BRITISH TRANSPORT POLICE

Agenda Item 3

REPORT TO:	**British Transport Police Authority**
DATE:	**13 May 2010**
SUBJECT:	**Chief Constable's Report**
SPONSOR:	**Chief Constable**
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1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an overview of activity within British Transport Police (BTP) since the last Police Authority meeting in March 2010.

2. PERFORMANCE AGAINST 2009/10 POLICING PLAN

2.1 The 2009/10 Policing Plan year concluded at the end of March and I am pleased to report a very successful operational year for BTP where the positive trend in achieving objectives has been maintained, helping make the railway safer for those who use and work within it. All 14 of the national Policing Plan targets and 71 of the 75 local targets were achieved. A spreadsheet detailing performance against all objectives is attached at Appendix A.

2.2 Key areas of performance to note from the national targets include:

- During 2009/10 there were 55,751 notifiable offences recorded by BTP - a reduction of 4,662 offences (8%) compared to 2008/09. All Areas achieved their individual reduction in notifiable crime, with London South and North Eastern Areas achieving the largest reductions on last year (both 13%).
- The crime groups with the largest reductions on last year were Robbery (22%), Serious Line of Route offences (21%), Theft of Railway & Commercial Property (15%) and Motor Vehicle / Cycle offences (14%).
- BTP exceeded the detection rate target for notifiable offences by 2 percentage points achieving 35% compared with 32% last year.

- There were 878 live cable related offences recorded by BTP, 274 or 24% less than the target. These crimes are influenced by the international price of copper which continues to rise and reached $7,900 per tonne at the end of March.

2.3 Of the 75 local targets in the Policing Plan, 71 were achieved. Key areas of performance to note include:

- London North Area achieved all 12 of its local targets. The detection rate for staff assaults was 63% against a target of 55%. Recorded violence offences reduced by 9% and the detection rate for robbery crime was 5 percentage points above the target of 49%.
- London South Area also achieved all 12 of its local targets. Recorded violence offences fell from 1,242 in 2008/09 to 977 in 2009/10. Recorded theft of passenger property also fell from 3,045 to 2,883 in 2009/10.
- North Western Area achieved all 9 of its local targets. The detection rate for hate crime was 59%. Violent offences recorded in 2009/10 were 303, down from 354 last year, and detections for aggression towards staff offences increased from 251 in 2008/09 to 347.
- The North Eastern Area achieved all 10 of its local objectives. Notably, the hate crime detection rate increased from 62% last year to 79% in 2009/10. The number of passenger and public assaults fell from 468 to 392 in 2009/10 and anti-social behaviour (ASB) offenders detected increased from 1771 last year to 1,813 this year.
- Wales and Western Area achieved all 9 of its local targets. Particular highlights include: aggression towards staff detection rate, up from 54% last year to 64% in 2009/10, number of ASB offenders detected increased from 922 to 1,147, and the number of offences at Birmingham New Street fell from 713 to 656.
- London Underground Area achieved 17 of its 21 local policing targets. The four targets that were not achieved were:
    - Theft of passenger property: 6,794 offences recorded against a target of 6,133;
    - Detection rate for serious staff assaults: 74% achieved against a target of 78%;
    - Stone throwing and trespass detections: 153 achieved against a target 190;

- o Notifiable offences per 100,000 passenger journeys: performance 1.36 against a target of 1.34;

The Area performed particularly well in its sexual offences detection rate, achieving 34% in 2009/10 against 22% last year, and the graffiti detection rate where 23% of offences were detected, against 11% last year.

- Scotland achieved both of its local targets, performing particularly well for recorded ASB offences, down from 2,261 in 2008/09 to 1,657 in 2009/10.

2.4 During the Policing Plan year there were 62,295 notifiable offences (this includes police generated crimes such as possession of knives and drugs) and 34,051 non-notifiable offences. This corresponds to reductions of 7 % and 11 % respectively against 2008/09.

3. 2012 OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES

3.1 The BTP 2008/13 £24.9 million Olympic budget was agreed by the Department for Transport (DfT) Rail Investment Board on 18 November 2009. The Transport Security Project Business Case and budget (including the BTP budget) was agreed by the Olympic Security Directorate's Protect Programme Board on 1 March 2010, when the budget was accepted as a part of the £600 million Government Olympic Safety and Security Budget.

3.2 Assistant Chief Constable Thomas is engaged in a series of visits to venue police forces to discuss their joint operations with BTP during Games time. He has met with Dorset, Essex, Hertfordshire, Kent, Surrey, Sussex and Thames Valley police forces to take forward this planning work. Dates for the six football forces and the Metropolitan Police Service are being arranged.

3.3 The BTP Olympic Project continues to take forward 122 work packages (68 already completed) that will ensure that all necessary planning and security tasks are completed and that robust and proportionate plans are in place for 2012. The Project works closely with the Olympic Security

Directorate's Transport Security Project, Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA), DfT, TRANSEC, TfL, London Underground, Docklands Light Railway (DLR), Network Rail and rail operators.

3.4 Letters of intent have been exchanged with the ODA for the BTP briefing and feeding accommodation at Stratford Regional Control Centre on Platform 11 at Stratford Regional Station. A Memorandum of Understanding has now been signed with the University of Hertfordshire for the accommodation of BTP officers, police staff and mutual aid officers during Games time. A contract and deposit will be exchanged in July 2011.

3.5 A Rail Modal Working Group meeting took place on 19 March 2010, attended by representatives from BTP, ODA, DfT, TRANSEC, TfL, London Underground, DLR, Network Rail and rail operators. A BTP Olympic Bronze Commander conference took place on 23 March 2010 where officers were briefed on the latest developments and planning requirements and took part in a table top exercise concerning Games time fatality management.

4. INQUESTS

4.1 The preliminary hearing of the Coroner's Inquest into the London Bombings of 7 July 2005 took place week commencing 26 April 2010. Dame Heather Hallett, Assistant Deputy Coroner, will make a ruling by the end of May on the full scope of the Inquest. The first response by the emergency services will be within the scope of the inquest. It is also likely there will be a separate inquest for the suicide bombers and the 52 innocent victims. BTP has set up a team of officers to undertake all the necessary preparatory work for this Inquest.

4.2 The Coroner's Inquest into the death of Cheryl Flanagan commences on 24 May. John Beggs QC will represent BTP at the Inquest. BTP's response to the Independent Police Complaints Commissioner (IPCC) report is being finalised, along with a detailed update on what has been done to address the recommendations contained in the IPCC report.

4.3 The Inquest into the Potters Bar train crash is due to commence on 1 June 2010 and is expected to last for several weeks. Seven people died and 76 others were injured when a train bound for King's Lynn derailed at high speed in Potters Bar on 10 May 2002. BTP has set up a small team of officers to undertake all the necessary preparatory work for this Inquest.

5. GENERAL ELECTION

5.1 BTP launched Operation Opener to deal with the General Election. This is a major operation to coordinate the significant increase in the movement of protected persons by rail (which was increased further by the closure of UK airspace). Since the start of the election campaign to the end of April there have been over 150 movements of protected persons on the rail network. In many cases they were accompanied by a large entourage and media pack. This is a resource intensive operation designed to minimise impact on the travelling public and the industry. BTP has received excellent co-operation from train operators and Network Rail. The operation will continue until 10 May. Arrangements are in place to de-brief the process and to account for monies spent and proposals for covering these costs.

6. MEETINGS AND EVENTS

6.1 Since March the Chief Constable has met Managing Directors at First Great Western and Cross Country Trains, and the Chief Operating Officer at London Underground. He also attended the First Group Safety Awards Dinner. He has also met with Lord Bradshaw to discuss the Strategic Review of BTP and Sadiq Khan, Minister of State for Transport, to discuss football policing and provide a general update on the work of BTP.

6.2 On 18 March the Chief Constable participated in a debate organised by the Open Society Justice Initiative at Kings College London. The debate 'Where Now for Stop and Search?' included speakers from the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC), Academia, the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA), MP's and Liberty.

6.3 On 9 April the Chief Constable provided the keynote address for The Fingerprint Society's annual conference held at University College London. Part of the University campus was affected by the London bombings in July 2005 and the Chief Constable delivered a presentation outlining the challenges to the police response.

6.4 On 26 April the Chief Constable attended Rugby station together with the Chief Executive of Virgin Trains to mark the 500th railway car park to achieve accreditation under the Park Mark scheme. The Safer Parking Scheme is an initiative of the Association of Chief Police Officers aimed at reducing crime and the fear of crime in parking facilities.

6.5 The North Western Area has been re-accredited with a 'Big Tick' in the Education category of Business in the Community's National Awards for Excellence 2010. Business in the Community's Awards for Excellence identifies and celebrates companies having a positive impact on the community, environment, marketplace and workplace. The Awards for Excellence reward businesses who demonstrate the positive impact they have had on society, and also the business benefits created by ensuring that being responsible is integral to their business model. Re-accreditation is given to companies that can demonstrate the continuing positive impact of their award-winning initiative.

7. CRIME MAPPING

7.1 In line with the Home Office agenda to ensure citizen-focused and accountable policing, BTP has developed a Crime Mapping site. Data is published on BTP's website (http://stats.btp.police.uk/) and shows where crime has occurred at each station on the rail network across England, Wales & Scotland. The data can be viewed by selecting a region on the map and using the local map to find a particular station, or by typing a station name into the search box.

7.2 Crime data displayed on the site is published monthly. Data on crimes per hundred thousand passengers is provided for every station; this ensures the crime data is understood in context and enables meaningful comparison between stations. In order to provide the most accurate

and meaningful representation possible, crime data published on the site is broken down according to whether it occurred at a station or on a train.

7.3 Two years' worth of crime data is published by month. This enables a comparison of the current 12 months with the previous 12 months for the following crime types:

- Total crime;
- Burglary;
- Robbery;
- Vehicle;
- Violence against the person;
- Anti-social behaviour.

7.4 A risk assessment is completed each month and further analysis is undertaken on the 30 stations showing the largest percentage increase in crime. An update is then published on the website. For example, Sittingbourne has seen crimes increase from 32 to 68 in the last 12 months and the following update has been published – 'There has been an increase in cycle thefts from Sittingbourne which accounts for the majority of increased offences. BTP has arrested one person in conjunction with the thefts and enquiries are ongoing to identify others responsible'.

8. OPERATIONAL POLICING OVERVIEW

8.1 The following section provides provides Members with an overview of the type of crime that occurs on the rail network and the investigation that subsequently follows.

8.2 **Counter Terrorism (CT) and Domestic Extremism**

Following the recent terrorist attacks in New York and Moscow, and the situation in Northern Ireland where dissident groups have recently targeted the railway, BTP is working with colleagues and closely monitoring the CT situation. There is no current intelligence that

suggests that attacks in the UK are imminent and threat levels remain unchanged. BTP has briefed its officers on the assessment and reporting procedures for dealing with reports of suspicious vehicles and is liaising with the rail industry.

8.3 **Murder – London Victoria**

On 25 March a 15 year old school boy was stabbed to death inside London Victoria Underground Station. BTP led the initial police response to the incident including the forensic examination of nine crime scenes and the identification, arrest and interview of 20 youths on suspicion of murder. This incident attracted widespread media attention and also had a big impact on the local community. It was later agreed the MPS should take primacy for this investigation due to the community impact and it being categorised a Cat A crime – a high profile child murder with multiple suspects. Twelve youths have been charged with murder.

8.4 **Football Policing**

The two FA Cup semi-finals were played at Wembley Stadium in April and contributed to a very busy period of football policing for BTP with a number of serious incidents. Later kick off times and alcohol consumption led to a large number of arrests.

On 10 April at East Croydon two opposing groups of football fans engaged in disorder and fighting which resulted in one male being pushed onto the tracks.

On 11 April at Kings Cross station there was a large scale fight between 20 people on a train which spilled onto the platform as the train pulled into the station. 14 people were arrested. Two people were left with serious facial injuries.

On 24 April at Kirby in Ashfield the travelling public were caught up in a fight that broke out on board a train between opposing football fans and resulted in a five year old boy being punched. Two men were arrested.

8.5 **Operation Cobalt - Sentencing**

Brian Wall was convicted at Chelmsford Crown Court in May 2009 of the shooting of a commuter at Rayleigh Railway Station, Essex in May 2007. He was also convicted of the armed robbery of a female security guard who was delivering £20,000 to the ATM at the station, together with a series of armed robberies across Essex and East London during the previous two years. He received an indeterminate prison sentence with the stipulation that he serve a minimum of 12 years before he could apply for parole.

Appearing with him were brothers Terence and Leonard Smith. Terence Smith in particular was accused of being the accomplice of Wall in the Rayleigh robbery and shooting. Terence Smith is a career criminal who has a string of previous convictions and has had two major prison sentences previously of 15 and 16 years for armed robberies. He also escaped from prison while serving one of those sentences. He has written a number of books about serious criminality and armed robberies, including one titled 'The Art of Armed Robbery'. He claimed to be a reformed criminal and was used by the media a number of times to comment on armed robberies.

During the Operation Cobalt investigation, extensive use of covert policing methods were utilised and Terence Smith was observed over several days following and watching cash in transit deliveries in and around Essex with Brian Wall. He was later to claim in court that he was engaged in this activity as research for future publications.

After two weeks of deliberation, the jury was unable to agree on a verdict for either him or his brother and it was decided they should stand re-trial and both were remanded in custody.

On 6 January 2010, both brothers came before the same Judge at Chelmsford Crown Court for retrial. On 26 February 2010, after 6 days deliberation, Leonard Smith who was accused of conspiracy to rob and firearms offences was acquitted on a majority verdict. Terence Smith was unanimously found guilty of the robberies and firearms offences he was accused of, including

the robbery at Rayleigh Station. He received the same sentence as Brian Wall with the stipulation that he serve a minimum of 12 years.

The judicial process continues in that the Judge will decide on confiscations under the Proceed of Crime Act.

8.6 **Grevious Bodily Harm – Farningham Road Station**

A 33 year old Romanian national was sentenced at Maidstone Crown Court in March to four years imprisonment for grievous bodily harm on a fellow commuter at Farningham Road station in 2008. On 6 August 2008, the suspect pushed the 60 year old victim off the platform onto the tracks, only minutes before the arrival of a fast train. The victim suffered a fractured wrist, extensive bruising, and has since been diagnosed with post traumatic stress disorder as a result of the incident. She has been made redundant and still takes medication for this illness.

8.7 **Sexual crimes – Liverpool and Wirral**

On 5 June 2009 a report was received by BTP of a male taking indecent photographs of young school children on a train between Liverpool Central and West Kirby stations. The male was reported to be sexually touching himself as he took the photographs. Officers carried out both covert and overt patrols and the offender was identified and arrested by BTP officers on 26 June. A search was conducted at his home address and officers discovered a bedroom with manacles and blood stains on a bed. The suspect was subsequently linked to a number of sexually motivated crimes, where prostitutes were targeted by him and assaulted at his address.

BTP and colleagues from Merseyside Police worked together to maximise forensic evidence which successfully linked the suspect to a number of offences.

On 21 April at Liverpool Crown Court, the accused was jailed indefinitely for a series of sexual offences including sexual assault, possession of indecent images of children and of outraging public decency. The accused was a Director of a Young Persons Advisory Service in Liverpool.

8.8 **Robbery – Bootle New Strand**

In July 2009 a 22 year old woman travelling alone on train was singled out by a gang of youths and as the train reached the station, one offender grabbed her handbag and ran off. A 19 year old man who witnessed this ran after the suspect in an attempt to retrieve bag. He was rounded on by the gang and assaulted, suffering a number of injuries, and had his skateboard stolen. The gang made off. BTP officers at Liverpool investigated the incident and through the use of excellent quality CCTV the gang members were identified and arrested. On 22 April at Liverpool Crown Court the four main offenders were sentenced to up to 12 months for the robbery and 8 months for the theft of the handbag.

8.9 **Robberies – Sydenham Hill**

Following a series of robberies in and around Sydenham Hill station, London South officers conducted observations during the afternoon of 4 January. Shortly before their arrival a robbery had taken place. Using the detailed description provided by the victim of the suspect the officers later stopped and arrested a 19 year old man. On arrest he was found in possession of a number of phones. Subsequent enquiries revealed that of the six phones in his possession one belonged to the latest victim. The suspect, when interviewed, admitted the offence that night.

He was further arrested for a robbery at Herne Hill Station which was caught on CCTV and was charged. He appeared at court and was remanded in custody. Further enquiries where made into the phones found in his possession and CCTV footage of the previous offences. He was identified in two further robberies where two males were attacked on a train on 8 December and robbed of their phones, one of whom was seriously injured. Of the other phones in his possession three of them were found to be the proceeds of serious knife point robberies on bus passengers in Brixton and Peckham. CCTV from one of these showed the suspect as being the leader and main offender wielding the knife. An Oyster card also recovered from the suspect was connected to a robbery in October 2009 from Sydenham Hill Station where the victim was subject of a serious assault.

A series of identification parades, an Oyster card in his possession, and phone analysis, provided further evidence. The suspect has been charged with nine robberies and is due to appear before Southwark Crown Court. He is of interest to Metropolitan Police colleagues and has admitted involvement in a further seven robberies.

8.10 **Rape - Carshalton**

On 25 January a 14 year old schoolgirl received a text message from a 21 year old man and extended family member. The text invited the victim to meet him once the victim had finished school. On meeting they walked to Carshalton railway station. Once there, the male entered the gent's toilets and beckoned for the victim to follow him. He took the victim into a cubicle and raped her. The suspect told the victim that he would kill her if she told anyone about what had happened. The matter came to light on 27 February following a family argument.

The male was arrested and a white jacket matching the one worn by the suspect was seized along with a computer. CCTV was interrogated and still images obtained. Clothing worn by the victim on the day of the offence was seized. During interview the suspect denied the offence and provided an alibi. The investigation found DNA evidence on the victim's clothing that matched the suspect and enquiries disproved the alibi provided. As a result of this new information he was again interviewed, during which he admitted that he had had full sex with the victim but stated it was consensual. He was later charged with the offence of rape and is currently in custody pending trial at Croydon Crown Court.

8.11 **Ticket Vending Machine (TVM) Thefts – Southern Railways**

A number of TVM thefts were identified in January affecting Southern Railway. The thefts were linked in a series over a six week period and caused over £95,000 in damage to equipment and the theft of over £3,000.

In partnership with Southern, arrangements were put in place with the CCTV centre to have late evening and early hours visual monitoring for all centrally monitored locations to detect anyone

acting suspiciously. In addition the reporting process for these incidents was reviewed by the Head of Security to maximise investigative and forensic opportunities.

Early identification of the series has led to three people being arrested. They are currently on bail pending further enquires however there are strong links to the suspects and a large amount of forensic evidence. There have been no further offences using the same method since the arrests.

8.12 **Ticket Vending Machine (TVM) Thefts – Scotland**

Operation Roost was launched in Scotland following further thefts from TVMs in February and March, and replaces Operation Angler which looked at similar offences up to December 2009. The majority of the new crimes exhibit a previously known method; at least two offences involved the use of a key to gain access to the TVM. As a consequence of this FirstScotrail, following agreement with Transport Scotland, have decided to change TVMs across central Scotland to card-only.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 That members note the contents of this paper.