

# Minutes

## Police Authority

**Date:** Thursday 24 March 2011

**Venue:** G1 & G2 FHQ, 25 Camden Road, London NW1 9LN

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### Present:

Ms Millie Banerjee, Chairman  
Mr Lew Adams  
Mr Howard Collins  
Mr Ian Dobbs  
Mr Colin Foxall  
Mrs Elizabeth France  
Mr Michael Holden  
Mr James King (by telephone)  
Mr Neil Scales  
Mrs Wendy Towers

### Apologies:

Sir David O'Dowd, Deputy Chairman  
Mr Robin Gisby  
Mr Jeroen Weimar

### 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  
Mrs Sharon Burd, Director of Finance and Corporate Services  
Mr Andrew Clarke, Acting Director of Finance and Corporate Services  
Ms Teresa Hickman, Acting HR Director  
Ms Marie Daniels, Head of Strategic Development  
Ms Vanessa Delices, Secretariat Manager

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

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## **PART I - ITEMS TAKEN IN PUBLIC**

### **19/2011 Welcome and Apologies**

Non-Agenda

The Chairman gave apologies from Sir David O'Dowd, Mr Gisby and Mr Weimar.

Mrs Burd was welcomed back.

### **20/2011 Minutes of Meeting 09 December 2010**

Agenda Item 1

The minutes were approved as an accurate record.

### **21/2011 Matters Arising**

Agenda Item 2

Items one and two regarding transparency on value for money remained ongoing and were to be removed from the action list as work was underway.

All other matters had been discharged.

### **22/2011 Chief Constable's Report**

Agenda Item 3

1. The Chief Constable advised the Authority that cable theft remained a significant challenge for BTP. The Authority was updated that the demand and price for copper and other metals was continuing to rise. The Force therefore expected cable theft to remain an issue for the foreseeable future.

2. In terms of the strategy for tackling cable theft, it was noted that the Deputy Chief Constable was still chairing the steering group. The Force was also continuing to press for changes to legislation to make the scrap metal industry move to cashless transactions. In addition, the Force had engaged with some of the larger scrap metal firms to discuss the potential of a cashless business model which seemed to have some support.

3. Cable theft was also becoming a more significant issue for other police forces and this was helping to capture their attention, as it was no longer just cable that was being stolen but any metal. Forces were also

improving their crime recording practices for metal theft to make numbers more easily available.

4. BTP had also established a joint intelligence cell focused on cable theft. They currently had an Analyst seconded from Network Rail and an analyst resource from British Telecom (BT) would also be made available shortly. The affected industries were keen to support this approach and Network Rail had also offered additional funding up to £1.3m a year to help to tackle cable theft.

5. From an operational perspective the Force was arresting more people who fell into both opportunist and organised crime categories. They were also trying to be proactive in preventing and detecting cable theft and to be clear about the dangers of stealing cable from the railway.

6. The Authority asked what the HMIC recommendation around cable theft had been. The Force advised that it had been about intelligence gathering and sharing with other organisations. The Authority was concerned that the way that this was described in the paper implied more criticism than was meant.

7. The Force updated that the Voluntary Severance Scheme (VSS) had been successful. It had met its objectives with 21 applications accepted and only 2 refused owing to the need to retain skills. It was noted that when the 21 officers left some adjustment would be required as a lot of skill would be leaving. However, it was noted that this would result in a significant saving and it decreased the percentage of Chief Inspectors and Superintendents by 20%.

8. On counter terrorism, meetings continued with officials and Government. There had been progress on firearms, CCTV, search powers and Airwave:

- Firearms: Updated separately at Item 10.
- CCTV: Funding had been received from London Underground Ltd and Network Rail which ensured that the CCTV hub at Ebury Bridge would be able to view and record all of Zone 1 and all Network Rail owned stations. There had been a funding gap but DfT had now agreed to fund this. Some other operators would also be linking in and these included, amongst others, HS1 and the DLR.
- Airwave: The National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) had developed the business case for increased Airwave capacity at 39 stations. The funding required was estimated to be in the region of £15m. The next step was to go back to the Home Office to see how this could be funded.
- Search powers: The Home Secretary had announced section 47a of the Terrorism Act and repealed section 44. Section 47a was a more stringent version of the old section 44. This left a capability gap but was considered to be the best

outcome that could be achieved following the European Court ruling.

9. The Chairman noted that things were moving forwards and getting discussed in the right forums and thanked the Force for their work on this.

10. It was noted that football and the English Defence League (EDL) policing were discussed under the same heading in the report. The Chief Constable assured the Authority that there was no intention to associate the two together and he would ensure the format was changed in the future.

11. The question was raised as to whether there had been consultation with the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) and Scottish Executive on the subject of arming. The Force confirmed that Assistant Chief Constable McCall had been involved in discussions regarding the possibility of an armed capability but there had been no consultation with the WAG and Scottish Executive.

The report was noted.

### **23/2011 Chief Executive's Report**

Agenda Item 4

1. The Chief Executive advised the Authority that the agreement with Arriva Trains Wales (ATW) was expected to be signed that afternoon. The second dispute involving DB Schenke was in hand and it was hoped that this would be resolved shortly.

2. The valuation scheme and recovery plan for the police officers pension scheme had been agreed by the Trustee, subject to Government passing the Pensions Order increase being based on CPI. This had now been confirmed.

3. A sample Strategic Performance Dashboard was attached for comment. It was agreed that Members would feed comments in outside of the meeting with a deadline of 1 April 2011. The Members felt that this was a significant step forwards. They requested that at the next meeting they be given a representation of what the format of the dashboard would look like.

4. It was noted that the new Business Cycle seemed to be working well and that the Annual Review would be taking place over the next couple of months to gather Members and Force feedback.

The report was noted.

### **Agreed**

- Members to provide any feedback by 1 April 2011.
- The Members to be provided with a representation of the format of the dashboard at the next meeting.

## **24/2011 BTP Capital Programme**

### Agenda Item 5

1. The Authority was advised that the Finance Group had reviewed the proposed Capital Programme at its meeting on 16 March. The Programme had been developed on the basis of an assumed delegated expenditure limit (DEL) of £11.2m, which had been communicated informally by the DfT. Mrs Pike updated she had that morning received notification that the DfT was content with the £11.2m in principle and would formally confirm once they had viewed the detail of the Programme.

2. The Authority was asked to approve the Programme as detailed for 2011/12 and note the notional amounts that were predicted for 2012/13 and 2013/14. The Members were reassured that the revenue impact of the proposed Capital Programme had been fully accounted for in the approved revenue budget for 2011/12.

3. The Chair of the Finance Group informed the Authority that the Group recommended the proposed Programme assuming DfT approval. It was also noted that there was not overprovision of the programme as there had been in previous years in case of slippage. However, it was noted that should slippage occur there were means of absorbing this.

4. The London South Area custody project had been postponed until 2013. The Authority asked if the Force could wait that long, and, if so, was it required? The Force advised that the new London North Area custody facility was due to open on 4 April and there would be a further review of custody requirements after this had been in operation for a few months. Additionally, the Ebury Bridge four cell facility had reopened.

5. The Authority asked for reassurance on how funding which was received from external sources outside of normal arrangements was accounted for. The Force informed the Authority that there was a robust process, with this type of funding being dealt with and accounted for in the same way as capital funding and reported to the Finance Group. Also, any funding proposals over £1m would be brought to the Authority for approval. Additionally, it was noted that in most of these cases the funding was only received when the funder was satisfied with the spend.

### **Agreed**

- The Authority approved the Capital Programme of £11.2m as presented in Appendices A and B, assuming DfT approval.
- The expenditure proposals for 2012/13 and 2013/14 were noted.

## **25/2011 Strategy Group and Strategic Plan**

### Agenda Item 6

1. The proposed three year Strategic Plan for 2011/12-2013/14 was presented to the Authority for approval. The Plan had been widely consulted on and there had been active engagement from the

stakeholders. The feedback from the consultation had been considered and the Plan amended as considered appropriate. The Strategy Group had led the work on the Plan and was recommending it for approval to the full Authority.

2. It was noted that the quality of accommodation on the BTP estate had improved significantly in the last few years and a word of caution was given by the Authority that a 10% reduction in the estate budget should not compromise the quality of the estate.

3. The Chief Constable said that the Force did not want to be in a position where it was turning down offers of space from railway operators. In these cases it would be looking to work smarter by reducing revenue and capital costs by not hardwiring IT facilities and similar strategies.

### **Agreed**

- The Strategic Plan was approved as presented.
- Progress on the Futures Programme was noted.

## **26/2011 Policing Plan 2011/12**

### Agenda Item 7

1. Mr Holden introduced the Plan on behalf of the Policing Plan Group. He advised that there had been four rounds of consultation and four Group meetings. The Deputy Chief Constable had led the majority of the work on the Plan. The proposal was to retain the two tier structure which had been strongly supported by the stakeholders. There would be a decrease in the total number of targets and those remaining would focus on stakeholder priorities.

2. The main issue in the development of the Plan had been the disruption target. The Force and industry were keen to have a disruption reduction target but there were issues around the data to support this. As such, an objective for 2011/12 was to work to move this forwards so that a satisfactory measure would be ready in time for a target for 2012/13. The Authority asked if they could receive a presentation on the disruption target and the data at a suitable time. This was agreed.

3. The Deputy Chief Constable advised that there had been an amendment to the narrative presented since the paper had been distributed. This concerned the piece on the reduction of non-staff costs as the situation had improved and, as such, the narrative now reflected a more promising picture. The Authority Executive would be liaising with the Strategic Development Department at BTP to finalise the narrative.

### **Agreed**

- The Authority to receive a presentation on the disruption target and data at a suitable time.
- The Common Plan was approved subject to minor amendments to the narrative as discussed.

- The Local Plans were approved.

## **27/2011 Protective Services: Vulnerable People**

### Agenda Item 8

1. Assistant Chief Constable Beasley gave a presentation on the significant amount of work that the Force conducted in regards to vulnerable people. The Performance Review Group had received the presentation and suggested that it be given to the full Authority to ensure that all were aware of the complex and challenging issues.

2. It was noted that the work carried out by BTP appeared to be helping to reduce the number of fatalities on the railway. In turn, this was reducing delay minutes and saving up to the region of £16m for the industry. The Authority noted that there was a further potential saving in a decrease of time off for train drivers following fatalities if fewer were taking place.

3. The Rail Safety and Standards Board (RSSB) was doing more work to look at the figures around this, and it was noted that Network Rail had been running a Samaritans Programme which may also be feeding into the reduction. However, it was agreed that this was good work.

4. It was noted that although the results of this work were positive for the industry, there was still the issue of the cost of this to the Force and the level of activity required to manage it. There was a significant amount of intelligence work supporting this work including the monitoring of social networking sites to identify friends or relations of suicide victims who it was known could be vulnerable following the event. This resulted in a significant amount of time and resources being deployed as part of this work.

5. The Authority noted that the effort by the Force in this area was beyond their anticipation and that the implications of this must be considered for the Strategy and Policing Plan.