BRITISH TRANSPORT POLICE

Agenda Item 3

REPORT TO:	**British Transport Police Authority**
DATE:	**26 May 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 24 March 2011.

2. PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW

2.1 For the period 1 April 2011 to 10 May 2011, BTP is achieving 8 of the 11 national targets set in the 2011/12 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:

- Notifiable recorded (excluding police-generated) crime currently stands at 5,830, 272 (4%) less than the YTD target.
- The detection rate for serious violence against the person, sexual and robbery offences is 49%, against a target of 38%.
- The number of recorded anti-social behaviour incidents is 2,035 against a target of 2,037.
- The proportion of resources devoted to NPT and response policing between 8pm and 1am stands at 15%; exactly on target.
- Average sickness levels stand at 0.54 days per employee, against a target of 0.64 days.
- The average time taken to release operational railway lines back to the industry following non-suspicious fatalities is currently 78 minutes, against a target of 90.
- The target to respond to 80% of immediate grade incidents within 20 minutes is being exceeded, with current performance at 91%.
- BTP is achieving its target to reduce the number of officers in organisational support roles at FHQ by 10%, with 89 officers against a YTD target of 98.

2.3 Areas where national Policing Plan objectives are not being achieved include:

- 1,691 disruption offences have been recorded against a target of 1,400.
- The number of recorded staff assaults currently stands at 321 offences; 25 offences (8%) over target.
- Performance data for the target for reducing non-staff costs as a percentage of staff costs by at least 1.5 percentage points is not yet available.

2.4 35 of the 48 local Policing Plan targets are currently being achieved. Key areas of performance to note are:

- London Underground Area is achieving 5 out of 6 of its local targets. With 7 PSPs in place, LU Area is exceeding its target of 4. Likewise, it is comfortably achieving its target for theft, with 656 recorded offences, against a target of 713. It is failing its PCSO sickness target, with an average of 1.17 days per person, against a target of 0.87. This is however an improvement on last year's figure of 1.71 days.

- London South Area is achieving all 8 of its local targets. It is exceeding its target for detections for level crossing offences by 340%, with performance at 163 detections, compared with a target of 37. Detections for ASB offences stand at 511: 63 offences (14%) over target. To date, 84 joint NPT operations have been completed: 37 (79%) more than the target.

- London North Area is achieving 4 of its 6 local targets. As yet, no route crime joint operations have been completed, against a YTD target of 5. Its detection rate target for ASB offences at selected hotspot locations between 3pm and 3am is not currently being achieved, with a rate of 67%, against a target 80%.

- North Eastern Area is achieving 3 of its 6 local targets but it is failing on both live cable theft targets. With 94 recorded live cable theft offences to date, it is failing the target by 17 offences. Likewise, it is one percentage point short of its detection rate target of 6%. As yet, no reassurance, visibility and ASB PSPs have been completed, so NE Area is failing its YTD target of 1. It is achieving both its targets for cable and football operations, with 2 operations completed, and also its police staff sickness target, with an average of 0.34 days, against a target of 0.45.

- North Western Area is achieving 4 of its 7 local targets. It is exceeding its detection rate target of 82% for football-related offences by 7 percentage points. Notifiable crime at Carlisle station is within target, whereas notifiable crime at Liverpool station currently stands at 165: 37 offences (29%) more than the target. Recorded violent offences are 5 offences (19%) over the target of 26.

- Wales and Western Area is achieving 3 of its 6 local targets. It is achieving its target for live cable offences, with 29 recorded to date, against a target of 31. Its 44% detection rate for aggression towards staff offences is 22 percentage points below the 66% target. Likewise, the detection rate target for staff assaults in the Welsh sector stands at 53%: 21 percentage points below the 74% target.

- Scottish Area is achieving 8 of its 9 local targets. Both targets for offenders detected are being achieved: 5 have been detected for sectarian offences against a target of 4 and 66

have been detected for ASB, against a target of 50. Only Police Officer sickness is being failed with an average of 0.81 days, against a target of 0.54. Scottish Area is achieving 92% overall victim satisfaction in Quality of Service for victims of crime, against a target of 90%.

3. COUNTER TERRORISM

3.1 The threat level to the UK from international terrorism remains SEVERE (an attack is highly likely) and the threat to Great Britain from Irish Republican Terrorist Groups is SUBSTANTIAL (an attack is a strong possibility).

The killing of Osama Bin Laden has raised the profile of Al-Qaeda (AQ) throughout the world and although there is no direct intelligence of any imminent reprisal it is assessed that AQ will wish to retaliate as soon as it can, either by direct tasking or via affiliate groups.

Material currently being released by the US government indicates that Osama Bin Laden may have played a larger role than previously supposed in overseeing terrorist planning but this is to be confirmed. One US media release suggests that AQ Core were involved in discussions around de-railing trains in the United States in February 2010 but there is nothing to support the idea that this amounted to a well developed plan. The mention of railway infrastructure in this context is unwelcome.

BTP has dealt with a small increase in the number of unattended items and threats in the week following the killing of Osama Bin Laden – this being a reflection of increased vigilance/nervousness in the travelling public and the tendency for a very small minority of the public to gain satisfaction from making hoax calls. All have been dealt with satisfactorily.

BTP continues to monitor international incidents with a view to identifying trends and best practice in responding agencies. The recent bombing by AQ in the Lands of the Islamic Maghreb is an example of an increasing sophistication amongst some terrorist groups.

The situation in Northern Ireland continues to give cause for concern despite significant operations by the Police Service for Northern Ireland (PSNI). Following on from the murder of PSNI officer Ronan Kerr dissidents have continued to target PSNI officers. Northern Ireland railways have again been the target of terrorist activities. Officers from the force have visited colleagues in PSNI and Northern Ireland Railways and maintain close contact with PSNI in order to understand the latest developments in the tactics being used in Northern Ireland. The well publicised threat made to central London in the week of Her Majesty, The Queen's visit to the Republic of Ireland is suspected to have originated from a dissident Irish Republican Group. This is a reminder that the threat from terrorism is multi dimensional and ongoing.

4. CABLE OFFENCES

4.1 Although metal theft continues to be a threat to the rail infrastructure copper prices have continued to fall to a year low of $8536 per tonne from an all time high of over $10,000 per tonne in February. Financial analysts continue to predict that metal commodity prices will remain high for the next three years with an estimate of the price rising above $12,000 per tonne. BTP experienced the first reduction in the number of metal thefts in April compared to the trend of increasing offences from March experienced in previous years.

Between January 2011 and April 2011, BTP undertook a thorough review of its policing approach to tackling metal theft on the railways. The review identified a number of areas of good practice and also opportunities to enhance and standardise working practices across the seven police force areas.

The review also took into account a contribution from Network Rail who contributed to the formulation of 57 working recommendations which will create a working strategic model. The recommendations will be monitored throughout the year to ensure progress is being made under each of the areas identified. The review also provided an opportunity for BTP to review key strategies including its communications and forensics.

BTP is developing joint intelligence led operations with Home Office forces and partner organisations as metal theft continues to rise nationally. BTP has established an intelligence 'fusion unit' at FHQ staffed by BTP and Network Rail analysts with a British Telecom analyst due to join the unit shortly. The unit will ensure a complete intelligence picture is obtained of metal theft activity across the country to support multi agency operations.

4.3 **Operation Balsam**

Operation Balsam was a complex and detailed operation into the activity of an Organised Crime Group (OCG) in Newport South Wales. The investigation was centred on documentation linked to weigh bridges, crime reports and intelligence. The investigation centred around two Scrap Metal Dealers in Newport and ten suspected members of an OCG.

As a result of the investigation, warrants were served on both Companies under investigation, which included their Directors, their spouses and other family members. The companies' accountant was arrested on suspicion of Money Laundering, False Accounting and Failing to have a Licence to Trade. Four vehicles were also seized which included a Bentley Convertible, Porsche, Ferrari and Range Rover with a combined value in the region of £500,000.

Over 70 police officers where involved in the arrest phase of the operation during which mobile phones, computers, vehicles, firearms and high value camouflage clothing were seized. The 16 persons arrested during the operation are currently on bail as enquiries continue into their criminal activity. It is anticipated that the investigation will be a test case under Scrap Metal Dealer legislation. As a result of the operation, metal theft has been almost completely eradicated from the railway in Gwent.

5. 7/7 VERDICT

5.1 Lady Justice Hallett, the Coroner sitting in the Inquests into the 52 members of the public who died during the London Bombings on 7 July 2005 delivered her verdict on 6 May 2011 at the Royal Courts of Justice. The Coroner delivered her verdict in the form of a Report made under Rule 43 of the Coroners Rules 1984. The Coroners report included 9 recommendations that were not specific in respect of BTP (Appendix B lists the nine recommendations).

Recommendation 3 which states: 'I recommend that the London Resilience Team (LRT) reviews the provision of inter-agency major incident training for frontline staff, particular with reference to the London Underground system.' BTP will work with other blue light services under the guidance of the LRT to respond to the report.

BTP was mentioned several times in the Coroners narrative during the report. Two BTP officers received Coroners Commendations for actions carried out at the scene, and a number of officers received thanks from the Coroner. Operation Pendulum is now archiving all the material developed during the collection and evidence phase of the investigation and all staff have returned to their original posts and areas.

6. ROYAL WEDDING

6.1 BTP deployed in the region of 600 police officers and staff to Operation Regal, the policing response to the Royal Wedding on 29 April 2011. This included 46 special constables who supported the operation. The cost to BTP of policing the event was in excess of £205,000 which has been jointly submitted along side the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) expenditure in an attempt to recover costs from the Home Office.

There were a total of 52 arrests for the entire event, 15 of which were on BTP jurisdiction. These included 13 arrests for Breach of the Peace, 12 of which were detained at Charing Cross Station and identified as anti-royalists who were intent on disrupting the wedding. As part of the police anti-disruption phase, which commenced 2 days prior to the event, a number of photographs were circulated to officers around the Areas of persons of interest which resulted in a further arrest at Victoria.

BTP's operation passed off without any major or serious incident.

7. FOOTBALL

7.1 Policing travelling football supporters continues to pose a challenge to the force. To date there have been 665 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 816 being recorded to date. The top teams in terms of disorder are currently Leeds (34 arrests),

Wolverhampton (46) and Aston Villa (38). From the 816 football crimes recorded, there have been 711 arrests. It is also worth noting that 3 of the "top 7" clubs in the disorder table are from Wales and Western Area, causing a considerable drain on resources on a weekly basis. These teams are Wolverhampton Wanderers, Aston Villa and Birmingham City.

A worrying incident occurred recently at Shrewsbury, where officers had a smoke bomb thrown by supporters alighting from a train. It was not possible to identify the offender at the time and enquiries are continuing.

8. ENGLISH DEFENCE LEAGUE

8.1 English Defence League (EDL) demonstrations continue to occur around the country. Demonstrations have occurred at Reading on 19 March, Blackburn on 2 April (1 arrest), London (4 arrests) and Blackburn on 23 April. In addition there have been 24 smaller EDL gatherings across the country with a further 5 planned between now and August.

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). However, offences that are linked to the demonstrations have occurred at stations some considerable distance for the event – assaults at Liverpool St related to demonstrations in Dagenham.

9. BTP AWARDED £50,000 FOR KNIFE CRIME PREVENTION

9.1 As part of the Tackling Knives and Violence Programme (TKAP), BTP were awarded £50,000 to assist with prevention, intelligence and enforcement. One part of the prevention strand was targeted at educating young people in relation to the realities of violent crime. BTP collaborated with the Arc Theatre, Barking to commission a play which explored the context of a violent crime from the young person's perspective. The play identified the dilemma of speaking to, and providing information to the Police. The play, called 'Pact' was delivered at a number of London venues in Autumn 2010 and in March 2011 and BTP additionally funded a number of performances in North Western, North Eastern and Wales and Western Areas.

The performances, in front of invited schools outlined the dilemma of a young man returning from university but being drawn into a situation where his friend is killed. He agonises over the decision to provide information to the Police about the person that committed the crime or to maintain silence. After the play there is a structured discussion, lead by the actors and police which highlights the realities of knife crime.

The project is likely to be entered into the Police Review awards this year and has been identified as good practice by the TKAP team at the Home Office.

10. SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT ELECTIONS 2011

10.1 On Thursday 5 May 2011 elections were held across Scotland to elect representatives to the Scottish Parliament at Holyrood.

Some pollsters were indicting a Labour Party lead up to a month before the election however in the remaining weeks of campaigning this narrowed and the Scottish National Party (SNP) emerged in polls as the leaders. On the day, the SNP has won a historic victory where they achieved a majority of seats in the Scottish Parliament; something many doubted was even possible. The final results were: SNP on 69 seats, Labour on 37, Conservatives on 15, Liberal Democrats on five and Greens on two and one Independent was also returned to parliament.

Before the dissolution of the previous parliament the (minority) SNP government had set in train a consultation on the future of Scottish policing which sought views on the current structure of policing, challenges facing policing in Scotland and governance arrangements. At the time of launching the consultation the Cabinet Secretary for Justice made clear that the current set up, the status quo was not acceptable and while the government did not express a preference he outlined in broad terms three possible options:

- Eight forces amalgamated into one
- Eight forces amalgamated into three
- Eight forces with a much greater degree of collaboration

ACPOS has submitted a response to the consultation. The submission presents the majority view of its members and the context in which ACPOS believes reform should take place. The submission takes no view on a specific structural option but presents a set of positive policing principles as a foundation to protect what is best, and works, in Scottish Policing.

The BTP submission articulated the view that cross border policing was our day to day business and whatever structural change may emerge it was not envisaged it would have an impact on policing the railway in Scotland.

At the time of writing, new Ministers are yet to be appointed. Regardless of the outcome ACC McCall is planning for meetings with the two ministers, the Chief Constable and Chair of the Police Authority as soon as possible.

When the new ministerial appointments are announced a fuller briefing on the election results will be provided to Authority members.

11. MEETINGS AND EVENTS

11.1 Chief Constable's Award Ceremonies

The Chief Constable has hosted two award ceremonies since the last Authority meeting, the first ceremony taking place on 18 April and the second being held on 9 May. To date, six Chief Constable's Award Ceremonies have taken place this year seeing the formal presentation of 112

Long Service and Good Conduct Medals and Family Accolade Medals to Police Officers, six Long Service Medals to members of the Special Constabulary, 11 Long Service Awards to members of BTP Staff, 16 Chief Constable's Commendations and six Royal Humane Society Certificates. In total, 151 awards have been formally presented by the Chief Constable so far with another three Award Ceremonies planned for later this year.

11.2 **Stakeholder meetings**

The Chief Constable continues to meet with key stakeholders and since the last Authority meeting he has met with the following;

On 13 April, the Chief Constable met Howard Collins, Chief Operating Officer of London Underground. Areas of discussion during the meeting included L Area performance, which is good and improving, the budget challenges that London Underground (LU) and Transport for London (TfL) is facing and ways that BTP can assist in keeping the delays caused by incidents to a minimum.

On 18 April, the Chief Constable met Theresa Villiers, Minister of State for Transport. The Chief Constable briefed the Minister on our performance in cutting crime, BTP efforts to reduce costs and on cable theft and counter-terrorism. Other areas of discussion included preparations for the Royal Wedding, the Olympics and the cost of football policing.

On 20 April, the Chief Constable met Paul Nicholas, Head of Security of Southeastern Trains. The Chief Constable visited their control room to understand the issues from their perspective. This was a really constructive visit which underlined the need for BTP to be aware of the impact of any delays on the system.

On 3 May, the Chief Constable met Karen Boswell, Managing Director of East Coast. Key areas of discussion during the meeting included budget challenges, crime issues on the railway and counter terrorism. The Chief Constable also discussed BTP achievements such as the considerable reductions in crime, much higher detection rates, comprehensive management of football and crowds, much improved fatality management and the response to bomb threats and suspect packages.

On 10 May, the Chief Constable met Ian Bevan, Managing Director of Northern Trains. Key areas of discussion during the meeting included crime issues on the railway and cable theft.

11.3 **Events**

The Chief Constable attended the Police Service Parliamentary Scheme Graduation Dinner in April. This scheme encourages Members of Parliament to become Special Constables. BTP currently has three MPs who give up their time to work as Specials – Brian Donohoe MP, David Davies MP, and Philip Hollobone MP.

On 6 April the Chief Constable participated in a Cityforum event 'Security in 2012 – are we ready?' The event was chaired by Sir David Ormand, Permanent Secretary at the Cabinet Office

and was attended by a range of senior government officials and police colleagues. Discussions during the evening focused on the response to counter terrorism and other threats, information sharing, communication, and command & control.

The Chief Constable was a panel member at a Media Society Panel Discussion at City Hall on 7 April. The session was chaired by June Kelly, BBC Home Affairs Correspondent and focussed on the role of the press in reporting crime and the impact of media coverage on the level of fear of crime.

On 13 April, representing ACPO, The Chief Constable was a panel member at a Policy Exchange discussion 'The Future of Police Leadership & Training'. This focused on the recent report by former Chief Constable Peter Neyroud on police leadership, recruiting and training.

On 21 April the Chief Constable spoke about counter terrorism at an event titled 'UK India: A Strategic Partnership in Homeland Security' at Portcullis House.

12. OPERATIONAL OVERVIEW

12.1 Indefinite Restraining order

The suspect followed his victim, a 26-year-old woman, on Metropolitan Line trains from Wembley Park station into central London on a regular basis during 2008. The victim, who was aware she was being followed, altered her route to work to avoid the suspect and did not see him again until November 2010. She became aware of the male staring at her as she left her train at Wembley Park on her way home from work.

Four days later, the victim again saw the male who followed her on to her train and stared at her throughout the journey. Once she left the train at Farringdon station he followed her into a shop where she phoned a friend as she became fearful for her safety. The following day he again followed her to work, staring at her in the carriage throughout her journey.

When the victim saw him again standing near her at Wembley Park in January 2011 she phoned the police and he was arrested by BTP officers. He was issued with an indefinite restraining order by Brent Magistrates Court banning him from coming within 50 metres of his victim and he was also ordered to pay his victim £1,000 in compensation.

12.2 Sex offender sentenced

In June 2010, the suspect who was previously unknown to the police persistently followed a teenage female from a passenger train into pubs in Ayrshire. Later the same evening, the suspect followed the female into a railway station and onto a late night evening service. His constant presence coupled with his staring and sexual comments made her very frightened and distressed. The suspect sat next to the victim and immediately began to grab and pull her towards him in an attempt to kiss her on the lips. She managed to push the man off and immediately got off at the next stop where members of rail staff came to her aid as she was in such a distressed state.

BTP officers arrested the suspect and at court he pleaded not guilty to sexual assault. On 29 March 2011 he was found guilty at court and sentenced to 18 months probation and was placed onto the Sex Offenders Register for a minimum period of five years.

12.2 **Robbery suspect jailed**

The suspect targeted his first victim, a man in his 20s from Leytonstone, on the platform at Manor Park station around 11pm on 12 September 2010. He demanded the victim hand over his possessions and during the incident punched him in the face. The victim was assisted by two men who were on the platform and he was able to escape on a train.

The suspect then travelled to Snaresbrook tube station where he tried to snatch a woman's handbag. The victim managed to hold on to her bag even when she was subjected to a savage attack and punched her in the face. The woman managed to make her escape from the station and was helped by a passer by. BTP officers attended the scene and the suspect was arrested for Robbery.

The suspect from Walthamstow, was sentenced at Snaresbrook Crown Court on 11 April 2011 after pleading guilty to two counts of attempted robbery and was jailed for three years.

12.3 **Community work**

Liverpool BTP Neighborhood Policing Team (NPT) and Northern Rail are working in partnership to improve the environment for passengers and tackle anti-social behaviour in the St Helens area of the city. As part of this work, the NPT and Northern Rail approached a local primary school with a view to the school 'adopting the station' and raising the safety awareness of children in Merseyside.

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Following months of hard work, the official ceremony took place on 5 May 2011 when artwork produced by the school's pupils was unveiled on one of the station platforms. The artwork features a variety of railway safety messages and was influenced following a presentation given by Police Community Support Officers at the school. Further work is planned at the school's local station which will include artwork for the second platform and entrance ramp.

This initiative builds on excellent work carried out by the team in the area such as the 'Crucial Crew Event ' which involved representatives of all emergency services delivering key messages through scenario based presentations to raise the safety awareness of local children.

12.4 **Serious sexual assault**

In March 2011, the victim was befriended by the suspect in Middleborough town centre who had recently been released from prison for an unrelated matter. The victim had spent the last few years living on the streets and in and out of homeless shelters and was classed as vulnerable.

The suspect persuaded the victim to go to Thornaby Depot in Middleborough following a promise that he had some beer and cigarettes to share with her. She accepted his offer and

accompanied him to the depot and a disused railway carriage. Once inside a railway carriage he subjected her to a prolonged and savage sexual assault which culminated with her being beaten around the head and face with a five foot metal bar before he made his escape.

She managed to make her way to a local care home and was rushed to hospital as a result of her injuries which consisted of a fractured skull, internal injuries and lacerations to her face and hands which required surgery. BTP officers attended Thornaby and carried out an extensive search of the vast depot which was over 2 miles long covering 42 railway lines and with over 600 railway carriages. Officers were eventually able to locate the scene of the crime but it had been deliberately burnt out by the suspect.

Following a complex and detailed investigation by officers from the North Eastern Area the suspect was located and arrested 5 days after the assault. He was eventually charged and remanded to Her Majesties Prison Stockton and is awaiting trial.

12.5 **Stradivarius stolen**

The victim had stopped to get something to eat at the Pret A Manger café at Easton Station on Monday, 29 November 2010. As she was about to leave she noticed her black, rectangular violin case was missing and immediately notified the police. Contained within the case was a 1696 Antonio Stradivarius antique violin, valued at approximately £1.2 million, along with a Peccatte bow, valued at £62,000 and a second bow made by the School of Bazin, valued at more than £5,000.

Euston-based detectives conducted a detailed investigation which included a public appeal for information and the release of CCTV images on BBC Crimewatch. Detectives successfully arrested and charged the suspects which included two teenagers, in connection with the theft. On Friday, 8 April, the adult suspect was sentenced at Blackfriars Crown Court to four and half year's imprisonment after pleading guilty to theft. The two teenagers aged 15 and 16 also appeared at court after pleading guilty to theft. The 16 year old was sentenced to 10 months in a young offenders institute and the 15-year-old will be sentenced in a youth court at a later date.

The violin is currently outstanding and enquiries are on going to recover it.

12.6 **Suspect arrested for stabbing**

On 18 April 2011 the victim boarded the 1400hrs East Coast service from Kings Cross with his family and became aware of the suspect who was walking through the carriage. The defendant was selected at random by the suspect and was subjected to a prolonged attack with a pen knife and was stabbed numerous times in the head. The assault was only stopped following the intervention of a member of staff who repeatedly hit the suspect with a child's push chair.

An off duty Metropolitan police officer detained the suspect until the train arrived at Grantham where he was arrested by Lincolnshire police. The victim was treated at the scene, but allowed to go on his way once treated by paramedics after suffering only minor injuries. A search warrant

was obtained and a search of his home address led to the recovery of a crossbow, bolts and an axe.

The suspect was also examined by a doctor and was interviewed in the presence of an appropriate adult. CCTV was recovered from on board the train and was of an extremely high quality and clearly showed the suspect attacking the victim. In addition 50 witnesses have been interviewed.

The suspect made no comment during interview and was subsequently charged with S18 Assault, Wounding with Intent and was remanded in custody. It is anticipated that the defence will argue that the suspect is not fit to plead as he was suffering with mental illness as a result of not taking his prescribed medication.

12.7 **Ticket machine thieves jailed**

Two men who attempted to break into a Ticket Vending Machine (TVM) during October and November 2010 have been sentenced to two years imprisonment.

The suspects were sentenced at Blackfriars Crown Court on Tuesday, 26 April and pleaded guilty to the offence of conspiracy.

During October and November 2010 throughout the Southeastern Trains network, various TVMs were attacked which resulted in large quantities of cash to be stolen and high costs in damage to the machines. Operation Verso was set up by the Area Crime Team to arrest the perpetrators.

With the assistance of Southeastern Trains and officers from Holmes House, observations were commenced at prime locations to identify the suspects. During the investigation a number of forensic exhibits were left at scenes which resulted in two suspects being identified. The suspects had previous convictions and were prolific thieves who specialized in attacking TVMs.

The suspects were arrested and interviewed regarding a total of 15 offences but denied any involvement in the thefts. The careful analysis of the forensic evidence led to both suspects being charged with conspiracy to steal from TVMs. Both of the males were remanded in custody awaiting trial.

12.8 **Arsonist given Youth Detention**

In the early hours of Friday 31 December 2010, a fire was started in the booking hall area at Gloucester Railway Station. The offender pushed leaflets under several ticket windows and set them alight. The resulting fire completely destroyed the booking office and caused considerable damage to the station building with the final estimate of the damage being in excess of £322,000. Officers from BTP attended the scene and detained two males who were seen watching the fire. CCTV was later recovered from the damaged station building and this implicated one of the males as being responsible for starting the fires.

The male was subsequently charged with Arson and entered a guilty plea when he appeared for sentencing at Gloucester Crown Court on 8 April 2011. His Honour Judge Tabor imposed a 2 year Training Contract in addition to the 80 days that he had already spent on remand. The Judge had initially considered a sentence of 5 years detention. This however, would have resulted in the defendant being transferred to an adult prison when he reached 18 years of age and being eligible for early release. The sentence imposed on the defendant will result in 2 years and 80 days being spent in detention.

13. RECOMMENDATIONS

13.1 That Members note the contents of this paper.