BRITISH TRANSPORT POLICE

Agenda Item 4

REPORT TO: **Strategy, Budget & Performance Monitoring Committee**

DATE: **6 February 2009**

SUBJECT: **2008-09 Policing Plan Performance**

SPONSOR: **Deputy Chief Constable**

AUTHORS: **Simon Peel and Ian Cawthron**

1. PURPOSE OF PAPER

1.1 The purpose of this paper is to provide an update on British Transport Police's (BTP's) performance against the 2008-09 Policing Plan up to 7 January 2009.

2. 2008-09 POLICING PLAN - PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

2.1 BTP is currently achieving 15 of the 22 national targets and 70 of the 88 local targets. This equates to 77% of all targets. The table below shows the number of targets being achieved nationally, and by each Area. See sections 3 and 4 for more detail, and Appendix A for full results.

	National		**Local**		**All targets**	
Area	Number	Achieving	Number	Achieving	Number	Achieving
London North	12	8	14	13	26	21
London South	12	7	20	16	32	23
London Underground	12	9	15	14	27	23
North Eastern	12	9	10	5	22	14
North Western	12	9	10	7	22	16
Scottish	9	5	9	6	18	11
Wales & Western	12	9	10	9	22	18
BTP	**22**	**15**	**88**	**70**	**110**	**85**

Notes:

1. National targets are set nationally, and are not all monitored locally: the BTP figures are not the sum of the Area figures.
2. BTP figures for Local targets are the sum of the Area figures.

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3. 2008-09 POLICING PLAN – NATIONAL TARGETS

3.1 BTP is currently achieving 15 of the 22 national targets. It is exceeding the detection rate target for notifiable offences, with a 32% detection rate against a target of 28%. This is also a significant improvement on the 26% notifiable detection rate for the same period last year. All Areas are achieving their individual detection rate targets. North Western and Scottish Areas have the highest notifiable detection rates at 42% and 37% respectively.

3.2 The target on notifiable crime reduction is now being achieved, with 53,145 recorded offences against a target of 53,278 for the year to date. The greatest reductions have been achieved for criminal damage (16%), theft of passenger property (16%) and robbery (also 16%). London Underground Area, with an 8% reduction in recorded notifiable offences, has been particularly successful; Scottish Area is also achieving its target. Although the other Areas are currently failing to achieve their targets, none of them are failing by more than 5% and performance for all of them is improving.

3.3 BTP's performance in reducing notifiable crime would have been even better but for a few crime groups where the number of offences has increased, in particular drug offences (63%) and offensive weapons offences (5%). The increases in these offences are almost entirely the result of police generated activity such as drugs operations, Operation Shield and anti-social behaviour reduction work, activities which have made an essential contribution to the significant reductions listed in paragraph 3.2.

3.4 The table below shows performance including and excluding drugs and offensive weapons. In the line excluding these offences, the comparative target has been adjusted to exclude drugs and offensive weapons from the 2007-08 baseline.

	YTD linear target (2% reduction)	2008-09 YTD	Same period 2007-08	% change
Total notifiable offences	53,278	53,145	54,834	- 3.1%
Notifiable offences exc. drugs and offensive weapons	49,494	47,671	51,247	- 7.0%

The table above shows that if police generated activity is excluded, BTP would be achieving a reduction of 7% on the same period last year.

3.5 At the end of September BTP was narrowly achieving its 80% Quality of Service target. Performance during October to December slipped to 78%; as a result year to date performance is now 79% and is narrowly failing target.

3.6 Victims' year to date satisfaction with BTP's handling of racial and violent offences continues to achieve the 80% target (83% and 82% respectively). Satisfaction with the handling of theft offences and vehicle offences is lower, at 79% and 72% respectively. Performance for vehicle offences is lowest in the London Areas: 54% in London Underground, 64% in London South and 68% in London North. Victims of crime are least satisfied with are Police Actions and Follow up. Following the appointment of Crime Coordinators to telephone all victims of vehicle crime, London North Area has achieved over 80% satisfaction with follow up for victims of vehicle crime for three of the last four months, although similar action in London South has not yet been as effective.

3.7 Sickness levels in BTP's three employee groups rose in December, but the long-term trend continues to be downwards: the year to date sickness rates for all three groups are significantly lower than during the same period last year. Despite the rise in December, the year to date sickness rates for police staff (5.14 days per person) and PCSOs (5.51 days per person) continue to achieve the 6.0 days per person target. The year to date rate for police officers rose to 6.05 days per person during December, which is narrowly failing the 6.0 year to date target. However, with continued focus, it is anticipated this target will be achieved at year end.

3.8 Performance against the three targets for cable related offences is strong and has improved since November. The target for £500,000 assets and cash to be seized has been achieved, with almost £1.3m having been seized in the year to date, largely via two operations led by the FHQ cable theft team in July. BTP has also exceeded its full year target to detect 320 offenders; 412 offenders have already been detected.

3.9 In addition, the target for reduction of live offences is now being achieved, with 1,042 offences against a year to date target of 1,070. The improved performance has been achieved through a combination of ongoing preventative and enforcement work (see below) and a significant fall in the price in copper over the last six months. This has resulted in a fall in the rate of offending, from an average of 31 per week during April to September, to 12 per week in November and December.

3.10 BTP is working with Network Rail to improve security, especially at engineering sites, and with the Environment Agency and British Metals Recycling Association to identify illegal scrap metal dealers. Eight co-ordinated Days of Action with these agencies and local police forces have targeted over 400 scrap metal dealers in the vicinity of hotspots. These Days of Action, which are ongoing, have led to numerous arrests, Fixed Penalty Notices, cautions and motor vehicle seizures. BTP is also extending its network of Covert Human Intelligence Sources, and using surveillance operations to identify associates of known suspects.

3.11 BTP is achieving both its football related targets: obtaining banning orders and reducing the number of serious football related incidents. BTP's strategy for tackling football related violence is focussed at Area level. Before the current football season started each Area was tasked to prepare a local Football Action Plan identifying problem clubs, problem individuals, travel routes to fixtures and likely crossover points. This information has helped target the use of police resources to ensure maximum effectiveness.

3.12 Performance for clearing fatalities, bringing offences to justice, Persistent Young Offenders, answering non-emergency calls and CBR profiling continues to achieve target. Apart from Quality of Service (see paragraphs 3.5 and 3.6 above) and police officer sickness (paragraph 3.7) the remaining targets not currently being achieved are emergency call handling, and the recruitment and progression targets relating to BME and female officers. The recruitment and progression targets continue to be the subject of discussion at the Stakeholder Relations & Communication Strategy Committee and FMT Part 1 meetings; work is ongoing to improve performance.

4. 2008-09 POLICING PLAN – LOCAL TARGETS

London North Area

4.1 London North Area is achieving 13 of its 14 local targets. It is exceeding its detection rate target for robbery offences, with a 53% detection rate against a 35% target; this is largely due to the work of its proactive robbery squad. It has also achieved a further reduction in robbery offences against the same period last year (208 against 243 in 2007-08) and has already achieved its target relating to detections for offensive weapons, with 199 detections so far against an annual target of 173.

4.2 The Area is performing strongly against its target for detections at Neighbourhood Policing locations, and is 150 detections ahead of its year to date target of 1,030, with 1,181 detections so far. Partnership activity has also been strong; the Area has already achieved its targets for both joint policing operations (75 against its annual target of 70) and joint revenue operations (126 against its annual target 70) with industry partners and Home Office forces.

4.3 The only target the Area is currently failing is its detection rate for staff assaults. Following the appointment of a Detective Inspector dedicated to the management of performance on staff assaults, its year to date performance has improved from 47% at the end of September to 58%. This is also an improvement on the 55% achieved during the same period last year, but is still one percentage point short of the 59% target.

4.4 The annual Christmas Operation Lockstock – BTP support for Revenue Protection Inspectors operating ticket barriers – started on 1 December 2008, four weeks earlier than usual. It focussed on high risk times and locations to help reduce offences and increase detections. The Area is also putting more effort into the early gathering of evidence, and is maintaining a strong focus via the Area tasking and performance meetings, where there is industry engagement. If required, additional resources are deployed. Given the often strong links between staff assaults and hate crime, the Area believes this approach to tackling assaults has contributed to its improved detection rate for hate crime, now achieving target, as well as for staff assaults.

London South Area

4.5 London South Area is achieving 16 of its 20 local targets. It is exceeding its crime reduction targets relating to robbery, theft of passenger property and graffiti by significant margins, achieving reductions of 12%, 20% and 39% respectively on the same period last year.

4.6 London South Area continues to achieve the highest rate of notifiable detections per officer of any Area; its 11 notifiable detections per officer to date is exceeding its year to date target of 9.3. In addition, London South Area has already achieved its annual target for detections at the South West Trains Neighbourhood Policing locations, and is significantly exceeding its year to date target for detections at the Lewisham / Victoria Neighbourhood Policing location. It has also improved its detection rate for notifiable crimes to 31%, from the 25% achieved during the same period last year.

4.7 Performance on two targets previously not being achieved has improved significantly, primarily as a result of Area initiatives. Following the establishment a Public Protection Unit, staffed by two Detective Constables, with a specific focus on hate crime, the Area's hate crime detection rate has improved from 43% to 51% (target 46%). In addition. school liaison visits during term time and anti-vandalism initiatives, including the use of Network Rail helicopter patrols, during the school holidays, have helped reduce the number of recorded route crime offences to less than the year to date target.

4.8 The Area is currently failing four targets. It has already failed its target for reducing ticket vending machine (TVM) related offences; this is due to a number of reasons including increased reporting, particularly of attempted thefts, and the increased numbers of TVMs. The Area expects to achieve its target for anti-social behaviour detections following the introduction of new Neighbourhood Policing Teams at Bromley and Wimbledon, and an additional Task Force at Brighton. The targets for detections of both violent / sexual offences and staff assaults are being failed by narrow margins of, respectively, twelve and seven detections. There are several potential detections available for both types of offence; the Area is following up on these to ensure that performance is maximised.

London Underground Area

4.9 London Underground Area is achieving 14 of its 15 local targets. The Area has continued its success in relation to robbery offences from last year, with a further 35% reduction in recorded offences against the same period last year and a detection rate of 42%, against a target of 34%. This has been achieved through a number of initiatives, including directed patrols by its robbery squads, and the deployment of crime cars at hotspot locations, with the use of technology such as bluetooth messaging to mobile phones.

4.10 London Underground is one of only two Areas achieving their targets for reducing notifiable crime. The reduction over the same period last year is greater in London Underground than any other Area: 8%, compared to a national average of 3%. The Area is also exceeding its notifiable detection rate target, with the detection rate currently at 29% against a target of 23%.

4.11 The Area has already achieved its target to run at least 70 joint intelligence-led partnership revenue protection and crime operations with 122 joint policing operations.

4.12 The Area is also achieving a 79% detection rate for staff assaults – well above both its 58% target, and the 49% achieved during the same period last year. This is being achieved through early CCTV capture, widespread forensic retrieval and continued partnership working with London Underground through the Workplace Violence Unit. These initiatives have also helped reduce staff related crime to 1,209 recorded offences, 156 less than target.

4.13 The Area has also achieved a 19% reduction in recorded theft of passenger property offences against the same period last year, and it is currently 1,182 offences below the year to date target of 5,780. The dedicated pickpocket unit continues to operate a proactive approach to reduce and detect these offences.

4.14 Performance has also improved against its target relating to recorded violent and sexual offences. Although this target is not yet being achieved, recorded offences have reduced from being 13% over the year to date target in August to 4% over the year to date target currently.

The Area is addressing the reduction of violent and sexual offences primarily through the provision of additional uniform patrols at the top 20 identified hotspot locations, and through co-ordination at the level one tasking meeting. It is also using the expertise of the Indecency Unit.

North Eastern Area

4.15 North Eastern Area is achieving 5 of its 10 local targets. It is exceeding its target for theft of passenger property, with 800 recorded offences against a target of 961 for the year to date. This is also a significant reduction on the same period last year, when 1,037 offences were recorded. This success is largely due to high visibility and reassurance patrols by Neighbourhood Policing Teams (NPTs) and the Operational Support Unit. These patrols are also helping the Area exceed its target for anti-social behaviour, with 1,486 offenders detected against a target of 1,353 for the year to date.

4.16 Another success for the NPTs has been a reduction in the number of vehicle and cycle crimes, which averaged 59 per month in 2007-08 and 64 per month during April – September 2008, but were down to 39 per month since September. Vehicle and cycle crime has been the main focus for the Leeds NPT during October, November and December. Its approach is centred on high profile directed patrols, “Adopt a Car Park” by the PCSOs and crime prevention measures. As a result of these initiatives the Area is now achieving its vehicle and cycle reduction target for the first time.

4.17 The Area is currently failing its local targets relating to detections of level crossing offences at specific crossings and the number of recorded offences for both staff assaults and passenger assaults. It is also failing its two detection rate targets, for violent/sexual offences and hate crime, though by narrow margins which will be recovered if, as expected, enough of the current potential detections lead to prosecutions.

4.18 North Eastern Area is developing partnerships to tackle the level of assaults, particularly in identified hotspots such as Hull where the partnership includes representatives of Humberside Police, Train Operating Companies, bus companies and Hull City Council. The partnership

meets every six weeks and, to date, has led to improvements to CCTV, alcohol exclusion signage and better intelligence sharing. There has already been a slight reduction in the rate of offences.

4.19 The Area needs 22 more route crime detections to achieve its year to date target. It has more than 40 potential detections available and is currently resolving issues that have delayed their clearance.

North Western Area

4.20 North Western Area is achieving 7 of its 10 local targets. It has already achieved its targets for level crossing detections, the number of Merseyrail stations achieving Secure Station status and the number of dispersal orders.

4.21 The Area has also achieved a reduction of 4% in notifiable offences and a 5% reduction for all recorded offences against the same period last year, and it is currently achieving a notifiable detection rate of 42%, the highest of any Area.

4.22 The appointment of a Financial Investigator to co-ordinate Proceeds of Crime Act forfeitures has led to an increase in seizures from drug dealers which is contributing to a reduction in drug offences. This, and increased use of Penalty Notices for Disorder (PNDs) for low-level offences, have helped the Area improve performance for its targets to detect anti-social behaviour offenders, both Area-wide and at the Manchester Neighbourhood Policing Team locations. Both targets are now being achieved as a result of these improvements.

4.23 The Area is now achieving its level crossing detections target after assisting Network Rail with educational work, and, with Network Rail's agreement, expanding the list of targeted locations to include further hotspot locations

4.24 North Western Area is currently failing its local targets relating to staff assaults (both recorded offences and detection rate), and its hate crime detection rate. The Area is introducing a

strategy to improve detections and reduce assaults by giving the officer in charge at each police post the responsibility to ensure joint working with local Train Operating Companies. Successful initiatives from this approach include attaching dedicated officers to Merseyrail Revenue Teams, a focus on late night violence before Christmas and awareness programmes for rail staff.

Scottish Area

4.25 Scottish Area is achieving 6 of its 9 local targets. It has already exceeded its target for detecting level crossing offences with 103 detections compared to an annual target of 87. Network Rail has funded two officers to analyse and follow up photographs; their work has been crucial to this success.

4.26 The Area's staff assaults detection rate, at 66%, is achieving its 64% target. The Area has also achieved a 44% reduction in recorded staff assaults against the same period last year, with 57 offences in the year to date against 102 last year. A number of factors have contributed to this success, including the promotion of on-train CCTV as a deterrent, and the Area's focus over a sustained period on detections for anti-social behaviour, which can often be a precursor to violent crime.

4.27 The Area is also achieving its detection rate targets for violent / sexual offences and hate crime. Performance against the hate crime target improved following a focus on sectarian offences after the start of the football season.

4.28 The targets currently being failed in Scottish Area are for recorded theft of passenger property offences, recorded offences at specific Neighbourhood Policing locations and graffiti detections. The graffiti target is being failed by a single detection and, as multiple detections are expected from current enquiries, the Area expects to achieve this target.

4.29 Theft of passenger property increased at the start of the policing year, largely because of the activities of Eastern European gangs. Operation Tariff has had a dramatic effect on the number of thefts by these gangs by conducting high profile patrols at identified hotspot locations and on

trains. As a result the number of theft offences recorded during the Christmas period was the lowest for five years. Work is ongoing to help ensure that this target is achieved.

Wales and Western Area

4.30 Wales and Western Area is achieving 9 of its 10 local targets. It has already achieved its target for joint solutions with Arriva Trains Wales, and achievement of its similar target with London Midland Trains only needs one more joint solution before the end of March.

4.31 The Area's 65% detection rate for hate crime significantly exceeds both its 53% target and its 46% performance during the same period last year. This improvement has been achieved by raising police officers' awareness of what constitutes hate crime, the different hate crime offences and the procedures for investigating them. There have also been additional patrols at Birmingham New Street station, where nearly 40% of the Area's hate crime takes place.

4.32 The Area is also exceeding its reduction target for notifiable offences at both the Cross City and Pontypridd Neighbourhood Policing locations. The 159 offences recorded at Pontypridd are 19% fewer than target, and 23% fewer than during the same period last year. The 257 offences at Cross City North and Cross City South are 11% fewer than target, and 19% fewer than during the same period last year. These successes have helped to ensure that TOCs and other partners are able to see the benefits of Neighbourhood Policing first hand.

4.33 The only target the Area is not achieving is for route crime detections; there have been 784 to date compared to a year to date target of 827. The Area is now focusing on route crime with awareness programmes and an Area Action Plan. It expects to be achieving this target by the end of the policing year.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 That members note the contents of this paper.