

## Minutes

### Police Authority

**Date:** Thursday 7 July 2011

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

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### Present:

Ms Millie Banerjee, Chairman  
Mr Lew Adams  
Mr Colin Foxall  
Mrs Elizabeth France  
Mr Michael Holden  
Mr Neil Scales  
Mrs Wendy Towers  
Mr Jeroen Weimar

### Apologies:

Mr Howard Collins  
Mr Ian Dobbs  
Mr Robin Gisby

### In attendance:

Mr Andrew Trotter, Chief Constable  
Mr Paul Crowther, Deputy Chief Constable  
Mr David McCall, Assistant Chief Constable Scotland  
Mrs Sharon Burd, Director of Finance and Corporate Services  
Ms Teresa Hickman, Acting HR Director  
Ms Marie Daniels, Head of Strategic Development  
Mr Simon Hart, Head of Finance  
Mrs Elaine Derrick, EA to the Chief Constable  
  
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**

### **46/2011 Welcome and Apologies**

Non-Agenda

1. The Authority noted the death of James King with great sadness. He had made an enormous contribution to the Authority and with great fortitude had continued to contribute as best he could throughout his illness. He would be greatly missed by both Members and staff alike. James' memorial had taken place on 1 July in North Berwick with the sheer number of people in attendance a testament to his popularity, BTPA and BTP were represented by Mr Foxall, ACC McCall and Chief Superintendent Bird.
2. The Chairman gave apologies from Mr Collins, Mr Dobbs and Mr Gisby.
3. Mr Laing, HMIC for Scotland, was welcomed to the meeting as an observer. Mr Laing would be meeting with the Chairman and the Chief Executive following the Authority meeting.

### **47/2011 Minutes of Meeting 26 May 2011**

Agenda Item 1

The minutes were approved as an accurate record.

### **48/2011 Matters Arising**

Agenda Item 2

It was noted that the actions on the governance and investment of the police officer pension scheme were progressing and a report would come back to the Authority in November once the Trustee had been approached in September.

All other matters had been discharged.

### **49/2011 Chief Constable's Report**

Agenda Item 3

1. The Chief Constable advised the Authority that cycle theft was a developing issue. The Force was working closely with the rail companies who were putting in more cycle bays to deal with a growing demand, to ensure that they provided appropriate security measures such as CCTV and other deterrents.
2. The football season was also approaching and there was a particularly difficult mix of teams in the Championship. It was also noted that BTP Scotland had been doing a lot of work on sectarian offences and this was progressing well. BTP was one of the most active forces in Scotland in this area.
3. The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) Conference had been dominated by concerns over the budget for police forces and the governance of Home Office police forces with the new elected

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Commissioners due to start in May 2012. The Chief Constable also noted that the Home Secretary had spoken robustly on the need to move away from multitudes of targets and the bureaucracy behind these to one target of reducing crime. He said HMIC would be inspecting forces to see whether they were in line with this direction. It was noted that having a single target was possibly an oversimplification and it was agreed that where there was relevant Home Office or HMIC guidance this would be noted in the development of the Policing Plan.

4. The Chairman requested that a timetable showing the synchronisation between the Strategy, Policing Plan and consultation be developed. It was advised that this was available in the Business Cycle but a separate timeline clearly showing the interactions and dependencies of these would be drawn up.

5. A graffiti investigation had led to the successful prosecution of a prolific offender who was due to be sentenced on 8 July. There was an increased incidence of graffiti currently trackside on the entrance to the major London stations. This would have implications on the perception of visitors coming to London for the Olympics.

6. On cable theft there had been lots of effort put into reducing and detecting offences, particularly in the North Eastern Area which had received additional resource. Network Rail had also funded further resource to respond to cable theft and this was currently being recruited.

7. The picture had improved with detections increasing by 10 percentage points and the number of offences reducing. Coordinated work with Network Rail had led to better security of their assets which had also helped here. A fusion unit had been set up at BTP FHQ with a Network Rail Analyst stationed in it and a BT Analyst to join shortly. This was becoming the national recording and analytical centre for cable theft with a coordinated and collaborative approach between the industries affected. The Force also had Network Rail data on lost minutes available to them which was proving useful in the analytical work.

8. The final update was that there was a new Crime Prevention Minister, Baroness Browning, who was keen to do something about cable theft and work on the legislative changes, particularly in light of the higher profile brought to this by the incident at Woking. The Force had drafted out terms and provisions that they would like to see regarding licences and penalties for non-compliance to help move this forward. There was also more support for the cashless model so it was hoped that this would now begin to progress.

9. The Chairman thanked the Force for the progress on the immediate issues of reduction and detection of cable theft and the longer-term strategic issues. She added that there was no doubt that the message was clear as she had visited the North Eastern Area and been very impressed by their approach and the technology available to them and Network Rail to help fight this.

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10. As the late July meeting had been cancelled brief updates on performance and finance were given to the Authority at this point.

11. Mr Holden updated that the Performance Review Group had met on 6 July. At the meeting, it had been clear the Force had a strong focus on the targets and was starting to make good use of the industry lost minutes data using it to build understanding and drive resource prioritisation.

12. The Group had begun to look at the Strategic Plan delivery vehicle, generally it was agreed that a more holistic view should be taken which looked at all the various targets, indicators and tools that were used for monitoring as part of this work. The Group had concluded that there needed to be a fresh approach to monitoring delivery of the Strategic Plan as the current tracking document was overly detailed and bureaucratic; the Performance Review Group recommended that the initial work on refining the delivery plan should be remitted back to the Strategy Group.

13. Some slippage on projects had occurred and this would be recorded in the report from the Performance Review Group. The tracker for the HMIC Report Card had been reviewed and was on target

14. Mrs Pike updated on the financial position but noted the Finance Group was not meeting until the next week. The headline was that the Force was currently below budget and progress was on track with respect to savings.

15. The report was noted.

### **Agreed**

- To review timeline for the Strategy and Policing Plan in the Business Cycle to ensure that this fully reflected any changes that had occurred.
- The Strategic Plan delivery plan to be reviewed and approved by Strategy Group before being reported to the Performance Review Group.

### **51/2011 Chief Executive's Report**

#### Agenda Item 4

1. Updating on the charging work, the Chief Executive advised that the suitability of data sets of various PSA holders, the proxies and other possibilities were being reviewed. A paper on this work would be going to the Strategy Group in the next week and would be brought to the full Authority later. Once this had been agreed risks to individual companies could be assessed.

2. On the Police and Social Responsibility Bill the Authority had received support for its suggested amendments to the Bill from a number of Lords and Baroness Browning. There was a concern from the DfT that a consequence of the proposed amendment could be an additional

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financial burden on BTP but this was not believed to be the case. The Authority and Force believed the amendments, if accepted, would enable the Chief Constable to conduct BTP's role more successfully.

3. A joint BTPA and BTP McNulty Project group had been established. The Group would review the report and its implications for BTPA and BTP on where action may be required. A report from the Group would come to the Authority in September with the Strategy Group receiving a report next week.

4. The Police Staff Pensions Scheme valuation was due to be formally presented to the Pensions Management Committee on 8 July. A preliminary report had shown a small deficit, but following an amendment on assumptions by the Authority Finance Director, which had been approved, this now showed a small surplus meaning that no recovery plan would be required. Further amendments to the assumptions would be made and the resulting valuation would be presented to the Authority formally in September.

5. Member recruitment was underway with interviews scheduled to take place on 8 and 21 July. These would replace the Deputy Chair and also include some additional industry and passenger members.

6. Counter terrorism funding for BTP would be put back on the agenda with the Home Office. The intention was that when funding for initiatives was available BTP would be considered as a matter of course.

7. The Authority noted that the presentation and content of the Strategic Dashboard seemed to meet their requirement. In preparing the dashboard, the aim was that there should be no additional work for BTP, as all the information would be gathered from that already supplied to the Authority's committees and groups.

8. The report was noted.

## **52/2011 Statement of Accounts 2010/11**

### Agenda Item 5

1. The Chair of the Audit Committee introduced the Accounts. He advised that the issue around the Wide Area Network Project (WAN) had been resolved and had the Audit Committee been quorate it would have recommended the Accounts for approval with the caveat that this matter had been dealt with.

2. On the matter of the WAN the Authority had sought advice as to whether Cabinet Office approval was required. The advice from the DfT had been that it was not. However, the NAO had raised this as a last minute issue and as such retrospective approval had to be applied for which had been received on 6 July.

3. Thanks were given to Mrs Burd and her team and Mrs Pike and her team for bringing in the Accounts. The process had been much

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improved, but in view of the fact the timetable next year would be curtailed it would be appropriate to revise the proposed timetable.

4. The Chief Executive added that the fact that the retrospective endorsement of the WAN Project had been received a day earlier than expected spoke very highly of the work of Paul Day and Tony Foster. The Authority and Force had been able to show that there was a sound basis for the project and that all the appropriate questions had been asked and sufficiently answered. The Cabinet Office had been impressed with the deal that had been arrived at. There were some conditions on both BTP and DfT that came with the endorsement but these had been anticipated and were not expected to cause any issues.

5. It was noted that the 2010/11 outturn of a £95.5m surplus was an improvement on the previous year's which had been a £32.5m deficit. This was the result of a change in accounting conventions for pensions and the outstanding debtors having been cleared amongst other matters. The issues around L Area were considered to have been dealt with appropriately with the NAO endorsing the approach.

6. As the audit of the Accounts had been a smoother process in the current year this had also reduced the audit bill by £20k from the previous year.

7. The Chairman thanked all involved for their hard work in ensuring that the Accounts were completed in time and to receive an unqualified opinion.

8. The Accounts were approved by the Authority.

### **Agreed**

- The Accounts were approved and the Accounting Officer authorised to sign and submit them to the NAO.

### **53/2011 Proposal for September AGM**

#### Agenda Item 6

1. The Chairman floated the idea of an Annual General Meeting (AGM) for stakeholders with the Members. The intention was to formalise the process and have a wider dialogue covering the budget, Strategy and Policing Plan.

2. There was a concern from Members that this sort of event may not attract top level directors from the rail industry which the previous workshop had done so well. This concern was acknowledged but the issue was that the Authority needed to improve its consultation with wider stakeholders such as passengers and rail staff. It was agreed that this was required but it was not felt that the AGM model was the best way to achieve this.

3. The Chairman suggested an alternative process with an industry workshop similar to the one that had taken place the previous year being

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held again and consultation with passengers and other stakeholders taking place as part of the Chairman's regional visits.

This was agreed as a way forward.

**Agreed**

- An industry workshop to be held on 22 September followed by a private Authority meeting.
- The Chairman, in conjunction with Member Area portfolio holders, to engage and consult with passenger groups and wider stakeholders on a regional basis.