BRITISH TRANSPORT POLICE

Agenda Item 13

REPORT TO:	**British Transport Police Authority**
DATE:	**11 March 2010**
SUBJECT:	**HMIC Police Report Card and Value for Money Profile**
SPONSOR:	**Chief Constable**
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1. PURPOSE OF PAPER

1.1 To update members on recent discussions between British Transport Police (BTP), British Transport Police Authority (BTPA) and Her Majesty's inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) regarding the new HMIC Police Report Card and Value for Money (VfM) profile and to inform discussion of next steps.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 The BTPA Chair and Chief Executive have indicated their desire to develop the BTPA's ability to hold BTP to account in terms of performance, in both operational and organisational terms, and to use comparative and benchmarking data within this process. The Chief Constable fully supports this development and is keen that comparative and benchmarking data be used to compare BTP's performance with that of similar organisations.

2.2 As part of the development of this agenda, the BTPA Chair and Interim Chief Executive recently met with HMIC and discussed the possibility of creating a bespoke version of the Police Report Card and VfM profile for BTP to facilitate comparisons between BTP and Home Office forces, improve information provision to external stakeholders, and provide an additional performance management and review tool for both BTP and the BTPA.

2.3 HMIC's inspection programme for BTP has evolved continually over the last seven years. In 2003-04, HMIC inspected BTP using a 'whole force' inspection methodology. In 2005-06, Baseline Assessments were conducted. BTP was inspected against Citizen Focus, Reducing

Crime, Investigating Crime, Promoting Safety, Providing Assistance, Resource Use and Leadership and Direction received gradings on a scale of Good, Fair and Poor.

2.4 In April 2006, HMIC changed its focus and commenced the first of what was intended to be a four phase inspection programme. Phase One covered Performance Management, Protecting Vulnerable People and Contact Management. Phase Two covered Major Crime, Serious and Organised Crime and Neighbourhood Policing. Phase Three covered Civil Contingencies, Critical Incidents and Public Order, and was completed in December 2008. At this point the phased inspections were discontinued.

2.5 HMIC's role changed following the 2009 White Paper on policing; it has now become a more public-facing inspection agency. In line with this, it has developed a methodology based on Police Report Cards and VfM profiles. The Police Report Card consists of the following areas: Local Crime and Policing, Protection from Serious Harm, Confidence and Satisfaction and Value for Money (including Staffing and Costs).

2.6 For each of these inspection methodologies, BTP has needed to adapt its data collection activity and inspection management process to fulfil the needs of the relevant methodology. There are also annual costs associated with HMIC's inspection activity. For example, it cost approximately £80,000 in 2008 – the last year which has been paid for to date. BTPA's budget for HMIC activity in 2010-11 is £82,000.

2.7 Police Report Cards are written for the public; they will be published on HMIC's website and will form part of a continual assessment process. The results of all previous and new inspections will form the evidence for the Police Report Card. VfM profiles are intended for police and police authority use. They are not currently intended to be public documents, though HMIC have indicated that this will be reviewed and that they may be made available to the public in the future. The first iteration of Police Report Cards for Home Office forces are due to be published on 11 March. They will contain gradings on all of the domains except Staffing and Costs.

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3. NEXT STEPS

3.1 BTP SDD and Command Support staff recently met with HMIC to discuss how a bespoke BTP version of the Police Report Card and VfM profile could be developed, following their meeting with the BTPA Chair and Chief Executive.

3.2 SDD has since conducted an initial assessment of both documents to establish which sections apply to BTP (and what data is available) and to provide an initial overview of how the Police report Card and VfM profile could be tailored to BTP.

3.3 This research established that both documents would need to be substantially different to the Home Office template to properly reflect the nature of BTP, its activities and its operating context. Appendix A provides examples of how the Police Report Card could be tailored to BTP, with details of the changes made from the standard HMIC template for Home Office forces.

3.4 The most common reason for the differences to the template for Home Office forces for the Value for Money profile is that BTP cannot provide any data in terms of 'per head' or 'per thousand population'. This is an important difference, as a central purpose of the methodology is to enable comparisons between forces; this is done by converting a large amount of the data supplied into such a ratio, so that these ratios can be compared across different forces.

3.5 There are also other notable differences in both documents, such as policing activities and crime types that are not relevant to BTP (such as road policing), and, more importantly, core BTP activities that are not included, such as fatality management, cable theft and route crime. Other differences include the lack of British Crime Survey data for confidence measures for BTP, differences in funding arrangements and some differences in organisational structure.

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3.6 Given these significant differences, BTP has undertaken to carry out more work, in partnership with HMIC and BTPA, to develop a methodology which is more appropriate to BTP's unique operating environment. It is intended that an early draft of this methodology is presented to the full BTP meeting in May so that Members have an opportunity to view and discuss the proposed methodology. Subject to the agreement of the BTPA Annual Plan, it is proposed that the BTPA Review Group guide BTP in the development of the new assessment framework so that the requirements of the Authority can be taken into account at the earliest stage.

3.7 Possible examples of benchmarking indicators that could be reviewed and adapted for use by BTP as part of this process include the National Audit Office's Value for Money indicators. An example of these indicators (the NAO VfM indicators for procurement functions) is attached at Appendix B.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 That Members note the contents of the Paper.

4.2 Subject to the agreement of the BTPA Annual Plan, that the BTPA Review Group guide BTP in the development of a new assessment framework.