

BRITISH TRANSPORT POLICE AUTHORITY

MINUTES

POLICE AUTHORITY

22nd JANUARY 2008, 10.00AM

at

G1&G2 – FHQ 25 CAMDEN ROAD

Present:	<p>Sir Alistair Graham (Chair) Sir David O'Dowd Mr L Adams Mr M Brown Mr C Foxall Mr R Gisby Mr J King Ms C Knights Suzanne May Mr R O'Toole Mrs W Towers Mr J Weimar</p>	
Apologies:	<p>Mr M Holden</p>	
In attendance:	<p>Mr I Johnston, Chief Constable Mr A Trotter, Deputy Chief Constable Mr A Pacey, Assistant Chief Constable Mr D McCall, Assistant Chief Constable Mr M Smith, A/Assistant Chief Constable Ms S Burd, Director of Finance and Corporate Services Mr L Stringer, Estates Manager Mr P Zieminski, Chief Superintendent Strategic Development Ms M Daniels, Deputy Head of Strategic Development Mr N Khinch, Head of Finance Ms V Delices, Secretariat Manager Ms O Butson, Project Manager Mr M Furness, Head of Planning and Performance Analysis Ms S Brown, Portfolio Manager</p> <p>Mr R Hemmings, Chief Executive & Clerk Mrs E Pike, Treasurer Mrs S Elvy, Research and Policy Officer Miss L Bryant, PA Miss L Barrick, Business Support Manager & Minutes</p>	
Observing:	<p>Mr I Dobbs, Chief Executive, Stagecoach</p>	
01/2008	#Welcome and Apologies	2
02/2008	#Minutes of Meeting 11th December 2007	2
03/2008	#Matters Arising	2
04/2008	#Committee Issues	2-4
05/2008	#Estate Strategy Update	4-5
06/2208	#Chief Constables Report	5-6

07/2008	#Policing Presentation Operation Era	6
08/2008	#Update on Frontlinefirst	6-7
09/2008	#Draft Strategic Plan	7-8
10/2008	#Draft Rev and Cap Budget Proposals	8-9
11/2008	#Policing Plan 2008 9	9
12/2008	#Police Pay Award	9-10
13/2008	#Safeguarded Travel	11
14/2008	#Chief Constables Report Cont	11
15/2008	#AOB	11

PART I – ITEMS TAKEN IN PUBLIC

01/2008 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Non- Agenda

The Chair welcomed Ms Burd who was attending her first meeting as Director of Finance and Corporate Services. He gave apologies from Mr Holden.

02/2008 MINUTES OF MEETING 11th DECEMBER 2007

Agenda Item 1

These were approved as an accurate record.

03/2008 MATTERS ARISING

Agenda Item 2

All matters had been discharged.

04/2008 COMMITTEE ISSUES

Agenda Item 3

Stakeholder Relations and Communications Strategy Committee 08.01.08

Mr King gave an update following this meeting.

The report from the Independent Custody Visitor (ICV) scheme had been positive, reporting only minor issues. The main concern for the Committee centred on reports that immigration detainees were being detained at Ebury Bridge custody facility for prolonged stays. It was felt that this not appropriate as this facility had not been designed for this purpose. The Committee had asked for figures around this from the Force. Also, following the next Committee meeting the Committee Members would be visiting the London custody facilities.

The Chair said he had recently been approached regarding BTP's custody facility in Merseyside as there were currently no ICV arrangements in place. The Chief Constable said he supported the use of the ICV scheme. Mr Hemmings said the Secretariat would approach the local force to see if a similar arrangement to the one in London could be progressed.

There had been a presentation on current control room performance. It had been reported that currently the control rooms were receiving around 775,000 calls a year. The calls were broken down into three categories; internal, emergency and non-emergency calls. The Force was trying to drive down the number of internal calls to improve efficiency. This had been successful so far with a reduction from 50%

of the total calls being internal to 38%. HMIC had also graded the control rooms and contact management as fair in 2007 following the 2006 result as poor and stable, demonstrating the improvements made.

There had been a paper on neighbourhood policing which gave a summary of the Matrix and University of Glamorgan reports. The Matrix report had identified some points for further work such as engagement issues and problem solving approaches. However, these points had been picked up the new Area Commander for London Underground and he was proposing changes to the reassurance model of policing to be used in L Area which would address these. He would be presenting this to the London Underground management team shortly. The University of Glamorgan report was a baseline study and a further paper was expected shortly. Mr King added that the Committee had requested a clearer picture of the neighbourhood policing teams that were in existence to come to the Committee which would be followed by a report to the Authority.

On passenger engagement it had been decided that it would be beneficial for the Force to have an annual strategic meeting with passenger focus representatives.

The Authority's communications and consultation strategy had received the Committee's approval and a PR professional would now be looking at it before it came to the full Authority for sign off. The strategy now had clear actions and objectives. The Committee had also requested that the Force give an overview of their communications strategy so that the Committee could be satisfied that the two strategies complemented one another.

The Committee had received a paper updating them on the re-branding of the stop and search Know Your Rights campaign by the APA. Mr King added that he, Mr Hemmings and Assistant Chief Constable McCall had met with the Scottish Justice Minister the day before to discuss stop and search, as there had been criticism regarding a perceived over use of these powers by BTP towards the Muslim community in Scotland. Mr King said that Assistant Chief Constable McCall had taken a number of actions away from this meeting and it had been agreed that a progress meeting would take place in April.

The Chief Constable said that post the attacks in Glasgow there had been a surge in the numbers of stop and searches and this was unsurprising. However, he added that this was an opportunity to apply more discretion to the use of the powers and to improve engagement with the Muslim community. The Chief Constable said that engagement with the local Muslim communities in Scotland was always going to be challenging but nationally the Force enjoyed a good relationship with Muslim Groups.

Assistant Chief Constable Pacey said that he had been in touch with Martin Inglis of Cardiff University who was an expert in the area of stop

and search and he hoped that Mr Inglis would carry out some work for BTP on this subject.

Agreed:

- **The Secretariat to arrange for the Merseyside custody facilities to be visited by Independent Custody Visitors.**

05/2008 ESTATE STRATEGY UPDATE

Agenda Item 4

Mr Stringer gave a presentation which demonstrated the work that had been carried out on the estate and that was planned for the future. The profile of the estate had already greatly improved with many more properties being in the top two categories and the number in the bottom category significantly reduced.

Mr O'Toole asked how building works were planned, as some of the buildings on which work was being carried out were those that were not suitable for the Force's needs. The Chief Constable said it was not always an option to move elsewhere and the buildings had to be kept to a minimum standard for those people that worked there.

Mr Foxall suggested that rather than having a three tier system for the estate, it would simpler to split the estate into short-term and longer-term plans. Mr Stringer said the estates department was doing this and basic maintenance works had now improved. Mr Foxall added that a further issue to be considered was whether the Force should buy or rent its estate.

Mr Adams said that he could not understand why the Force was continuing to move to temporary locations. Mr Stringer answered that it was not always possible to find permanent solutions as costs in London were prohibitive. The Deputy Chief Constable said that he had visited the premises in question with Mr Stringer and they were conveniently located and although not an ideal solution they were not a bad one.

Mr King said it was his understanding that the London North arrest and conviction rate was directly affected by the lack of custody facilities in the Area. The Chief Constable said that when selecting a site for custody facilities, London as a whole had been taken into consideration.

Mr Stringer updated the Authority on some of the moves that were due to take place. The Force had identified premises in Axis House, Birmingham, where the Wales and Western AHQ was located, for the central control room. Also, Marland House which was currently the BTP police station in Cardiff was not fit for purpose and Callaghan Square had been identified as an alternative. Mr Stringer added that the rent free period for Callaghan Square virtually covered the remaining lease term for Marland House. Mr Stringer asked that the Authority agree the terms for these leases. Mr Foxall said the Welsh Assembly Government should be made aware of the move in Cardiff.

Ms Knights was concerned about the move that was to take place in Leeds, as she felt that this was one of the best BTP stations for visibility. She hoped that it would continue to be easily identified.

Mr Adams asked what was happening with regard to archiving. The Deputy Chief Constable said that an audit had been carried out and a hold had been put on archiving for the past few months. Full instructions for staff and officers had been posted on the intranet. The aim of this had been for the Force to identify exactly what information it had so that it could be made easily retrievable. Also, to ensure that only things that needed to be retained were being archived. He added that the long term aim was to have everything filed electronically.

The report was **noted**.

Agreed:

- **The lease terms for Axis House and Callaghan Square were agreed.**

06/2008 CHIEF CONSTABLE'S REPORT

Agenda Item 5

The Chief Constable spoke to his report informing the Authority that 70 out of the 100 targets were currently being achieved. Recruitment targets remained challenging as there was not sufficient BME and female candidates on the waiting list.

The Chair updated that he and Mr Hemmings had met with the Secretary of State to discuss Olympic funding. The Secretary of State had agreed in principle that the money required by BTP for the Olympics would come from central government funds, not the rail industry, and she would forward a letter to this effect. The Chair added that the meeting had also touched upon capital funding which appeared to be nearly there, and the appointment of Mr Dobbs as a Member of the Authority, which was expected imminently. There would also be an advertisement in the Daily Telegraph shortly for the second Member vacancy.

Mr King added that there would be the Commonwealth Games two years after the Olympics, which would result in the same funding issues, and Transport Scotland had said that they found the DfT's decision helpful.

The Chief Constable continued with his report saying that the Memorandum of Agreement between BTP and the Olympic Security Directorate (OSD) was nearing completion. He said that this would place BTP in an influential position and there would be minimal costs incurred by BTP as part of this.

Three BTP officers had been recognised in the New Year Honours:

- Andrew Trotter, Deputy Chief Constable, received an OBE.

- Paul Robb, retired Assistant Chief Constable, was awarded the Queens Policing Medal (QPM).
- Randolph Otter, Chief Inspector, was awarded a MBE

The Authority congratulated all three on their well deserved accolades.

The Chief Constable said it was a tribute to both the individuals and the Force.

The Chief Constable reported that cable theft had reduced by 11% in the last six months. A recent court case which had resulted in an offender receiving 14 days detention Ms Knights commented that 14 days detention did not seem much for the level of inconvenience cable theft caused. The Chief Constable said the Force did provide the courts with impact statements. Mr King noted that London North was behind other Areas on cable theft detection. The Chief Constable said that there had been a lack of focus in the Area but this should now be improving.

Mr Adams said the Force needed to improve its communications with rail staff and suggested that they should get a regular article in the Rail News magazine. Alternatively, they could ask for space in PSA holders' in-house publications. This would help to ensure that the good news messages around staff assaults and similar crimes were getting out to all staff. The Chief Constable said his report to this meeting was circulated to the industry but added that he would consider this further.

Agreed;

- **The Force to consider how best to communicate their initiatives and successes with all rail staff.**

07/2008 POLICING PRESENTATION – OPERATION ERA

Agenda Item 6

Assistant Chief Constable Pacey gave a presentation on Operation Era. This operation was aimed at reducing football hooliganism. He said this was necessary as football was using the majority of BTP resources most weekends. He said that intelligence around football had improved and both covert and overt methods were being employed to overcome it. The Force had also been given £50k by UK Football Policing Unit to aid it in obtaining banning orders for individuals.

Mr Weimar asked if the Force was receiving support from the Operators. Assistant Chief Constable Pacey said the Force was working closely with the Operators, and in most cases was receiving a good level of support.

The Chair thanked Assistant Chief Constable Pacey for an informative presentation.

08/2008 UPDATE ON FRONTLINEFIRST

Agenda Item 7

The Deputy Chief Constable introduced the Frontlinefirst Programme that had been developed from the Sir Ronnie Flanagan efficiency model, which had been endorsed by the Authority.

He said that the programme looked at where resources could be reallocated to the frontline, particularly as neighbourhood policing officers. An efficiency register had also been drawn up in draft. The Deputy Chief Constable said the Force was looking at a range of support activities and civilianising posts where possible. The HR department had been the first to be reviewed and the draft report had been received and its recommendations were being considered. He added that some reviews would be unlikely to uncover significant savings.

The Deputy Chief Constable added that whilst the programme was progressing, the sustainability of the Force also had to be maintained. He did not want a return to what the HMIC had termed a “crumbling infrastructure”.

The Chair read a note from Mr Holden who said he was very much in favour of the efficiency programme, but felt that whole business processes should be included in the reviews.

Mr Weimar, the Authority’s lead on efficiency, said it was essential that the Force tracked where the money was coming from and going to. It should also look at whether it could be more productive around policing. Mr Brown agreed saying the key was to have clear objectives and clear process for tracking these. The Chief Constable said it would be a challenge for Ms Burd to track the savings and ensure that they were not going back to where they came from.

The Chair suggested that the Force should produce an annual report on its efficiency programme which could be made public.

Ms Knights said that the HR&R Committee was looking at the review as a chance to improve the department.

The report was **noted**.

Agreed:

- **The Force to produce an annual report on efficiencies for the public domain.**

09/2008 DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN

Agenda Item 8

This paper summarised the consultation responses received following the public consultation on the Strategic Plan.

The Chair said that the consultation responses had questioned the use of passenger journeys and kilometres for setting targets, arguing that rises in passengers had been accompanied by a reduction in crime.

The Chief Constable said a relationship between passenger numbers and crime could not be wholly disputed however he agreed to remove targets based on this from the plan.

Sir David was concerned that targets in the Strategic Plan and Policing Plan must complement each other. The Deputy Chief Constable agreed and said that he would direct the BTP Areas to capture the Strategic Plan targets in their Area targets. Mr Weimar said the Strategic Plan could set priorities for the Force and Areas could build on these with their localised plans.

Consultees had also requested to see benchmarks against other forces in the Plan. The Chief Constable said he would be happy to include comparisons around appropriate crime types. However, broader comparisons around detection rates had to be considered along with the fact that BTP worked in a non-community based environment which resulted in greater anonymity within the population.

The Authority agreed that comparisons with Home Office forces would be useful when they could be sensibly applied.

Mr Adams suggested that the Plan should put a cash value on the work that BTP does in reducing disruption following fatalities and other incidents on the railway.

Mrs Towers suggested that it would be useful to draw attention to the risks of an inflation only increase, which were listed towards the end of the Plan, at the first mention of this.

Mr Hemmings said that a launch was being planned to which all stakeholders and the media would be invited. The Chair suggested that partnership should be the theme of the launch. This was agreed.

Agreed:

- **Any targets referring to 'per passenger km' should be changed because aligning them against policing plan targets would be difficult.**
- **Comparisons with Home Office forces to be included when they could be sensibly applied.**
- **Attention to be drawn to the risks of an inflation only increase to PSA holders at the first mention of this.**
- **Any references relating to uncertainty around Olympic funding to be updated following the DfT's agreement in principle to fund BTP's costs relating to this.**
- **A launch to be organised on a partnership theme.**
- **Individual replies to be sent to the consultees.**
- **The Plan was approved subject to minor amendments to be signed off by the Chief Constable and Chief Executive and Clerk.**

10/2008 DRAFT REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET PROPOSALS FOR 2008/9

Agenda Item 9

The Chief Constable said the budget proposals had been prepared on the assumption of Retail Price Index (RPI) inflation only charge to PSA holders.

Ms Burd said feedback from Members was requested. She added that in future she would like to have the budget proposals before the Authority at an earlier stage.

Ms Burd drew Members attention to table 2 which outlined the funding requirements to meet the Strategic Plan. These were all unfunded and were to be met through efficiencies identified in the frontlinefirst programme. With regard to capital proposals, the Force was expecting £33M in 3 parts. However, this required further development as DfT was proposing that the first part would be £10M and the planned expenditure had been for £11M. All business cases were being made available to the DfT. Depreciation had been factored in.

Mr Foxall said the Force must remember that there had been technical adjustments to accounting rules that had been favourable to them in the current year and this would not always be the case. The Chief Constable said he was cognisant of this.

Mr Foxall said that the efficiency project was reaching a critical point, because obvious areas for savings had largely been identified. This means that the greatest potential has already been found, leaving areas of activity to be examined which do not yield such high savings.

The budget proposals would be going to the SB&PM Committee for more detailed discussions in February, before coming back to the full Authority for final approval in March.

The report was **noted**.

11/2008 POLICING PLAN 2008/9

Agenda Item 10

The Deputy Chief Constable spoke to this paper which updated on progress so far. He said that the Policing Plan Working Group (PPWG) had decided to keep as few central targets as possible with a local focus. The Deputy Chief Constable said it would be an interesting process as some Areas had more partners to consult with than others but felt it would be more meaningful.

Sir David said this was a deviation from the traditional approach but he felt it was a manageable and innovative method.

The report was **noted**.

12/2008 POLICE PAY AWARD

Agenda Item 11

The Chair said that following a meeting with the Secretary of State it had been agreed that the long term concern was to maintain parity with the Home Office forces pay.

The Chief Constable said he had spoken with the Federation and Superintendents' Association and both believed the best long term position was to maintain parity with Home Office forces. It had also been agreed that all officers, regardless of whether they were based in England, Scotland or Wales, should be paid the same.

The Chair said the Secretary of State had indicated that she would use her powers to convene a conference had the Authority proceeded with its intention to backdate the pay award for September.

Mr King said a letter should be sent to Mr MacAskill, Scottish Justice Minister, on the position. Mr Hemmings said this would be done.

The report was **noted**.

Agreed:

- **Mr Hemmings to write to the Scottish Justice Minister explaining the situation.**

PART II – ITEMS TAKEN IN PRIVATE

13/2008 SAFEGUARDED TRAVEL

Agenda Item 12

There was discussion on this subject. The Chair said that he would ensure that a full paper would come to the 4th March meeting for a final decision. Mr Gisby requested that this paper should start from the beginning to the current position and all the possible implications.

Agreed:

- **The Secretariat to provide a full paper to the next Authority meeting.**

14/2008 AOB

Agenda Item 13

There was no AOB.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday 4th March at FHQ, 25 Camden Road.

Signed.....

Chairman