

# BRITISH TRANSPORT POLICE COMMITTEE

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## MINUTES

**POLICE COMMITTEE MEETING  
THURSDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2004, 9.00 AM**

**at  
WOBURN HOUSE**

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**Present:** Mr James Jerram (Chair)  
Sir David O'Dowd  
Sir Alastair Graham (part)  
Mr Iain Brown  
Mr Mike Brown  
Mr Adrian Shooter (part)  
Ms Christine Knights  
Mr Keith Ludeman (part)

**Apologies:** Mr S Thomas, HR Director  
Mr P Nicholas, Assistant Chief Constable

**In Attendance:** Mr I Johnston, Chief Constable  
Mr A Trotter, Deputy Chief Constable  
Mr P Robb, Assistant Chief Constable  
Mr D McCall, Assistant Chief Constable (Designate)  
Ms S Budden, Finance Director  
Mr P Crowther, Chief Superintendent  
Mr A Gregory, Inspector  
Mr R Hemmings, Clerk to the Committee  
Ms D McGovern (minutes)  
Ms L Bryant, PA  
Mr J Wilson, SRA  
Ms Karen Sanderson, Treasurer

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**01/2004**            **WELCOME**  
Non-agenda

Mr Jerram opened the meeting by welcoming Sir Alastair Graham onto the Committee. Sir Alastair will take over as Chair of the new Authority from 1<sup>st</sup> July. Sir Alastair stated he was delighted to have been appointed. Mr Jerram also welcomed Mr McCall, who will be taking up the post of ACC (Scotland and Community Affairs) on the 8<sup>th</sup> March.

**02/2004**            **TEBAY INCIDENT**  
Non-agenda

Mr Jerram requested an update from the Chief Constable. Mr Johnston gave an update on the details of the incident, and stated there would be a conference with the HSE and the CPS to determine how the inquiry should now proceed. The Chief Constable stated that there had been an issue with the local Force regarding body recovery, however this had been dealt with in a professional and robust manner by the North West. A letter had been received from Network Rail praising the professional and expeditious manner in which the incident was handled. This was re-emphasised by Mr Iain Brown. Mr Jerram stated he would write to Chief Superintendent Ripley to pass on his own thanks.

**03/2004**            **MINUTES OF MEETING 11<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2003**  
Agenda Item 1

The Committee received and **approved** the minutes.

**04/2004**            **ACTIONS ARISING**  
Agenda Item 2

Actions arising had been completed.

**05/2004**            **BUDGET UPDATE**  
Agenda Item 3

Ms Budden spoke to her paper on the above. Key points of note were that the overspend had reduced since last presented to the Committee. This was largely due to the release of monies which had been held for agreement of Terms and Conditions. The year to date capital expenditure was significantly less than budget, but there were a number of projects recently completed, which meant that the forecast for the year is relatively close to budget. Ms Sanderson raised the issue of insurance cover for employers liability and compensation claims. Ms Budden stated that this whole area was under review, and that they were exploring how to make people more accountable and ensure that lessons were learned in respect of individual cases.

**06/2004**            **CLERK'S REPORT**  
Agenda Item 4

Mr Hemmings spoke to his report. Mr Jerram stated that as the Audit Panel had agreed to oversee the migration to a new Police

Authority, it would be prudent for Sir Alastair to be invited to sit on that group. In relation to the Independent Panel Members for Police Discipline Tribunals, the Committee **agreed** the suggestion to link with MPS and to pay Members a rate equivalent to Home Office lay members. Mr Jerram stated that the proposal for an extra meeting after May was not necessary, and that the May 20<sup>th</sup> date would stand. Mr Brown stated that with regard to the consultation on the Statutory Instrument relating to the Authority, should it not be circulated to members of the Committee for comment. This was **agreed**.

**ACTION: Mr Hemmings to circulate**

**07/2004**

Agenda Item 5

### **CHIEF CONSTABLE'S REPORT**

The Chief Constable spoke to his report. Key points of note were:

- Good results in two murder investigations
- Chief Superintendent Martyn Ripley being awarded an OBE
- Being invited to give a view on whether BTP should police the roads and
- Identification of the last victim from the Kings Cross fire

Mr Mike Brown commended the Force on the sensitive and supportive manner in which they had handled this final identification, both from his perspective and that of the family's. In relation to fatalities, Mr Iain Brown raised the question of the underachievement of Scotland and London North. The Chief Constable replied that part of the problem in Scotland involved distance, and one case had been held up by the Procurator Fiscal. With regards to London North, the Chief Constable stated that generally this Area was thought of as good practice, although it had admittedly failed five months out of nine, but that he would genuinely welcome Network Rail to any of the debriefings.

Mr Mike Brown praised the efforts of the Force in working with LU to tackle graffiti, and stated he had recently received the best ever customer feedback in this respect.

Mr Jerram stated that when one read behind the figures, this report represented some excellent performance. He stated the Force could hold its head up, and deserved the plaudits being received from the industry.

**08/2004**

Agenda Item 6

### **DRAFT POLICING PLAN 2004/5**

The Deputy Chief Constable spoke to the papers on the above. The key points were:

- Robberies - primarily a London issue, now being pushed out further down the line, and tackled by using tasking and intelligence. BTP was in the top three in terms of detection rates
- Assaults – the target was for detection rates, and this target would be a particular challenge for the London areas
- Staff Assaults – it was aimed to increase the detections, particularly by using DNA
- Hate crime – increase the number of offences detected

- ASB – now focussing on those who have a judicial disposal, in line with “*Narrowing the Justice Gap*”
- Terrorism – it was acknowledged that the Force were market leaders in this field
- Route crime – reduction to be effected by continuing the real partnership with the industry and work on the top 30 locations
- Fatalities – due to discussions with Home Office Forces, it was felt that BTP were able to take control of the scene earlier and in a more robust fashion
- Visible Ethnic Minorities – this was thought to be a particular challenge which was being vigorously pursued

Mr Mike Brown stated that he felt the timing of producing the plan without knowing what the budget would be was flawed. He further stated his aspirations that the plan become more output based and developed with more cognisance taken from different fronts. He appreciated the work done and felt the process was getting better.

Ms Knights stated she felt this had been a professional piece of work and that the Force had been responsive to the comments of the Committee. Mr Iain Brown agreed, but raised the point of how the national plan cascaded down to Area plans, and how involved the industry were at that level. Sir David O’Dowd stated the plan was a good read, and questioned whether the Force planned to include any national benchmarks. Mr Jerram thanked Mr Mike Brown and Ms Knights for their participation, and reiterated that, subject to a few minor concerns, this was a professional piece of work.

The plan was **approved**.

**09/2004**

Agenda Item 7

**BEST VALUE REVIEW SCIENTIFIC SUPPORT**

ACC Robb stated that this paper had been re-presented from the previous meeting, and contained updates on the steps taken since then. He reported that Mr Shooter had visited the Force to look at the intelligence system, and that a Scientific Support Group had been agreed and was in its early stages. Mr Shooter stated that he was advocating more investment in this area, and exploration around how to harness initiatives such as the substantial investment ATOC was making into ticketing systems. Further, he stated the Force may benefit from a forum whereby experts in the scientific field could be brought in to challenge and future proof ideas.

Sir David thought this was a good paper, but that no cost figure had been given for integrated systems. The Chief Constable stated there had been an improvement in the investment into forensics, however this was still much lower than other Forces. He further stated the Force was trying to engage with the SRA in a way which meant that crime reduction advice was fed in continuously. It was **agreed:**

- i) the proposal to establish an industry and police group be endorsed
- ii) there would be an update from ACC Robb in May.

**ACTION: To be added onto May agenda**

**10/2004 COMPLAINTS AND DISCIPLINE SUB- COMMITTEE**

Agenda Item 8

Sir David spoke to the minutes of the meeting held 15<sup>th</sup> Janaury 2004. He noted the Force had done well, especially in dealing with cases of oppressive conduct. Sir David briefly outlined the impact of the IPCC and informal resolution measures. The Chief Constable stated that this was all hidden growth and new bureaucracy which was unfunded.

**11/2004 AUDIT PANEL**

Agenda Item 9

Mr Iain Brown spoke to the minutes from the special meeting held 19<sup>th</sup> January 2004. He appreciated that considerable work had been ongoing since then. Mr Jerram questioned the state of play of the Arbitration process. Mr Hemmings updated that since the meeting, the Arbitrator had cancelled his request for a statistician to be appointed, hence there was a chance that the GNER dispute may be resolved before July. EWS had now referred their dispute as a policy issue to the Minster, therefore an resolution before July was not expected.

**12/2004 APPOINTMENT PANEL**

Agenda Item 10

Mr Jerram stated he was delighted about the appointment of Mr McCall following the appointment panel in January.

**13/2004 PENSIONS**

Agenda Item 11

The paper and recommendations presented by Mr John Wilson were **approved**.

**14/2004 FUTURE MEETINGS**

Agenda Item 13

The next Committee meeting will be the **20<sup>th</sup> May 2004, 10.00am at Friend's House, Euston Road.**

Meeting concluded at 13.00 hours

Signed.....

Chairman

**15/2004 BUDGET 2004-5**

Agenda Item 13

**Agreed:**

- 1. Option 2 to be approved, giving the Force a total budget of £125,669,000 plus £500,000 for the cost of the Police Authority**
- 2. The Police Authority budget (running from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2004) to be set at £715,000**
- 3. Any overspend on this year's budget should not be invoiced to the TOC's this current financial year**
- 4. The pensions contributions invoiced to TOC's but not collected should be released back to those TOC's who have complied in full with the terms of their PSA.**
- 5. In the event that the employer's contribution to the pension fund is less than the budgeted amount, the surplus will be refunded to the TOC's**
- 6. If VAT is found not to be payable, the budget provision will be refunded to the TOC's**
- 7. If the financial liabilities for rates is less than the budget any surplus should be available to the Chief Constable**
- 8. The ATOC representatives make the case to ATOC about the liability to fund the free travel commitment. If this is successful, the budget provision will be made available to the Chief Constable**

The Committee notes that:

- 1) The budget figure would mean the loss of at least 50 officers from the overground Force**
- 2) There would be funds for only a very limited response to the HMIC's concerns and recommendations**
- 3) Sir David O'Dowd, Sir Alastair Graham and Ms Knights' support for Option 3 and opposition to Option 2**

**16/2004 DRAFT CAPITAL PROGRAMME**

AGENDA Item 13a

Programme was **agreed** with individual projects coming back to the Committee for approval.

**17/2004 CHIEF CONSTABLE'S REPORT**

Agenda Item 14

The Committee received the Chief Constable's report.

**18/2004 AIRWAVE**

Agenda Item 15

The capital and revenue expenditure were **agreed**. That the contract be entered into was **agreed**.

**19/2004 ICCS**

Agenda Item 16

It was **agreed** that the paper would be resubmitted in May, and **agreed** it would be circulated in advance of the other papers, to allow members time to consider it fully, and have any questions answered beforehand.

**20/2004 FLEET MANAGEMENT CONTRACT**

Agenda Item 17

This paper was **approved**.

**21/2004 ACCOMMODATION FOR LONDON SOUTH**

Agenda Item 18

It was **agreed** that two members of the Committee (including the Chair) would meet with Leigh Stringer to discuss the business case and that a decision would be taken as an urgent item outside of the Committee. It was **agreed** that whilst the principles could be endorsed, an update would need to be provided to the next Committee meeting.

**22/2004 HUMAN RESOURCES SUB-COMMITTEE**

Agenda Item 19

Subject to one point of clarification, the other recommendations were **agreed**.