BRITISH TRANSPORT POLICE

Agenda Item 3

REPORT TO:	**British Transport Police Authority**
DATE:	**24 March 2011**
SUBJECT:	**Chief Constable's Report**
SPONSOR:	**Chief Constable**
AUTHOR:	**PI Robin Edwards**

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 report to the British Transport Police Authority (BTPA) on 27 January 2011.

2. PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW

2.1 For the period 1 April 2010 to 10 March 2011, BTP is achieving 9 of the 15 national targets set in the 2010/11 Policing Plan. Appendix A details full performance data for the above period.

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

- The average time taken to release operational railway lines back to the industry following non-suspicious fatalities is currently 81 minutes against a target of 90.
- The target of 80% to respond to all immediate grade incidents within 20 minutes is being exceeded, with current performance at 91%.
- The number of serious violence against the person, sexual and robbery offences is 3,518 compared against a target of 3,624.
- The number of offenders detected for anti-social behaviour between 8pm and 2am is 5,104 against a target of 4,829.
- The number of offenders detected for football related disorder is 969 against a target of 868 and a 2009/10 year to date performance of 694.
- BTP is achieving 86% overall victim satisfaction in Quality of Service for victims of crime against a target of 80%.
- The percentage of BME representation among police officers is currently 6.9%, against a target of 6.6%.
- Average sickness levels stand at 7.01 days per employee against a target of 7.06 days.

2.3 Areas where national Policing Plan objectives have yet to be achieved include:

- 1,358 live cable offences have been recorded against a target of 828. The North Eastern Area has recorded the highest level of offences (685) accounting for 50% of all BTP crimes in this category.
- Whilst the number of detections for staff assaults is below target (1,348 against a target of 1,380), the number of staff assaults has decreased from 2609 last year to 2577 this year.

- Notifiable recorded (excluding police generated) crime currently stands at 52,594, which is only 51 offences (0.1%) more than the target of 52,543.
- Offences brought to justice currently stand at 29% against a target of 31%. The comparable figure for last year was 28%.
- BTP is narrowly failing its target for the level of representation of female officers with YTD performance currently standing at 15.9%, against a target of 16%.

2.4 Thirty two of the 38 local Policing Plan targets are currently being achieved. This is an increase of 7 targets since the last report to you. Key areas of performance to note are:

- London Underground Area is achieving all 11 of its local targets. The most notable being Theft of Passenger Property (TPP) with 6,095 recorded offences against a target of 6,403. Recorded offences last year were 6,330, which highlights a significant improvement in year on year performance. Detections for TPP currently stand at 364 against a target of 328. Also of note is its graffiti detection rate: currently 49%, against a target of 24%.

- London South Area is achieving 6 of its 7 local targets. Real success has been achieved in the number of neighbourhood policing joint initiatives that have taken place, 625 to date against a target of 298. Detections for anti-social behaviour currently stand at 3,892: 38% over the YTD target of 2,819. Detections for ticket machine offences are 74, against a target of 133, but offences have also decreased by 148 comparing YTD performance with the same period last year.

- London North Area is achieving 6 of its 7 local targets. It is one short of its target for NPT Problem Solving Profiles (PSP), with 56 currently in place. This is an improvement on last month where the shortfall was six PSP.

- North Eastern Area is achieving 3 of its 4 local targets. The violence and sexual offences detection rate is currently 59% against a target of 64%. This is an improvement of three percentage points since my last report to you.

- North Western Area is achieving 2 of its 4 local targets. Staff aggression incidents stand at 653, against a target of 606. Violence and sexual offences detection rate is at 42% against a target of 52%: an improvement of three percentage points since my last report to you.

- Wales and Western Area is achieving 2 of its 3 local targets. The staff assaults detection rate in the Welsh Sector is 69% against a target of 73%, which is an improvement of seven percentage points on last month.

- Scottish Area is achieving both of its local targets with 34 offenders detected for sectarian offences against a target of 14 and Service Response Agreements running at 89% satisfaction, against a target of 80%.

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3. FORCE INSPECTIONS

3.1 Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) inspection of BTP took place between 4 - 8 October 2010. The inspection report was published on BTP and HMIC websites on 23 February 2011. The inspection report was positive, with only five main recommendations being made which were as follows:

Recommendation 1
BTP introduce a system which identifies repeat and vulnerable victims, then takes action to reduce repeat victimisation (this recommendation has changed from the draft as requested in that it has removed reference to the widening of ASB to include criminal damage).

Recommendation 2
In order to maximise the impact against cable theft, BTP should thoroughly review its approach to tackling this crime type. The review should include how the force gathers, shares and analyses intelligence, an assessment of preventative measures that have been introduced and the effectiveness of enforcement activity.

Recommendation 3
BTP should share good practice in managing fatalities and delays on the railways with ACPO to enable other forces to identify if there are more effective ways of managing delays caused by Road Traffic Collisions on major road networks.

Recommendation 4
BTP should assess and report in more detail the operational impact and risks associated with its scenario planning against a range of budget cuts.

Recommendation 5
Abstractions on neighbourhood policing teams should be reported by area and monitored at force level so BTP can ensure teams are spending at least 80% of their time in the neighbourhoods.

3.2 In February the Office of Surveillance Commissioners (OSC) conducted an inspection into BTP's management of covert activity. This was a positive inspection and the OSC were complimentary about BTP's management of this type of activity '*The Force is clearly keen to ensure RIPA and PA compliance when undertaking covert activity. The CAB is effective and efficient, delivering a good service, and respected for its advice and guidance*.' The two recommendations were:

Recommendation 1
The RIPA awareness training is delivered to the PCSOs within the Force.

Recommendation 2
That the management and oversight of covert activity emanating from the Professional Standards Department should be reviewed to establish whether the processes are sufficiently robust to ensure RIPA compliance.

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4. DEATH OF SERVING PCSO

4.1 PCSO Terri Havard collapsed and died whilst on duty at Victoria station on 16 February at the age of 52. She joined BTP on London South Area in 2005 and had worked at Victoria since that time and was a popular and well respected member of the Hub Team.

The circumstances around her death are that she was in the mess room at Hudson's Place having just commenced an early turn when she collapsed. Despite the best efforts of colleagues and paramedics to revive her she was pronounced dead at St Thomas' Hospital. She leaves three daughters and a son, as well as two step-children. In addition her husband sadly died 8 months previously having been diagnosed with cancer.

A full police funeral took place at Beckenham Crematorium on 7 March which was attended by Chief Superintendent Steve Morgan, Teresa Hickman and officers from Victoria acting as the Honour Guard and Pall Bearers. London South officers and staff collected over £1,150 to offer support and condolences to the family.

5. COUNTER TERRORISM

5.1 BTP has continued to operate against a high level of terrorist threat. This has commanded the attention of a considerable amount of senior officer time and the deployment of resources across the three London Areas backed up by specialist resources from the Counter Terrorism Support Unit.

The national threat level from International terrorism is severe meaning that an attack is highly likely. The threat from Irish Republican Terrorist Groups to Great Britain is substantial meaning that an attack is a strong possibility.

BTP continues to work with partners to plan and to seek ways of protecting the rail network. Recent activity has included a series of Project Griffin presentations to train operating companies and Network Rail staff, and internal tabletop exercises aimed at silver and bronze commanders.

6. CABLE OFFENCES

6.1 Metal theft continues to be a threat to the rail infrastructure with copper prices reaching an all time high in February of over $10,100 per tonne. Financial analysts predict that metal commodity prices will continue to be high for the next 3 years which will continue to impact on the level of offending. Current crime levels continue to show a steady increase and there have been 1269 live cable thefts and 1220 non live cable thefts between 1 April 2010 and 8 March 2011.

The price of copper is a contributing factor to these thefts but we are alert to the increasing price of other metals which are also proving attractive for sale with lead at over $2600, aluminium at over $2500 and steel at over $550 per tonne.

Following responsibility for metal theft moving from Protective Services to Territorial Policing a comprehensive review across the 7 Force Areas has been undertaken by Chief Superintendent Carroll. The review will also address a recommendation from HMIC that the Force reviews how it deals with metal theft. In conjunction with the review, a new Metal Theft Strategy is being drafted which takes account of best practice. Also being prepared is a new Forensic Strategy and a Communication Strategy.

During the first ten days of March, BTP officers arrested 44 offenders linked to metal theft. On 10 March 2011 Operation Balsam, a joint operation led by Wales and Western officers supported by local forces resulted in 10 arrests linked to an organised crime group. Officers seized 6 vehicles linked to crime, 4 quad bikes believed to be stolen, a number of air weapons, computers, and a large amount of documentation linked to the disposal of metal.

On 21 March 2011 BTP hosted an internal stakeholder's seminar so that best practice can be shared across the Force. A number of significant operations are planned and on 4 April a Force wide day of action will be taking place.

7. VOLUNTARY SEVERANCE SCHEME

7.1 The Voluntary Selective Severance Scheme was introduced in order to reduce BTP cost base and supervisory ratios. It was also a way to mitigate the risk of compulsory redundancy in light of structural change and other activity currently proposed through the Futures Programme.

The Scheme was published on 24 January 2011 and closed on 11 February 2011 with eligibility restricted to ranks of Chief Inspector, Superintendent and Chief Superintendent. Twenty three applications were received and following a review by SCT twenty were approved with eleven officers leaving on 31 March and the remaining nine at a later date due to operational requirements.

Of those, the following is a breakdown of posts that SCT accepted; 2 Chief Superintendents, 7 Superintendents and 11 Chief Inspectors.

8. FLANAGAN INQUEST

8.1 The inquest into the death of Cheryl Flanagan took place at the Coroner's Court in Stourport, Worcestershire and ran for two and a half weeks, concluding on 22 February. The jury returned an open verdict. The family were present throughout the inquest as were members of the local media, CPS, West Midlands Police and the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) who published a summary of their findings and a media release immediately after the verdict. The family issued a statement but did not give any interviews at the time and used the solicitors as their official spokesperson. There was some local and trade press coverage at the end of the enquiry and limited national coverage during the inquest.

BTP officers were present throughout the inquest and the evidence presented in court is currently being reviewed. A Gold Group chaired by ACC Beasley was held on 21 March to reflect on any comments made by the Coroner, and to consider the way forward in terms of training needs. The family have given a subsequent press interview to the local paper indicating that they are considering civil action and that there are outstanding IPCC complaints against individual officers.

9. FOOTBALL AND ENGLISH DEFENCE LEAGUE

9.1 Football

There have been a number of serious incidents, including assaults, serious disturbances, and offences of a sexual nature since the beginning of the season. To date there have been 484 football impact incidents which include low level disorder or anti-social behaviour, fare evasion, misuse of drugs and the disruption of services. Anti-social behaviour and drunkenness still make up the bulk of offences that are committed on the network with 564 being recorded to date. The top teams in terms of disorder are currently Leeds, Wolverhampton and Aston Villa.

The recent rise of Wolverhampton to number two in terms of recorded disorder is largely due to a proactive campaign of targeting risk supporters leading to 43 detections this season, the highest for all teams nationally.

9.2 English Defence League (EDL)

Since January 2011 there have been two EDL demonstrations around the country. The first demonstration on 5 February 2011 at Luton resulted in arrests for a range of offences including possession of drugs, criminal damage, and possession of an offensive weapon, drunk and disorderly, racially aggravated section 4 and assault. The second wave of demonstrations took place at Rochdale on 5 March and Dagenham on 12 March. In addition there have been 10 smaller EDL gatherings across the country.

There has been minimal impact on the rail network in terms of clashes between the EDL and their main opposing group, United Against Fascism (UAF). The exception was a stand off at Luton where both groups confronted each other verbally on the station.

10. MEETINGS AND EVENTS

10.1 College of Journalism

The Chief Constable attended the College of Journalism on 3 March with the Media Standards Trust and Royal Statistical Society to take part in a workshop looking at how journalists interpret data and statistics, specifically crime data.

10.2 Chief Constable's Award Ceremonies

The Chief Constable awarded Certificates of Commendation, Police Long Service and Good Conduct Medals, Royal Humane Society awards and a Police Bravery Award at ceremonies held at Force Headquarters on 8 February, 18 February, 11 March and 21 March. The

ceremonies were an opportunity to recognise the achievements of BTP officers and staff, as well as rail staff and members of the public who actively assist police officers carrying out their duty and keeping the railways free from the fear of crime.

10.3 **Opening of Leeds Police Station**

The Chief Constable opened the new police station at Leeds on 1 March. Police Authority members Lew Adams, Liz France and Michael Holden, and representatives from Network Rail and Cross Country attended the ceremony which included a tour of the new facilities and an opportunity to speak with officers based at Leeds.

10.4 **Stakeholder meetings**

The Chief Constable continues to meet with key stakeholders and since January has met with Janet Cooke, Chief Executive of London Travelwatch and Michael Roberts, Chief Executive of ATOC. The key areas of discussion during these meetings were counter terrorism, crime on the railway and next year's Policing Plan.

On 31 January, the Chief Constable met Adrian Leppard, the new Commissioner of the City of London Police. Key areas of discussion during the meeting included, partnership working, budget challenges, counter terrorism and preparation for the Olympics.

On 14 February, the Chief Constable went out on patrol in Inverness during a visit to Scotland. While travelling from Inverness to Aberdeen he spoke to Scotrail staff who said they were very pleased with recent improvements in service from BTP. The following day he met the new HMIC for Scotland, Andrew Laing to discuss the challenges ahead for Scottish police forces.

On 16 February, the Chief Constable went to preview the new London Overground link between Dalston Junction and Cannonbury. Steve Murphy, Managing Director of LOROL gave a speech where he praised BTP's role in reducing crime and disorder on the North London Line.

On 8 March, the Chief Constable attended a briefing given by the Home Secretary and the Minister for Policing for all Chief Constables and ACPO. Items of discussion during the briefing included budgets, the Winsor report and outsourcing of policing functions.

11. OPERATIONAL OVERVIEW

11.1 **Operation Anode**

Operation Anode commenced on 28 January on the Wales and Western Area to target anti-social behaviour on the network. The Operation was intended to maximise BTP presence on the network throughout the day, majoring on a high profile, high impact presence on late night trains and key locations across the area, and was supported by officers from FHQ. The operation employed passive drugs dogs and knife arches across the Area, combined with train patrolling, passenger surgeries and plainclothes patrols to target anti-social behaviour. The feedback from passengers, the industry and staff was excellent, and it is clear that the reassuring presence was appreciated across the network.

As a result of the operation, 68 people were processed for offences ranging from byelaw offences to money laundering, with one offender being wanted on an international arrest warrant. One hundred and twenty-five additional patrols were carried out during the course of the day. One hundred and six persons and four cars were stop checked or searched, and seven Section 27 Dispersal Orders were issued.

Train operating companies supported the operation at a number of stations during the day with revenue blocks and on train patrols. Virgin Trains reported that their booking office takings doubled, and twenty penalty fares were issued. Chiltern Railways reported that ten penalty fares were issued and they experienced a sharp increase in booking office takings at Solihull. Joint revenue support operations also went on at stations in Wales and the South West.

11.2 **Knife man jailed**

On 28 February a man who had been arrested after brandishing a knife on board a Docklands Light Railway (DLR) train and taking two passengers hostage was sentenced to five years at Blackfriars Crown Court. He pleaded guilty to possession of an offensive weapon and false imprisonment at an earlier hearing in November 2010.

On 3 July 2010 the suspect boarded a DLR train heading east from Shadwell station and brandished a large knife in the carriage as the train pulled off. As the train stopped, the guard raised the alarm and most of the 30 passengers escaped through an emergency exit.

Two passengers were unable to get off and the suspect closed the door, trapping them inside the train. One of the passengers tackled the suspect and forced the knife from his hand before he was mistakenly Tasered by Metropolitan Police officers who stormed the train. The officer wrongly suspected he was the suspect. The judge granted the victim an £800 reward for his courage and for saving other passengers and preventing the suspect injuring himself.

11.3 **Operation Seesaw**

Inter Rail tickets started to appear amongst the graffiti community following a burglary in Germany when a large number were stolen. The tickets were being sold for considerably less than their face value which allowed the vandals to travel around Europe to commit graffiti offences. Following the arrest of a suspect for graffiti, the investigation uncovered three individuals involved in the distribution of the stolen tickets. All three were subsequently charged with Conspiracy to Defraud and Money Laundering, and appeared at Blackfriars Crown Court on 11 February 2011 where they were sentenced.

One of the suspects received five months imprisonment, another 9 months imprisonment, suspended for 12 months and was required to undertake 100 hours of unpaid work and pay prosecution costs of £1500. The final suspect received a Community Payback Order of 100 hours unpaid work and was required to pay prosecution costs of £1500.

The suspects had been national targets for several years and the operation spanned national and international boundaries and was led by BTPs graffiti squad.

11.4 **Pellet Gun fired on train**

On 14 August 2010, three 19 year old males one of whom wheelchair bound, and one 20 year old female travelled on a train from Skegness to Nottingham. During the journey a group of 5 males, some wearing balaclavas started to fire ball bearing guns at the group of young persons. Numerous pellets were fired at the group with some of the pellets narrowly missing their eyes. The female victim who was wearing a skirt and short sleeved blouse received numerous hits on her arms and legs, resulting in small bruises.

The train was met at Nottingham where the 5 suspects were arrested by BTP officers supported by officers from the Nottinghamshire Constabulary. The train was searched and two guns were recovered along with a number of pellets and balaclavas which were concealed on the suspects. The suspects were interviewed but all made no comment responses during questioning.

The suspects subsequently took part in identification parades and special procedures had to be put into place due to the number of suspects and victims involved. The five suspects continued to deny any involvement and were subsequently charged and appeared at Nottingham Youth Court. They all pleaded guilty to Affray and on 14 February 2011, four of the offenders received a 10 month Referral Order. The remaining offender received a Youth Rehabilitation Order for 12 months. They were all ordered to pay £100 towards compensation for the victims.

11.5 **Ticket Fraud**

Information was supplied to London North Area Ticket Fraud Squad by the fraud department from National Express that the suspect was not paying the full fare for the journey she was taken on a daily basis form her home address in Waltham Cross. The suspect was purchasing monthly tickets from Hackney Downs to Liverpool Street which meant the journey was not covered from Waltham Cross to Hackney Downs.

The revenue team based at Liverpool Street along with officers from the Area's Ticket Fraud Squad conducted observations at the barriers at Liverpool Street and the offender was arrested for fraud. During her interview she admitted that she had not been paying the correct amount for her journey since 2007. She was charged with the offence and compensation was sought for the sum of £4,300 which was for a 50 month period of fraud.

A substantial prosecution file was submitted with comprehensive evidence from staff within the industry and the suspect decided to pay the £4,300 prior to the court hearing. She attended court and her solicitor offered this fact in mitigation. The court took this into consideration and fined her a further £5,000 and £200 costs amounting to a total of £9,500. This case received media attention and demonstrated the effectiveness of partnership working between BTP and National Express.

11.6 **London North Operation Lincoln**

On 7 February 2011 two suspects stole a bag from a woman within a shop on the concourse at Euston Station. The value of the property stolen was £1,600 and in addition the victim who was a foreign national from Nigeria lost her passport and airline tickets which were due to be used

that day. Officers from the team made all the relevant enquires and ensured the victim received replacement tickets and a temporary passport so she could travel home that evening.

The suspects were caught on CCTV and stills were circulated to other forces to attempt to identify them. On 8 February 2011 the same two suspects committed a similar offence again at Euston station but later in the evening. The property stolen was Masonic clothing and a Masonic brooch which was valued at £450. CCTV was viewed and the same suspects from the day before were viewed committing the offence.

Operation Lincoln officers went on plain cloths patrols at Euston on 9 February and both suspects were arrested. The Masonic brooch was recovered from one of the suspects and they were taken to Central London Police Station and interviewed. They denied the offences; however on the advice of the CPS charges were authorised for both suspects for the thefts at Euston station. They were remanded in custody and put before City of London Magistrates on 10 February.

As a result of the excellent quality of the CCTV stills and the thorough investigation by the team, both suspects pleaded guilty to both offences and received a four and a half month custodial sentence.

11.7 **Operation Globe**

At the end of January 2011 a suspect was captured on covert CCTV cameras installed by Operation Globe officers at Bedford station stealing two mountain bikes valued at £600 over a two day period. The suspect was identified following extensive enquiries by the officers who worked in close co-operation with Bedfordshire Constabulary. The suspect was arrested on 8 February 2011 during which, one of the bikes stolen over the two day period was recovered and returned to an extremely grateful owner.

The suspect was charged, remanded in custody and found guilty the following morning of the theft of both bikes and was subsequently sentenced to two months imprisonment. Both victims expressed their gratitude for a quick and effective investigation and Bedfordshire Constabulary were pleased to see one their persistent offenders serving a custodial sentence.

12. RECOMMENDATIONS

12.1 That Members note the contents of this paper.