

Minutes

Police Authority

Date: Thursday 01 November 2010
Venue: G1 & G2 FHQ, 25 Camden Road, London NW1 9LN

The Forum
5th Floor North
74-80 Camden Street
London NW1 0EG

T: 020 7383 0259
F: 020 7383 2655

www.btpa.police.uk

Present:

Ms Millie Banerjee, Chairman
Sir David O'Dowd, Deputy Chairman
Mr Lew Adams
Mr Howard Collins
Mr Ian Dobbs
Mr Colin Foxall
Mrs Elizabeth France
Mr Michael Holden
Mr Jeroen Weimar

Apologies:

Mr Robin Gisby
Mr James King
Mr Neil Scales
Mrs Wendy Towers

In attendance:

Mr Andrew Trotter, Chief Constable
Mr Paul Crowther, Deputy Chief Constable
Mr Paul Beasley, Assistant Chief Constable Protective Services
Mr Alan Pacey, Assistant Chief Constable Territorial Policing
Mr Stephen Thomas, Assistant Chief Constable Operations
Mr Andrew Clarke, Acting Director of Finance and Corporate Services
Ms Teresa Hickman, Acting HR Director
Mr Peter Zieminski, Chief Superintendent Command Support
Mr Simon Hart, Head of Finance

Mr Andrew Figgures, Chief Executive
Mrs Liz Pike, Treasurer
Mrs Samantha Elvy, Performance Review Manager
Miss Lucy Barrick, Business Manager & Minutes

PART I - ITEMS TAKEN IN PUBLIC

81/2010 Welcome and Apologies

Non-Agenda

Mr King had intended to participate in the meeting via conference call but owing to technical difficulties this had not been possible. Apologies were received from Mr Gisby, Mr Scales and Mrs Towers, as the meeting had been added to the calendar late in the year and clashed with other commitments.

82/2010 Minutes of Meeting 01 November 2010

Agenda Item 1

The minutes were approved as an accurate record.

83/2010 Matters Arising

Agenda Item 2

The Chairman and Chief Executive had met Theresa Villiers MP, Minister of State for Transport. The cost of football policing had been discussed and Ms Villiers had agreed to hold a meeting, to which BTP would be invited, to review this further. Changes to regulation on scrap metal dealers had been discussed to help combat cable theft, but progress of this issues would be governed by the Government's overall legislative agenda . It was noted that the Chief Constable would be meeting with Ms Villiers shortly and would keep cable theft on the agenda.

All matters had been discharged.

84/2010 Chief Constable's Report

Agenda Item 3

1. The Authority thanked the Chief Constable for the Appendix which included the performance information for the Policing Plan targets.

2. The Authority noted that cable theft offences appeared to be rising and asked for an update on performance. The Force responded that according to the profile of previous years it was anticipated that the live cable demand would fall at this time of year, and this did appear to be happening. However, it was noted that year-on-year the number of offences was higher than previously recorded. The Force was tackling this with the movement of resources and intelligence led policing. The effectiveness of this approach should be evident in the first quarter of the New Year when the demand curve was reviewed.

3. It was explained that the increase compared with last year in the number of offences on London South was largely the result of particular challenges around the theft of passenger property and bicycle theft. The Area was trying to contain and resolve these issues. It was further noted that whilst an increase this continued a downward trend since 2005.

4. The Authority asked how the initiatives were progressing in relation to the target to increase passenger perceptions of safety at 42 stations where this had been identified as being low. The Force responded that the perception of safety had increased significantly at many of the stations. Work was currently being progressed to distil what each Area was doing to achieve this increase so that good practice could be shared. It was expected that a significant factor in the increased perceptions of safety was the linking of problem solving plans to anti-social behaviour and increasing coverage at night when anti-social behaviour occurred. The Authority was keen that the work identifying the drivers for the increase be carried out as this was the underpinning confidence measure for BTP. It was agreed that the Performance Group would monitor this and report back to the Authority in January.

Agreed

- The Force to report to the Performance Group on the drivers for the increase in passenger perceptions of safety and report back to the Full Authority in January.

85/2010 Chief Executive's Report

Agenda Item 4

1. The NAO had invited BTPA to participate in a project reviewing performance frameworks and Board reporting across Government. The Chief Executive felt that this would be useful for reviewing the new business cycle. As part of the project Members would be interviewed or asked to fill in a questionnaire and there would be some work for the Executive Team. The Members said that they were happy to participate but would prefer interviews to questionnaires. The Chief Executive advised that he would encourage the NAO to conduct interviews, adding

that he believed that this was their preferred method. The Members also felt that it would be useful to see a template ahead of their participation.

2. RPMI had agreed the proposed assumptions with regards to the police officer pension scheme valuation.

3. At the stakeholder workshop which had been held on 28 September a common request had been for an improvement in performance in relation to disruptions to the railway generally as opposed to solely around fatalities. It was noted that BTP had a limited role here and needed to be cautious that it did not undertake to deliver something that was outside of its area of control. The Force advised that all potential targets were being reviewed at the Policing Plan Group and rail industry data for lost minutes was part of this work. This would be signed off by the Full Authority before being adopted and the Group would ensure that those targets recommended were within the gift of BTP.

4. The proposed arrangements for equality and diversity oversight were discussed. This was something that the Performance Group was taking a role in. Mr Collins said that culture could be looked at more closely. It was noted that the old style staff survey no longer took place. The Chief Constable said that he felt that this had not had enough granularity and he thought the new approach was much more powerful and helpful. The new approach involved focused pieces of work relating to specific groups or issues. It was added that the Force would be reporting to the Performance Group on the People and Culture strand of the Equality and Human Rights work that it conducted which should address Mr Collins' point on culture.

5. The current arbitration case with Arriva had received a further stay as a possible settlement was progressed. [Discussion was continued in the closed session.]

Agreed

- The Authority to participate in the NAO project reviewing performance frameworks and Board reporting across Government.
- The Chief Executive to encourage the NAO to conduct interviews as opposed to sending out questionnaires.
- The Chief Executive to request the template for the data collection from the NAO.
- The proposed arrangements for equality and diversity oversight were approved.

- The Executive to report on the HMIC report at a future Authority meeting following analytical work.
- The Chief Executive to contact the decision makers at the DfT to discuss the possible settlement in relation to the arbitration.

86/2010 Quarter 2 Finance Report

Agenda Item 5

1. The data set received by the Group had improved and the establishment data was a helpful start for building from the bottom up on the budget and resource requirements. In relation to resource requirements the Group had noted that the overtime costs were high and work was being done to review these against the cost of full-time employees and this would come to the next meeting.

2. The Force had identified £2.5m in terms of budget savings and reductions in discretionary spend. The capital programme was progressing well although a small risk of a possible overspend was noted but the Force expected to bring this back in line with budget.

3. The BTPA budget was showing underspends in both staff and non-staff costs currently. The major risk to the budget was the arbitration and the legal costs involved should this go ahead.

4. A timetable and plan were in place for running the charging model and delivering a quality result on time. Preparations for the 2011/12 charges were already underway. The Authority budget for 2011/12 would be developed earlier than originally planned so that this could be worked into the model earlier to increase the quality assurance period and reduce the potential for errors.

5. The Authority noted the report and the Finance Group minutes as a draft version.

87/2010 Pay and Allowances Audit - Progress Update

Agenda Item 6

1. The Force advised that the majority of police officer files had been checked. Of those checked, there had been 10 potential overpayments and 89 potential underpayments identified. The materiality of this was less than 0.01%. The NAO had reviewed a sample of 30 of the checked files and the feedback from this had been positive. The NAO would be coming back and reviewing a further sample of 20. The Force

said that it had been a useful exercise and had highlighted process issues that needed to be addressed.

2. The Authority asked how satisfied the Force was with the work carried out and whether it felt that the sample reviewed by the NAO was representative of the files. The Force responded that it was confident that the sample would be typical of the standard of file that was now in place.

3. The Authority requested that when the work was completed it get a closure report advising what the cost of the exercise had been, the materiality of any errors and assurance that the systems and processes were in place to ensure that this situation would not arise again.

Agreed

- The completion report to be presented to the Audit Committee at its December meeting.

88/2010 Quarter 2 Performance Report

Agenda Item 7

1. Mr Collins updated on the Group's meeting at which they had reviewed the Quarter 2 data. The dashboard was still under development but the Group was keen to include industry data on delay minutes. The aim was to have a handful of indicators where the long term trend was visible to see how the Force was progressing against its strategy. Mr Collins requested that Members feedback any comments on the dashboard to him through Mrs Elvy.

2. Assistant Chief Constable Beasley had given a presentation to the Group on protective services and vulnerable people looking at the work the Force did in this area. This had been an excellent presentation and the Group had requested that Assistant Chief Constable Beasley repeat it at a future Authority meeting.

3. There had been some confusion at the meeting regarding PDAs and the use of these. There did appear to an issue with the usage but it was not as significant as it had appeared at first. The Force had identified that the key application that would get officers using PDAs was email but there was not currently the funding to upgrade the PDAs to those that could host this. However, the Force would be focusing on increasing usage in the meantime.

Agreed

- Members to feedback comments on the dashboard to Mr Collins via Mrs Elvy samantha.elvy@btp.pnn.police.uk

89/2010 Professional Standards Committee Minutes

Agenda Item 8

1. The file review had not found any significant issues. There had been a resourcing issue in the Professional Standards Department with the lack of an Analyst and as such some of the work that the Committee had requested had not been completed. However, a new Analyst would be in post in December and the outstanding work would come to the January meeting.

2. The planned visit to the new London North custody facility had been postponed due to electrical supply issues. This was now expected to take place in December.

3. There had been a concern around the property store audit results. These were usually positive but a few issues had been raised this time. As a result the Force was to review how it monitored the follow up of the recommendations from these audits. It had also been suggested that the Force might consider how it organised its property stores and whether some form of regionalisation might help with controls.

4. Whilst not within the remit of the Committee it was reported that the Chief Executive and Deputy Chief Constable had discussed the protocol between the Authority and Force with regard to grievances. The BTP policy had been modified to state that grievances in relation to policy were not against the Chief Constable but against the implementer of the policy.

90/2010 Policing Plan Group Minutes

Agenda Item 9

1. The stakeholder workshop that had taken place on 28 September had been successful and some key objectives had arisen from this. The Policing Plan Group would be holding its next meeting on 10 December.

2. A timeline had been put together for the development of the Policing Plan which would be developed to fit with the Strategic Plan.

3. The Chairman added that at the stakeholder workshop there had been a strong message that stakeholders wanted transparency in where their money went and what they got for it. The Chairman asked for suggestions on how this may be taken forward. It was noted that it was a strategic issue where the connectivity between the inputs and outputs would need to be demonstrated.

4. The Chief Executive advised that to discharge the Authority's statutory functions it needed to demonstrate how the money received related to the objectives set and translated into outputs. It was agreed that a proposal should be developed on how this work could be taken forward and brought to the next meeting.

5. It was noted that the industry was expanding and the drivers that increase demand on BTP should be identified as part of this work.

Agreed

- The Authority to develop a proposal on how the work on demonstrating value for money by reviewing the inputs and outputs could be taken forward.
- The drivers that increase demand on BTP to be identified as part of this work.

PART II - ITEMS TAKEN IN PRIVATE

91/2010 Chief Executive's Report continued

Discussion continued in private regarding the detail of the Arbitration case and the potential consequences.

92/2010 Minutes and Matters Arising continued

Agenda Items 10

The minutes were approved as an accurate record.

93/2010 Wide Area Network (WAN) Contract

Agenda Items 11

The report was discussed.

Agreed

- How business cases are dealt with to be written into the new Governance Code for clarity and presented to the Authority at its January meeting.
- The Authority authorised the Chief Executive to sign the contract off once he was satisfied with the responses to the matters that they had raised, including the questions about benefits realisation and the spread of cost.
- The Chief Executive to report back to the Authority on the satisfactory conclusion of the outstanding matters.

94/2010 Budget Profile Paper

Agenda Item 12

The report was discussed and further work was to be undertaken by the Finance Group before proposals came back to the Authority at its December meeting.

95/2010 Chief Constable's Update

Non-Agenda

The Chief Constable updated the Authority on the current terrorism threat.

Signed.....

Chairman