

Minutes

Police Authority

Date: Thursday 11 March 2010
Venue: G1 & G2, FHQ, 25 Camden Road,
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Present:

Ms Millie Banerjee, Chairman
Sir David O'Dowd, Deputy Chairman
Mr Lew Adams
Mr Ian Dobbs
Mr Robin Gisby (part)
Mr Michael Holden
Mr James King
Ms Christine Knights (part)
Suzanne May
Mr Neil Scales (part)
Mrs Wendy Towers

Apologies:

Mr Howard Collins
Mr Ron Culley
Mr Colin Foxall
Mr Jeroen Weimar

In attendance:

Mr Andrew Trotter, Chief Constable
Mr Paul Crowther, Deputy Chief Constable
Mr David McCall, Assistant Chief Constable Scotland
Mr Alan Pacey, Assistant Chief Constable Operations
Mr Stephen Thomas, Assistant Chief Constable Olympics
Mr Mark Smith, T/Assistant Chief Constable Crime
Ms Linda Scott, HR Director
Mr Peter Zieminski, Chief Superintendent
Mr Andrew Clarke, Head of Finance
Mr Michael Jennings, Budget Accountant

Mr Simon Peel, Temporary Head of Strategic Services

Ms Vanessa Delices, Secretariat Manager

Mrs Liz Pike, Treasurer

Mrs Samantha Elvy, Research & Policy Manager

Miss Lucy Barrick, Business Support Manager & Minutes

PART I - ITEMS TAKEN IN PUBLIC

12/2010 Welcome and Apologies

Non-Agenda

The Chair gave apologies from Mr Collins, Mr Weimar and Mr Foxall. The Chair also gave apologies from Mr Culley who was unwell and announced that he had advised that he would be retiring from the Authority with effect from the end March.

13/2010 Minutes of Meeting 21 January 2010

Agenda Item 1

The minutes were approved.

14/2010 Matters Arising

Agenda Item 2

The level crossing event was in the process of being set up. A date had been identified but later abandoned when two major stakeholders had had to withdraw.

BTP had looked into vehicle leasing as opposed to purchasing at the request of the Authority. The initial findings were that currently purchasing vehicles provided better value for money as vehicles were purchased at a 20% discount as part of a framework agreement. There would also be interest charges on leased vehicles and BTP did not incur interest currently. The Force had spoken to the Highways Agency regarding their tendering process, but due to the structure of the tendering process this was not something that BTP could join. However, cost comparisons with the Highways Agency were still taking place.

It was updated that currently the Authority and Force were using internal resources to try and resolve the pension issues. However, a review of whether further support was required would be taking place. The

Authority was also due to meet with the Pensions Regulator to review options.

All other matters had been discharged.

15/2010 Chief Constable's Report

Agenda Item 3

The Chief Constable spoke to his report. He updated that T/Assistant Chief Constable Smith would be moving to become Area Commander for London North. The current Area Commander for London North, Chief Superintendent Newton, would become Area Commander for L Area. A review of support staff arrangements was also underway by PA Consulting. The Chief Constable would report back to the Authority on the outcome of this at a future meeting.

The Home Secretary was appealing against the European Court of Human Rights ruling regarding section 44 stop and search. BTP was conducting a review of the risks around this for the Force. It was noted that the Authority had previously had oversight of the stop and search figures at its Stakeholder Relations and Communications Strategy Committee and this role would now need to be carried out at the full Authority meeting. It was agreed that there would be an in depth session reviewing stop and search at the next Authority meeting.

The London North custody facility was under construction. The Force was reviewing the outsourcing of civilian staff as an option and had invited bids. However, the current quotations were not pointing to this as an option.

The Chief Constable updated that he had spoken with the DfT regarding CCTV and the use of an output specification to be included in the franchising process. He advised that the Deputy Chief Constable was leading this work for BTP. The ultimate goal was to have a joined up CCTV system, but it was noted that this was unlikely to happen in the near future due to the level of investment required. The Chairman said that she had also raised this formally with the DfT and had been given advice on how the Force could feed into CCTV franchise requirements. It was noted that a joined up approach with the industry would be helpful in trying to drive this forward. The Deputy Chief Constable said that there was a lot of support from the train operating companies and the Counter Terrorism Committee was interested which could help to drive work in this area forward. It was further noted that CCTV in Scotland worked well and it could be useful to have a discussion with the lead on this.

It was requested that the Authority receive an update on the outcome of the hate crime case detailed at paragraph 8.5 as part of its victim focus work.

Ticket vending machine crime was on the rise again. The Force had a lot of success when it previously tackled this and expected to do so again.

The Authority was encouraged to see an increase in Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) surgeries and asked how quality was monitored. The Force responded that training to NPT officers was now improved and included chairing meetings. As a result of this there was a lot more engagement taking place and the quality was monitored by looking at the attendance, the priorities agreed and actions completed.

The report was noted.

Agreed

- The Chief Constable to report back to the Authority on the PA Consulting work which was reviewing the support staff set up.
- An in depth session looking at stop search to take place at the next Authority meeting.
- As part of the victim focus an update to be provided to the Authority outside of the meeting on what happened in relation to the family that was subject to hate crime incident as mentioned in the Chief Constable's report.

16/2010 Annual Authority Plan

Agenda Item 4

The Chairman updated that she had emailed some people regarding the membership of the new working groups and changes to committees. There was some fine tuning to do but she hoped that this would all be in place shortly.

The Authority thanked the Executive team for their hard work in designing the new structure.

There was still some concern about where the Authority's diversity work would go. The Authority agreed that in principle it should be part of the core agenda for the Authority as a whole. It was decided that the next step would be to have a detailed look at all aspects of diversity at the July Authority meeting and decide where to go from there.

It was noted that the Olympics Steering Group had been added to the Plan following an omission. Any further comments should be sent to Mrs Elvy as soon as possible. An addendum had been circulated with the Chairman's comments (copy in minute book).

It was agreed that the working group terms of reference would be discussed and agreed at the inaugural group meetings and then brought back to the Authority for ratification.

Agreed

- An in depth session to be arranged at the July Authority meeting to take a detailed look at all diversity aspects, including people management, talent management, etc.
- The terms of reference for the working groups to be agreed at the inaugural group meetings and then brought back to the Authority for ratification.
- Further comments on the Plan from Members to be fed into Mrs Elvy.

17/2010 Revenue and Budget Capital Programme 2009-10 Monitoring at Period 11

Agenda Item 5.1

Revenue

The Force advised that the revenue budget forecast outturn was for an underspend of £434k. The major reason for this was that in order to make savings in staff costs for 2010/11 budget holders had been holding vacancies. It was noted that these savings were much more significant than those which had been reported earlier in the year.

The L Area budget was on target to come in with savings of £500k. Members raised questions over the forecast for the L Area budget as there seemed to be a lot of money that was going to be spent in the last

two periods. The Force responded that the L Area budget was profiled differently and there were some annual costs that were incurred at the end of the year. The Authority advised that there should not be a rush to spend any possible savings.

Capital

The forecast was for a £14.2m spend. A further £1.2m had been made available to the Force by the DfT in addition to the original £13m expected. The Force expected to spend £4.8m in the last two financial periods. It was accepted that this was a large amount of expenditure with just two periods left but it was advised that there were some significant orders in place.

There was discussion over the amount of capital funding that had been approved for 2009/10. The Authority was clear that it had only approved a capital expenditure of £13m for 2009/10. However, in doing so, it was noted that a capital programme totalling £14.5m was approved, as it was assumed that there would be slippage. The Authority was concerned that there had not been any discussion regarding the additional £1.2m and that it had not approved this additional expenditure. The Chair and Chief Constable were authorised to review the additional expenditure and satisfy themselves of the business need for this and then write to Members accordingly.

Agreed

- The Chair and Chief Constable were authorised to review the additional expenditure and satisfy themselves of the business need for this and then write to Members accordingly.

18/2010 Future Funding

Agenda Item 5.2

A letter had been received from the Association of Train Operating Companies (ATOC). The matter of arrest summons numbers (ASNs) was raised. A requirement of Bichard was that all recordable offences must be recorded on the Police National Computer (PNC). This would mean a doubling of the current entries as BTP would be required to upload recordable offences from records created by the TOCs as well as those by BTP. This would result in an additional annual cost of around £250k to BTP. It had been proposed to charge the TOCs for this but it was suggested that this could be provided for no additional charge for the first year subject to a review at the end of this period.

The Chair updated that there had been a meeting with the DfT at which the question had been raised as to whether a strategic review of BTP was taking place for the longer term. This had been discussed with the Chief Constable and it was agreed that work would take place to see what a below 0% settlement could look like and the implications of this for 2011/12. The context of this was the spending cuts within Government. The pension deficit had also been discussed with the DfT and it had been signalled that this was for the Authority to resolve.

It was noted that at the budget session in July 2009 there had been agreement from all parties that any funding reductions should not impact detection rates. This principle was accepted but it was further noted that all police forces were facing funding pressures and would have challenging times ahead.

19/2010 BTPA Financial Position as at Period 12

Agenda Item 6

The Authority reported a forecast year end overspend of £662k. All the costs that formed this overspend were related to the charges disputes. It was further noted that this overspend did not include the legal costs awarded against the Authority as these would be covered by a grant from the DfT.

The proposal for funding the overspend was that this should be charged to the reserves and dealt with as part of the close of the Accounts. It was clarified that there would not be any debt carried over. This approach was agreed.

Agreed

- The overspend to be funded from the reserves.

20/2010 L Area Budget Proposals

Agenda Item 7

The Chief Constable updated that he had spoken with Mr Hendy, Transport for London (TfL) Commissioner, and discussed the funding issues. The Force had outlined to TfL and London Underground how savings could be made and the implications of these changes. These had been accepted by the stakeholders. The savings were to be made from the enhanced service that BTP supplied and did not affect core policing.

The Authority asked if the savings would impact on the outputs. The Force advised that there should not be an effect on outputs and there would be no redundancies as vacancies had been held.

There was some confusion around the use of the word “overground” in the paper. It was noted that this did not specifically refer to London Overground Rail Operations Limited (LOROL) but to the mainline services in general.

The Force advised that there was a meeting scheduled for the next week to discuss the savings with TfL and any reduction would not be higher than £3.4m. It was requested that the Authority give delegation to the Chief Constable to agree the budget for L Area in line with this.

Agreed

- The Chief Constable be authorised to agree the L Area budget with TfL, assuming a reduction of no higher than £3.4m.

21/2010 BTP Capital Programme 2010/11 - 2012/13

Agenda Item 8

BTP had been advised by the DfT that the capital funding available for 2010/11 was likely to be a maximum of £9m. The Strategic Command Team had reviewed the capital requirements of the organisation, which had totalled £15m, and conducted a prioritisation process as to how to allocate the £9m. The programme had been finalised at £9.971m to allow for some flexibility in the programme, assuming that there was likely to be some slippage in projects.

It was confirmed that the depreciation affects of £9.971m to the revenue budget, and revenue costs and savings resulting from the capital spend, had been included in the 2010/11 revenue budget. It was noted that a lot of the capital projects were replacement works or would involve movements of existing staff so additional revenue costs were low.

Agreed

- The Authority authorised £9.971m capital expenditure with the expectation that the capital budget would be capped at £9m.
- The process for the authorisation of capital expenditure to be reviewed as soon as possible.

22/2010 Future Financial Reporting

Agenda Item 9

The Authority agreed that the proposal was a good piece of work and should be a significant improvement for their monitoring purposes. The only request was for more information on the cost of enhanced police service agreements (EPSAs) against income. This had been due to be covered in the annual report but the Authority requested that this be reported on an ongoing quarterly basis. BTP advised that they would look into how this could be done.

Agreed

- The Force to review the suggested reporting of EPSAs with a view to quarterly reporting.

23/2010 Accounting Officer

Agenda Item 10

The Authority was informed that the agreement on the amendments to the Accounting Officer arrangements were close to being finalised. The only outstanding issue was when this would come into effect. The timing issue related to the recruitment of a new chief executive and when the 2009/10 Accounts would be signed off. The new arrangements would in effect make the Chief Executive the Accounting Officer. As such, the Chief Executive would be responsible for income, whilst expenditure would be delegated to the Chief Constable as an Additional Accounting Officer.

A service level agreement between the Chief Executive and Chief Constable would be drawn up setting out the detailed arrangements.

Agreed

- The Chairman was authorised to agree the final wording of the text on behalf of the Authority in consultation with the Chief Executive and Chief Constable.

24/2010 Policing Plan

Agenda Item 11

The plan had been developed from the below contextual background:

- Chief Constable's vision - 'Protect and Serve'

- Single confidence measure
- Policing Pledge
- Increased use of discretion
- Financial climate
- Medium Term Financial Plan
- *Frontlinefirst2*

There were three themes running through the National Plan:

- Reducing disruption
- Increasing personal security
- Organisational improvement

National and local plans had been developed as in previous years to ensure that local issues were picked up. The style of the plan meant that many of the targets required partnership working and a problem solving approach. The Force noted that the Plan was different from previous years and would be challenging but they were enthusiastic and believed that it was achievable.

The Authority was advised that when researching passenger priorities the Force had relied heavily on Passenger Focus data. One of the National targets in this area was to increase the perceptions of safety among passengers at stations where this was currently low. To do this the Force had identified six stations in each BTP Area. There was also a target to increase detections of anti-social behaviour (ASB) after 2000 hours. This would affect the deployment of officers.

Levels crossing offences were also high on the Force's agenda and activity would be focused on 36 hotspots. The Force was also engaged in a lot of work relating to level crossings.

Members made some comments which echoed discussions which had taken place in the Policing Plan Working Group and as such have not been rehearsed here.

The Chief Constable said that he was grateful to the Authority for the time and attention that the Policing Plan had been given. He said that the Force had listened to the stakeholders very closely when setting the

targets and was dedicated to a proper approach to reaching the targets. A launch plan was being developed but regardless of the launch the Force would start on this immediately that the current Policing Plan expired.

The Plan was approved.

25/2010 Annual Risk Report

Agenda Item 12

This report was remitted to the Audit Committee due to time constraints.

26/2010 HMIC Police Report Card and Value for Money Profile

Agenda Item 13

This report reviewed whether any of the HMIC methods could be used for BTP. It was acknowledged that more work would be taking place on this and a revised proposal would come to back to the Authority.

Agreed

- A revised proposal would come to back to the Authority.

27/2010 Policing Presentation: Olympics 2012

Agenda Item 14

Assistant Chief Constable Thomas presented on the Olympics. He advised that BTP was fully funded for the Games but this did not include the cultural events that would take place in 2012. Suzanne May advised that she had attended the National Olympic Security Oversight Group Meeting on 2 March and the scale and number of cultural events had been identified and was clearly on the agenda as an issue.

The Force also updated that accommodation had been secured at Stratford for the Games period for feeding and briefing officers. Mutual aid had been the other matter around which there had been some concern but it was no longer expected to be an issue.

Assistant Chief Constable Thomas was National Cross Modal Transport Security Coordinator which ensured that police forces were fully joined up with regard to transport security for the Games.

It was advised that CCTV was not considered to be an Olympic specific cost and, therefore, would not be funded out of the Olympic budget.

The Authority thanked Assistant Chief Constable Thomas for all his work on Olympic security.

Agreed

- Assistant Chief Constable Thomas to speak with Mr Adams regarding policing football during the games period outside of the meeting.

28/2010 Questions on Committee minutes

Agenda Item 15

No questions were raised on committee minutes.