Report to:	**Police Authority**
Agenda item:	**3**
Date:	**26 January 2012**
Subject:	**Chief Constable's Report**
Sponsor:	**Chief Constable**
For:	**Information**

1. PURPOSE OF PAPER

1.1 This report provides members with an overview of operational and organisational activity within British Transport Police (BTP) since the last report to the British Transport Police Authority (BTPA) on 15 December 2011.

2. POLICING PLAN PERFORMANCE

2.1 As at 31 December 2011 BTP was achieving all of the 11 common targets and 33 of the 47 local targets. The following section highlights key areas of performance during this period. A summary of performance against all Policing Plan targets is attached at Appendix A.

2.2 The target to reduce the number of disruption related offences is now being achieved, with 9,329 offences this year against a target of 9,619. This is a 6% reduction in offences against the same period last year (9,965 offences). London North and Scotland are the two Areas currently not achieving this target, however it is anticipated that this target will be achieved by all Areas by the end of the performance year.

2.3 Notifiable offences also continue to fall (excluding police generated offences for drugs and offensive weapons), with 39,514 offences against a target of 41,836. This represents a 6% reduction against last year (42,163 offences).

2.4 Other highlights include:

- A detection rate of 44% for serious violence against the person, sexual and robbery offences, against a target of 38% and 40% detection rate for the same period last year.

- A reduction in staff assaults, down 4% against the same period last year - 1,946 recorded offences against a target of 2,030 and 2,021 offences last year.
- A reduction in anti-social behaviour, with 13,558 incidents against a target of 13,970 and 14,062 incidents last year (3% reduction).
- There have been 142 non suspicious fatalities on the overground and underground network this year, with an average clearance time of 77 minutes. London North and London South Areas have experienced the most fatalities (42 and 34 respectively). As outlined in December's report a review is being undertaken of the management of unexplained and suspicious fatalities. This work continues and an update will be provided in the Chief Constable's report to the March Authority meeting.

3. FIREARM CAPABILITY

3.1 The project to deliver a firearm capability within BTP is progressing to schedule, and the Force will commence deployment of Authorised Firearms Officers (AFOs) in the next few weeks. This will be a gradual implementation, with full deployment achieved by the end of April 2012. The AFOs will be based within the Counter Terrorism Proactive Unit (CTPU) and will fall under the portfolio of Assistant Chief Constable Thomas (Central Operations).

3.2 The AFOs will patrol at nine key transport hubs in London (Kings Cross, St Pancras, Euston, Victoria, Liverpool Street, Charing Cross, London Bridge, Paddington and Waterloo). A patrol strategy has been developed, as have tactical plans for each location.

3.3 BTP has worked closely with the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) and City of London Police, and a joint protocol covering AFO deployment in London with these two forces has been produced. The MPS carried out a formal inspection of BTP's armoury on 9 January 2011 and provided positive feedback about the facilities and procedures established.

3.4 The application for Section 1 Firearm Certificates for individual officers is progressing well. The Deputy Chief Constable continues to pursue legislative change in relation to the Firearms Act 1968.

3.5 The training by Cheshire Constabulary is going extremely well, and the City of London Police has also provided use of their facilities. Feedback received from both of these forces has been very positive.

3.6 A Communications Strategy has been developed, covering media enquiries and stakeholder engagement. Contact will be made with senior stakeholders and a Q&A sheet will be circulated to all stakeholders in advance of deployment. The Department for Transport (DfT) will also be updated in advance of deployment.

4. OLYMPIC & PARALYMPIC GAMES

4.1 Following ACC Thomas' update on preparations for the 2012 Olympic & Paralympic Games to the Police Authority meeting in December, the Strategic Command Team discussed in detail BTP's plans for delivering the policing requirement during the Games at their meeting on 16 January 2012. BTP's plans are well developed and at an advanced stage – operational, logistics, business continuity, crime & security, planning and command & control.

4.2 BTP will be supported by 350 mutual aid officers from 17 Home Office forces (50 Sergeants and 300 constables). The mutual aid officers will be predominantly deployed at Stratford and in central London. Accommodation has been secured at Hatfield University.

4.3 A number of exercises are planned over the next couple of months, including a national live exercise which will test out the response of all emergency services to a major incident. BTP will be involved in this exercise at both operational and senior level.

4.4 BTP secured additional funding from DfT for a DVD covering Olympic preparations, counter terrorism and security awareness. This will be circulated to stakeholders during January and February, and will be accompanied by a booklet and aide memoir to assist rail staff during the Olympic period.

4.5 A meeting with Network Rail and train operators has been scheduled for 1 February, where plans, roles and responsibilities on the transport network during the Olympics period will be discussed in detail.

4.6 BTP have reduced their DfT Games budget by a further £500k through prudent management and planning. BTP's Games budget now stands at £21.6m as opposed to the original £24.9m. DfT have been informed, as has the BTPA Finance Director.

5. METAL THEFT

5.1 National Metal Theft Taskforce

5.1.1 Consultation is ongoing with DfT and the Home Office regarding the timeframe for spending the national metal theft taskforce money allocated by the Chancellor in his Autumn Statement. Whilst confirmation has not yet been received, it is anticipated that some spend can be carried over to 2012/13.

5.1.2 The strategic priorities of the taskforce have been agreed. These are to:

- Reduce the theft of metal
- Increase detection of metal offenders
- Disrupt organised criminal networks involved in metal theft
- Implement a structure of scrap metal dealer visits
- Improve compliance with the Scrap Metal Dealer Act 1964 and associated legislation regarding licensing and registration

5.1.3 Operating models have been considered and assessed. The intention is to work a remote or franchised model drawing on the TKAP experience. The funding will provide regional representatives with a coordinator and support to manage regional metal theft activity. Regions will be able to bid for funds for additional metal theft activity.

5.1.4 Bids will incorporate partner involvement and where possible elements of match funding. Bids for operational funding will be considered by a Bids Panel, who will report into the ACPO Metal Theft sub-group. There are two operational bids currently being finalised and

these will be considered by the Bids Panel in January. Taking into account BTP's pro rata staff costs, it is anticipated spending by March 2012 will be close to £1m, leaving £4m for 2012/13.

5.2 Operation Tornado

5.2.1 Operation Tornado, the latest initiative coordinated by ACPO and BTP to combat metal theft, was officially launched on 6 January by Lord Henley, Home Office Minister for Crime Prevention and Anti-Social Behaviour Reduction, Paul Crowther, Deputy Chief Constable, and Ian Hetherington, British Metal Recycling Association.

5.2.2 The launch in Durham was also attended by Chief Constables from Durham and Cleveland Police, an Assistant Chief Constable from Northumbria, and representatives from Network Rail and Nexus. The launch attracted a significant amount of local, regional and national media interest.

5.2.3 Over 82% of scrap metal dealers in the region signed up to the trial and feedback from the majority of the yards taking part has been positive with little impact on business being experienced. The dealers who refused to support the initiative will be encouraged to reconsider their position, which will be supported by an increase in enforcement activity at their business premises.

5.2.4 A joint police (BTP, Durham, Cleveland and Northumbria forces) and agency operation took place on 18 January and focused on the top ten yards which had failed to support or were failing to comply with the conditions of the trial. This operation resulted in 35 arrests, including several directors of companies, for various offences and seizures were made under the Proceeds of Crime Act (£100k in cash was recovered from one site).

5.2.5 Early indication from BTP and British Telecom (BT) was that crime levels have fallen significantly since the start of the trial and the impact is being felt across the region. BT indicated they had experienced displacement to the North West and were keen to see the trial rolled out as soon as possible.

5.2.6 During the launch Lord Henley, who acknowledged how ineffective current legislation was in terms of tackling metal theft, indicated he wanted to see Operation Tornado rolled out nationally. The Deputy Chief Constable supported this strategy. Operation Tornado sent a clear message to the recycling industry that this was their opportunity to demonstrate a degree of self regulation. However, the only effective way to tackle metal theft remains through legislative change and a complete overhaul of the current act.

5.2.7 North Yorkshire, Humberside and Cumbria police are adopting Operation Tornado in advance of a national roll out. Early indications are that many other forces will follow suit. BTP are leading the work to develop a comprehensive workable model that can be rolled out nationally during 2012.

6. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

6.1 This section provides an outline of stakeholder engagement undertaken by BTP, as requested at December's Police Authority meeting.

6.2 The Chief Constable undertakes a schedule of meetings with senior level stakeholders including Chief Executives of owning groups, train operating company (TOC) Managing Directors, ATOC, Network Rail, London Underground, Transport for London, passenger groups, government Ministers and officials, and other police forces. These meetings take place at various intervals throughout the year, ranging from quarterly to annual meetings. For example, during December 2011 to January 2012 the Chief Constable met with Network Rail, London Underground, First Great Western, First Scotrail, Southeastern, the Scottish Cabinet Secretary for Justice, the Commissioners from the MPS and City of London Police, the Chief Constable of Strathclyde, and the Presidents of ACPO and ACPOS.

6.3 Area Commanders also have a schedule of stakeholder meetings, including those with TOC Managing Directors, TOC Heads of Security, Network Rail Route Directors, local Home Office police forces, and local Members of Parliament. The regularity of these meetings ranges from quarterly to six monthly. TOC representatives also attend monthly tasking meetings held by BTP.

6.4 On a more local basis BTP officers meet with local rail staff and stakeholders on a regular, as well as ad hoc, basis.

6.5 Correspondence is sent out to stakeholders in a variety of forms. This includes a redacted version of this report after it has been presented to the Police Authority, a quarterly BTP publication 'The Line', Area newsletters, and briefings about specific topics (Olympics, Firearms, disorder during the Summer etc).

6.6 The BTPA Chair and Chief Executive also undertake a schedule of stakeholder meetings throughout the year.

6.7 The Chief Constable's office is currently undertaking a review of senior level stakeholder engagement. If Police Authority members, or stakeholders upon receipt of this report, have any suggestions on enhancing BTP's engagement with the industry this feedback would be very welcome.

7. ACPO ACTIVITY

7.1 In his role as Chair of the ACPO Communications Advisory Group, the Chief Constable continues to lead on a number of work streams in response to the Leveson Inquiry, the publication of the Filkin report, and the publication of HMIC's report into police relationships with the media 'Withour Fear or Favour'.

8. AWARDS

8.1 Inspector Alex Robertson, Chairman of the BTP Federation, was awarded a Queen's Police Medal in the New Year Honours. Alex has shown great leadership since becoming Chairman of the Federation in 1999, and has provided outstanding service to Federation members and BTP as a whole. Alex retires from BTP in January and this award is a fitting tribute to his exceptional service.

8.2 BTP has moved up ten places in the annual Stonewall Workplace Equality Index, a nationally recognised benchmarking tool for employers which evaluates how well organisations are doing in terms of equality for the lesbian, gay and bisexual (LGB)

communities. The index looks at a range of business areas including Human Resources, Learning and Development, and Community Engagement. It also includes an employee survey element, which allows LGB employees to give their perspective on what it is like to work for the organisation.

8.2.1 The latest index, published on 11 January 2012, placed BTP at number 25 in the top 100 employers. A total of 363 organisations participated in the 2011 index. This improved ranking recognises the continued work by BTP to progress in this area of equality. In the industry specific tables, BTP is ranked the third police service in relation to LGB equality, after South Wales Police (23rd) and Hampshire (14th).

9. OVERVIEW OF OPERATIONAL ACTIVITY

9.1 This section provides members with an overview of operational activity within BTP over the last eight weeks.

9.2 Operation Alderman

On 25 October 2010 a human rights lawyer was pushed off a station platform and under a train at Kings Cross Underground Station. The victim, Sonia Burgess, had two identities, and was known in her legal name of David Burgess. The victim had been to a doctor's surgery with an acquaintance (the defendant) and had raised her concerns about the defendant's mental health. Whilst at Kings Cross station the defendant pushed the victim off the Piccadilly Line platform and in front of a train. The victim died at the scene from multiple injuries. The defendant was detained by a member of the public and arrested. A murder investigation was launched by the Major Investigation Team which resulted in the defendant appearing at the Old Bailey where he was convicted of Manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility, and was sentenced to seven years. The Judge commended the Major Investigation Unit officers for their hard work and excellent case file.

9.3 Operation Wahoo

In December 2011 Eurostar reported to the Major Investigation Unit that their online ticket sales system was being systematically attacked using stolen credit card data and over 3,000 bookings had been made by persons unknown. They fraudulently purchased in

excess of £250,000 of tickets and attempted to purchase in excess of a further £500,000 of tickets. The investigation resulted in a number of warrants being executed on 10 January 2012, and four men were arrested who are part of a West African Organised Crime Group. Their premises were searched and evidence linking them to the Eurostar fraud was recovered, along with counterfeit documents and a forgery factory. All four men have been charged with Conspiracy to Defraud and have been remanded in custody to appear at Blackfriars Crown Court on 23 February 2012. Since these arrests Eurostar have reported a 50% decrease in similar fraud offences.

9.4 Attempted murder at Harlesden Underground Station

Two youths were sentenced indefinitely at Blackfriars Crown Court on 5 January for the attempted murder of a 27 year old man who was shot in the back at Harlesden station on 9 March 2011. Two further youths were convicted of possession of a firearm in a public place to enable another to cause fear of unlawful violence and perverting the course of justice and sentenced to six years imprisonment. The victim became involved in an altercation with a group of youths as he was making his way home from a football match. The youths chased the man into Harlesden station where he was shot in the back as he tried to run down the stairs to escape. The victim managed to board a Bakerloo line train to Willesden Junction station, where BTP and the London Ambulance Service were called. BTP officers downloaded CCTV images from cameras in the street and at the station and identified the youths, who were arrested within weeks of the attack.

9.5 Operation Archangel

This case surrounds the blackmail of footballer Wayne Rooney and his wife Coleen by persons who were demanding money for the return of a camera and personal photographs of the family that they had stolen at the MEN Arena which is within BTP's jurisdiction. BTP were contacted by representatives of Manchester United Football Club after they had been contacted and offered the stolen camera for a sum of money. BTP's Covert Unit conducted an undercover operation and contacted the blackmailers purporting to be representatives of the football club. Following negotiations by telephone a meeting was arranged in a hotel where undercover officers took possession of the camera and photos and three offenders were arrested and charged. The quality and strength of the evidence

was such that all three offenders pleaded guilty at Crown Court and are due to be sentenced at Manchester Crown Court on 30 January 2012. This case has already, and will at sentencing, attract widespread media interest.

9.6 Jail sentence for Grevious Bodily Harm

A 20 year old man was sentenced to three years imprisonment at Leeds Crown Court on 20 December 2011 after pleading guilty to causing grievous bodily harm with intent and one count of assault. The defendant was at Leeds station in the early hours of 20 May 2011 with a friend when he launched an attack on two men who were returning to the station from a night out. After an altercation between the four on the station concourse, the defendant lashed out at the victim knocking him to the floor unconscious, before repeatedly kicking him in the head. He then moved onto the victim's friend, punching him to the ground and kicking him, before walking away. BTP officers attended the scene and located and arrested the suspect at the station.

9.7 Operation Nocturnal

This investigation centred on the theft of high value motor vehicles from station car parks throughout Kent for the purpose of selling on their components. The total value of the thefts amounted to over £750k. At Blackfriars Crown Court on 25 November 2011, four defendants were sentenced to terms of imprisonment for conspiracy to steal, ranging from six months to three years four months, and the subsequent forfeiture of all the vehicle components that had been seized. The Judge commended the investigating team for their exceptional dedication shown during the investigation.

9.8 Level Crossing accident

On 19 December 2011 the Milford Haven to Manchester service struck a lorry at Llanboidy level crossing at approximately 75mph. The driver of the lorry was carrying bales of hay and was also drawing a trailer with a second load of hay. Not thinking to call the signal box he attempted to cross and became trapped when the far barrier dropped in front of him. As the train driver approached the crossing, seeing the lorry and likely impact, he applied full brakes and ran towards the rear of the train, grabbing the refreshment assistant on the way. This action undoubtedly saved their lives. The resulting impact caused five people to

be conveyed to hospital with minor injuries. The driver of the lorry, who admitted his part in the accident, was arrested and is currently on bail awaiting a CPS charging decision.

9.9 Operation Buzz

Operation Buzz was a Scottish run operation targeting a gang of teenagers in the Inverclyde area who were responsible for a variety of offences. While many of the offences were minor in nature, it was quickly identified that this group had the potential to cause serious risk to the travelling public and staff. The police operation resulted in 7 arrests with 21 charges ranging from robbery, assault, and breach of the peace across linked incidents. A further three juveniles were charged with disorder offences and a male adult for possession of an offensive weapon namely an axe.

9.10 Racial Abuse - Croydon Tramlink

On 27 November 2011 a video clip was posted on You Tube of a woman shouting racial abuse at passengers on a busy tram in the Croydon area. This resulted in numerous complaints being made by members of the public to BTP. Within twenty four hours, BTP officers had identified, arrested & charged the defendant with a racially aggravated s4 public order offence. She was remanded in custody for her own safety as the You Tube clip had received over 13 million hits and consequently generated a large amount of media interest. The defendant has since been further charged with an additional racially aggravated s4 public order offence and has now been bailed with strict bail conditions. This case is heading towards a trial at Croydon Crown Court later this year.

9.11 The following paragraphs provide an update on three staff assaults.

- On 7 June 2011 an off duty member of rail staff was attacked on board a train between East Croydon and London Bridge. The attack was so ferocious that it left the victim blind in one eye. Two men were arrested at the scene and subsequently pleaded guilty at Blackfriars Crown Court. On 20 December 2011 they were both sentenced to eight years imprisonment for causing Grevious Bodily Harm with intent.

- On 10 October 2011 at Peckham a Southern Revenue Protection Officer was punched in the face and sustained a fractured jaw whilst he challenged a man for his ticket. The

suspect was identified by BTP officers on release of CCTV images, and he was arrested at his home address and charged with causing Grevious Bodily Harm. He has pleaded not guilty and is due to appear in court at the end of January.

- On 19 December 2011 whilst working a train between Pitsea and East Tilbury Revenue Protection Officers were approached by a group of men who advised they had no tickets. At East Tilbury station they became abusive and violent. One of the men produced a knife and stabbed one of the Revenue Protection Officers in the back. He received a puncture wound which required 3 stitches. Retrieval of CCTV footage quickly lead to the identification of two suspects who were promptly arrested. Both suspects were charged with a Section 20 Assault and are currently remanded in custody pending trial. This incident received widespread media interest.

9.12 The following paragraphs provide an example of some recent metal theft investigations.

- During the metal theft day of action on 22 November 2011, BTP effected the arrest of a known cable thief for an attempt theft of cable from St Denys substation on 8 September 2011. On making this arrest at a garage, the suspect was further arrested for possession of cannabis and possession of stolen British Telecom and railway cable sheathing. Further to this arrest, the owner of the garage and another male who was living in his van within the compound were also arrested in relation to the finding of additional cable on site. The three defendants have been bailed until 23 January 2012 pending further investigation.

- Metal theft on London North Area saw a recent shift to the inner London West Anglia route (Tottenham - Stamford Hill), with a new organised team believed to be responsible for this offending. A patrol plan was prepared for this area and BTP resources worked closely with the Anglia Network Rail taskforce to patrol the area. On 4 January 2011 at Walthamstow St James Street the return conductor cable was cut which started a lineside fire. Three offenders made off from the scene in a Ford Mondeo and a witness reported the details to police. Following prompt circulation of the vehicle registration number the three occupants were arrested by officers and the vehicle seized nearby. The suspects are currently on bail pending charge and further

investigation into linked offences in the Stamford Hill and Rectory Road area following ANPR and intelligence received to these offences.

- Eleven men have been jointly charged on the sole count of conspiracy to steal rail and fencing belonging to Network Rail, spanning a period between April 2009 and August 2010. These thefts involved substantial financial loss to Network Rail. Six of the defendants have entered guilty pleas. The trial is due to commence in February 2012. This was a complex investigation led by North Western Area CID, with close liaison with Network Rail and the CPS.

- On 4 January 2012 the body of 21 year old man was discovered close to a railway line in Dagenham. Rail staff had received reports of a power issue and suspected a cable theft taking place. On searching the area the overhead line team found a badly burned body and hacksaw close to the line. A power cable had been cut. The deceased is an Estonian national who lived in the Romford area. Detectives are currently working to establish the chain of events leading up to the deceased's death.

- On 5 January 2012 BTP and Network Rail were joined by a film crew from ITV News. They were present at the nightly industry / BTP cable briefing at London North Area Headquarters, and then joined officers on targeted patrols. Activities from this night will feature in the Tonight Programme on 25 January 2012.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 That members note the content of this report.