

Report to: Police Authority
Agenda item: 4
Date: 8th July 2010
Subject: Chief Executive Report
Sponsor: Chief Executive
For: Information

1. Purpose of Paper

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to summarise the work of the Executive since the last Police Authority meeting to inform Members.

2. Business Cycle

- 2.1 Meeting dates are as follows:

Performance Review Group	16 July
Finance Group	21 July
Professional Standards	27 July
Strategy Group	16 September
Audit Committee	21 September
Policing Plan Group	28 September
Charging Group	Meets as required

3. Governance Update

- 3.1 The new Governance Code is with Tribal who are in the process of reviewing and returning it shortly.

4. Risk

- 4.1 The BTPA Executive Team has assessed the risks to the Authority, both operational and strategic. These have now been presented at the June Audit Committee and are presented under agenda item 10. It is worth highlighting that we agreed that the Authority would elevate strategic risks to DfT where in our view they were beyond the capability of the Authority to control.

5. Protective Services

- 5.1 A provisional date for Member training has been agreed with the NPJA. It is proposed to hold a session after the Police Authority meeting on the 29 September. Discussions are ongoing about nominating a lead Member to Protective Services.

6. Strategic Review

- 6.1 Work has been initiated under the direction of the Chair and Chief Constable to develop the Terms of Reference of an Authority led Joint Strategic Review. The purpose of the review is to identify options available to the Authority and BTP to meet the required future policing outcomes within estimates of future revenue. Authority leadership would be conducted through the joint Strategy Group

7. Accounting Officer

- 7.1 With effect from 12 April 2010 the Chief Executive has been appointed formally as the Principal Accounting Officer, responsible to the Accounting Officer of the DfT. The Chief Constable will be appointed as Additional Accounting Officer; the documentation is currently being agreed by the DfT. The acting Director of Finance at BTP and the Treasurer to the Authority are in the process of drawing up a detailed memorandum of understanding to reflect this change in roles, which will be reported to the Authority meeting on the 29 July 2010.

8. ACC Recruitment Process

- 8.1 The Assistant Chief Constable recruitment process was a success. There were 9 applications received with 6 people selected for interview. Interviews took place on 21 June at BMA House where candidates first had a 30 minute semi-structured session with Suzanne May and Michael Holden focusing on exploring the candidates' knowledge of BTP's customers, their differing priorities and any tensions arising as a result, with value for money as a central theme. Secondly candidates faced the formal interview panel which was comprised of Millie Banerjee, Sir David O'Dowd, Howard Collins and Wendy Towers with the Chief Executive and Chief Constable as advisors. Candidates gave a 7 minute presentation to the panel on the following question "*In what way does BTP provide value for money and how could it improve?*" before formal questioning.

Paul Beasley was the successful candidate and comes with a wealth of experience. Paul had spent 30 years in the police service before he retired last November from Northumbria Police where he was an Assistant Chief Constable. Paul has since been working for HMIC and is expected to join BTP in early August.

9. Pensions

- 9.1 The first draft of the pension valuation of the Police Officers' scheme is detailed under agenda item 7. External advisers have been appointed to support the Chief Executive and Treasurer. The BTPA met two Pensions Advisory companies with a view to engaging them to produce advice on the current pensions problem. Punter Southall were deemed to have the expertise and knowledge of the issue to complete this work. Their proposal was therefore accepted on the 16 June. Their initial report is included in the Agenda. Having taken this the Authority will be required to at some future date, review the investment strategy of our pension schemes.
- 9.2 Further work in this area will be required to review the outcome of the Independent Review of Public Sector Pensions led by John Hutton, which reports in September 2010 and its implications for our schemes.

10. Year End Accounts

- 10.1 The year end accounts are presented under agenda item 5. The draft accounts have already been reviewed by the Audit Committee after detailed comments from the Treasurer. There have been a number of late requests from the NAO and one of a fundamental nature. This is being addressed with the DfT. Subject to this issue we expect to file the unqualified accounts in July.

11. Arriva Arbitration update

- 11.1 We have had discussions with Arriva Trains regarding ATW and AXC. These discussions are progressing well and as a result both parties have agreed to delay the arbitration by 8 weeks.
- 11.2 A meeting is being scheduled between the Authority and the Director General - Rail to obtain approval for the outline discussions. Once this has been achieved, we will convene a

meeting of the Charging Group to agree the detail before finalising legal documentation.

12. Core PSA Debtors update

- 12.1 As part of the year end process, all write-offs have been identified, approved and converted to grant in aid.
- 12.2 The remaining debtors are still being pursued and if the Arriva Trains negotiations are successful, negotiations will commence with the only remaining outstanding debtor.
- 12.3 The invoices raised for 2010/11 have now been paid for the first two months. ATW/AXC/EWS continue to partly pay invoices. DBRegio Tyne & Wear (Annual charge £0.6m) are partly paying invoices - a meeting is being arranged to discuss how the charges have arisen. A detailed debtors report will be presented to the next Authority meeting after review at the Finance Group scheduled for the 21 July 2010.

13. Contracts

- 13.1 Since the last Authority meeting on the 8 July, the following contracts have been signed by the Chief Executive:-
- Contract signed for ATW TORs and LEK Conditions on 26 May 2010.
 - Contract signed for Variation Letter to contract with MPA covering Wembley on the 4 May 2010.
 - Lease Ground Floor Fitzalan House, Cardiff 23 May 2010
 - Devon Cornwall PSA (Standard) signed 5 May 2010

14. Recommendations

- 14.1 Members are asked to note this report.