shooter offered the assistance of ATOC in whatever form the Chief Constable thought appropriate. The Committee expressed strong support for the action being taken by the Force.

The Committee warmly commended the prompt and courageous actions of a BTP Inspector in averting a suicide incident at Durham in October.

The Committee also congratulated all the officers who had succeeded in the recent national Inspector's Examinations.

The Chief Constable reported that Inspector Guy Williamson had been called to the Bar. The Committee joined in congratulating him on this achievement.

In relation to the investigation of rail accidents, the Chief constable advised the Committee of the response by the force to the recent derailment at Paddington, when it had quickly been established that there was no need for police intervention and the incident was left to the railway authorities. The Committee welcomed this kind of approach. The Chief Constable explained that he was seeking to persuade Ministers that the creation of the Rail Accident Investigation Branch offered the opportunity to redefine investigation roles and responsibilities so that police would not be involved unless it was necessary.

The Committee noted the progress made by the new Force Estates and Facilities Manager towards developing the property function in the Force. It was agreed that the 20-point action plan he has prepared should be circulated to all Members with these Minutes (Action Plan is APPENDED)

On Force Performance, the Chief Constable pointed out that BTP's performance in reducing robbery offences was top of 44 forces, and that for reducing vehicle crime and violent crime BTP was a top decile performer. He acknowledged that the Force performance in detections was less satisfactory, but that investments in forensic science and technology were not yet fully effective.

The Chief and ACC Robb briefed the committee on the state of discussions with Support Staff about new conditions of service, and with the BTP Federation on the PNB Package and conditions of service. It appeared in both cases that negotiations would be difficult. The Committee supported the line being taken by the Force.

The Chief constable reported that filming of the TV series involving BTP had finished and it was expected to be broadcast early in 2003. He agreed to inform all Members as soon as broadcast dates are known.

- **ACTION**
- **INFORM COMMITTEE MEMBERS OF DATES FOR BROADCAST OF TV SERIES – CHIEF CONSTABLE**

83PL2002 STRATEGIC CHANGE PROGRAMME

The Chief Constable presented a paper describing the long-term objectives of the Strategic Change programme.

Dr Mitchell commented that the paper did not appear to reflect the opportunities to rationalise the organisation and reduce costs as identified by the Strategic Review. He and Adrian Shooter also expressed concern about the lack of clarity in the objectives in relation to the policing of remote locations, where ATOC perceived there was potential to reduce costs whilst improving services in conjunction with local forces. Other Members cautioned that greater dependence on Home Office forces might involve extra costs. The Chief Constable referred to the pilot study in NE Area that would help establish the benefits and costs of this approach.

The Chairman suggested that the committee should return to consideration of the overall Strategic change Programme when the Chief constable had a more fully developed implementation plan.

- *ACTION*
- *CHIEF CONSTABLE TO REPORT TO A FUTURE MEETING ON OVERALL CHANGE PROGRAMME AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN - CHIEF CONSTABLE*

The Deputy Chief Constable updated the Committee on the four major workstreams of the Change Programme. The Committee questioned the cause of delay in the restructuring of Finance & Administration functions. They urged the Chief Constable to speed up this project and secure early savings. The Committee expressed the view that the timescales for completing the creation of new Call Handling and Control Room arrangements were ambitious. ACC Mulhern, as Project Director, gave assurance that the project could be completed to be operational by January 2004.

In discussion, the Committee and the Chief Constable shared recognition of the weaknesses in project delivery capability in the force in the short term. These were being addressed, and a new Project Management Board chaired by the Deputy Chief Constable would oversee progress on major programmes. There was agreement on the need to consider using consultancy support to ensure effective management and control of critical projects.

- *ACTIONS*
- *RESTRUCTURING OF FINANCE & ADMIN TO BE COMPLETED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE - CHIEF CONSTABLE/FINANCE DIRECTOR*
- *CHIEF CONSTABLE TO CONSIDER APPROPRIATE USE OF CONSULTANCY SUPPORT ON MAJOR PROJECTS - DEPUTY CHIEF CONSTABLE*

84PL2002 MEDIUM TERM FINANCE STRATEGY

It was reported that the Working Party appointed to make recommendations had been unable to reach an agreed conclusion. After discussion about the best means of resolving this matter, the Committee agreed that the Working Party should meet once more, with the Chairman of the Committee in attendance. It was also agreed that All Members would be informed of the date of the Working Party meeting, and that any other member could attend if they were interested. The Committee expressly authorised the Working Party to make a decision about the budget level for 2003/4 as a basis for detailed budgeting by the Force, and so that TOCs could be advised of the level of increase in charges as soon as practicable.

Mr David Redfern, who had produced the working papers for this item, made a presentation to the Committee of the considerations affecting the medium term finance strategy.

- *ACTIONS*

- *MEETING OF THE WORKING PARTY TO BE CALLED; ALL MEMBERS TO BE NOTIFIED OF DATE/TIME: CLERK*
 - *TOCS TO BE ADVISED OF LEVEL OF INCREASE IN CHARGES FOR 2003/4 FOLLOWING MEETING OF THE WORKING PART: CLERK*
-

85PL2002 BUDGET MONITORING

The Finance Director presented his report on income and expenditure to period 8 in the current financial year. This showed an underspending of £1.2m on the railway, and an overspend of £0.1m for LUL. His projection of outturn results was of a surplus of c£0.7m for the railway.

Following questions about spending on police employees, the Chairman asked the Chief constable to provide him with a statement of the budget for police and civilian pay compared to the cost, up to the end of November 2002, and a similar statement showing the forecast for year-end, with in each case an short explanation of any variance between budget and cost.

- *ACTION*
- *PREPARE FOR CHAIRMAN A STATEMENT OF EMPLOYEE BUDGET COMPARED TO COST UP TO END NOVEMBER 2002 AND A FORECAST TO YEAR END, WITH BRIEF EXPLANATION OF VARIANCES – CHIEF CONSTABLE*

The Committee agreed that it would be appropriate to receive a report at their next meeting on the costs and effectiveness of Special Constables.

- *ACTIONS*
- *REPORT ON COSTS/EFFECTIVENESS OF SPECIAL CONSTABLES TO GO TO FEBRUARY 2003 MEETING OF COMMITTEE – CHIEF CONSTABLE*

Dr Mike Mitchell proposed, and the committee agreed, that the Finance Director be asked to report to the next meeting on the overspending on non-staff costs, including a plan to recover the overspend situation.

- *ACTIONS*
- *REPORT TO NEXT MEETING ON NON-STAFF SPENDING WITH A PLAN TO RECOVER TO BUDGET – FINANCE DIRECTOR*

The Chairman commented on the potential impact on police staff of the current high levels` of overtime necessitated by the visibility programme to counter terrorism. He asked the Chief Constable to ensure that the force would monitor the effects on individuals and seek to minimise the stressful impact of excess hours.

- *ACTIONS*
 - *FORCE TO MONITOR IMPACT OF EXCESS HOURS FOR POLICE STAFF – ACC ROBB*
-

86PL2002 POLICE REFORM PROGRAMME – PNB PAY PACKAGE

The Committee noted the Clerk's report on the details of the PNB Pay Reform Package, and the issues that it was envisaged that Police Authorities would deal with.

The committee agreed that the Chairman and Sir David O'Dowd should provide guidance and support to the Chief constable in the development of detailed policies to implement the PNB package, and monitor the implementation.

The Committee indicated that they regarded the implementation of the PMB package as linked to a successful outcome to negotiations on modernising BTP conditions of service. The committee would be unwilling to see the PNB deal implemented for BTP officers before agreement is concluded on the other linked matters.

- *ACTIONS*
 - *NEGOTIATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE PNB PACKAGE IN BTP TO BE LINKED TO NEGOTIATIONS ON MODERNISING OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS – ACC ROBB*
 - *CHAIRMAN AND SIR DAVID O'DOWD TO OVERSEE IMPLEMENTATION OF PNB AND PROVIDE POLICY GUIDANCE TO CHIEF CONSTABLE - CLERK*
-

87PL2002 RELOCATION OF FORCE HEADQUARTERS

The Finance Director presented a report outlining the steps to be taken by the force towards relocation to new Headquarters by the end of 2004.

The Committee noted, and approved, the strategy to locate a strategic command centre in central London, with key support functions co-located with that strategic centre, or with a combined London Area Command Centre; and to relocate non-critical support functions outside the central London area. They emphasised the importance of firming up on numbers of staff to be accommodated, as soon as possible.

The Committee agreed that the force should seek agreement from the landlords of Tavistock Place so that the force could remain there until December 2004.

Mike Brown commented that a proposed rationalisation of LUL office accommodation might provide opportunities for BTP.

- *ACTIONS*
 - *SEEK AGREEMENT FROM LANDLORDS FOR EXTENSION TO DECEMBER 2004 – ESTATES & FACILITIES MANAGER*
 - *DEVELOP PROPOSALS FOR STRATEGIC CENTRE AND NON – CRITICAL SUPPORT FUNCTIONS – ESTATES & FACILITIES MANAGER*
 - *MAINTAIN LIASION WITH LUL REGARDING ACCOMMODATION – ESTATES & FACILITIES MANAGER*
-

88PL2002 ACCOMMODATION IN LONDON FOR SOCO

The Committee approved a proposal tabled by the Finance Director for an extension of the lease of Baches Street by 15 years in return for revised rental arrangements, estimated to save £345,000 over the next 5 years.

- *ACTIONS*
 - *LEASE EXTENSION TO BE ARRANGED – ESTATES & FACILITIES MANAGER*
-

89PL2002 BTP AND THE METROPOLITAN POLICE SERVICE – LONDON UNDERGROUND

The Chief Constable updated the committee on his discussions with the Home Secretary and the Secretary of State for Transport on this issue.

90PL2002 BEST VALUE

The Committee approved a revised corporate reviews programme as set out in the report of the Chief Constable.

- *ACTIONS*

91PL2002 PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS REPORTING POLICY

The Committee welcomed and commended the draft policy submitted by the ACC Operational Support. He emphasised that confidentiality will be underpinned by effective sanctions.

- ACTIONS
 - POLICY TO BE FINALISED – ACC ROBB
-

92PL2002 COMPLEMENTARY POLICING ARRANGEMENTS

The Chief Constable presented a report on the variety of complementary policing initiatives in operation in partnership with TOCs and Railtrack, and emphasised that the force was open to approaches from other interested companies.

93PL2002 AUDIT PANEL

The Committee received draft Minutes of the meeting of the Panel held on 6 December.

Dr Mitchell, as Chairman of the Panel, expressed concerns that were still felt by the Panel in relation to aspects of financial controls and the progress on restructuring the Force Finance function.

94PL2002 EMPLOYMENT TRIBUNAL JUDGEMENT – MISS B

The Committee noted that the Force had settled this case on the basis of a payment of £125,000, following consultation with the Clerk and Chairman.

95PL2002 MODERNISING BTP

The Clerk reported that the Department for Transport hoped to publish clauses to establish a BTP Authority in the proposed Railway safety Bill in January 2003.

96PL2002 POLICE CHARGES – DISPUTES

The Clerk reported on the latest position concerning the disputes with GNER, First Group and EWS.

97PL2002 VENUE FOR MEETINGS IN 2003

The Committee agreed to hold meetings in 2003 at Woburn House WC1, where the accommodation was suitable for meeting in public.

The meeting concluded at 4.15 p.m.

Chairman.....

Dated.....