BRITISH TRANSPORT POLICE

Report to:	**Police Authority**
Agenda item:	**3**
Date:	**29 March 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 26 January 2012.

2. POLICING PLAN PERFORMANCE

2.1 As at 29 February 2012 BTP was achieving all of the 11 common targets and 43 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 reduction in the number of disruption related offences continues, with 10,739 offences this year against a target of 11,717. This is a 7.5% reduction in offences against the same period last year (11,621 offences).

2.3 Notifiable offences also continue to fall (excluding police generated offences for drugs and offensive weapons), with 46,820 offences against a target of 50,954. This represents a 8% reduction against last year (50,825 offences).

2.4 Other highlights include:

- A detection rate of 45% for serious violence against the person, sexual and robbery offences, against a target of 38% and 37% detection rate for the same period last year.

- A reduction in staff assaults, down 5% against the same period last year – 2,329 recorded offences against a target of 2,473 and 2,464 offences last year.
- 17% of resources are devoted to neighbourhood and response policing between the hours of 8pm and 1am against a target of 15%.
- Average sickness per staff employee is 5.74 days against a year to date target of 6.42 days.
- Average clearance times for non suspicious fatalities is 77 minutes against a 90 minute target.

3. FIREARMS CAPABILITY

3.1 As updated to January's Police Authority meeting, BTP commenced the deployment of Authorised Firearms Officers (AFOs) on 24 February 2012. This is a phased implementation over three stages with full deployment planned by the end of April 2012.

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).

3.3 The Communications Strategy in advance of the first deployments included letters from the Deputy Chief Constable to Department for Transport, Home Office, Transport for London, ATOC, Network Rail, TOCs, London Underground, Metropolitan Police Service (MPS), and City of London Police (CoLP). The Chief Constable also spoke to the Commissioners at the MPS and CoLP, and Kit Malthouse. BTP's media team linked in with partner media departments to ensure a joint approach to any media interest.

3.4 The feedback received so far, from the industry, rail passengers and MPS and CoLP has been extremely positive. Comments include 'very impressed by the officers attitude and keenness to work with us', 'we very much welcome BTP's armed presence', 'people noticed your officers and in my opinion their presence seemed to have a nullifying and calming effect on the areas they passed through', 'They were smart, purposeful and approachable'.

4. OLYMPIC & PARALYMPIC GAMES

4.1 BTP played a major role during Exercise Forward Defensive, a two day exercise in February which tested out the response of the emergency services to a terrorist attack in London during the Olympics. BTP were deployed at the 'scene of the incident', the Deputy Chief Constable attended a number of COBR meetings chaired by the Home Secretary, and the Chief Constable was Lead Media Umpire for the entire exercise. This was a valuable exercise, and while there were some lessons learned, the interoperability of the emergency services was extremely professional. A debrief for BTP on lessons learned from the exercise has been arranged in March.

4.2 As reported by ACC Thomas at a previous meeting, a DVD sponsored by DfT and the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) is now being rolled out to rail staff. The DVD was produced by a joint team from BTP, ODA and the rail industry, and aims to keep the rail and underground networks safe during the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games and beyond. The DVD briefs staff on how to deal with unattended items and suspicious behaviour, as well as how to react when armed police are present and in "active shooter" situations. The DVD will be incorporated into the annual refresher briefing rail staff receive to keep them up to speed with the latest developments and to reinforce the need for vigilance.

5. METAL THEFT

5.1 BTP as the ACPO and ACPOS lead force for metal theft organises and coordinates other police forces and agencies to combine in periods of concerted enforcement activity. BTP as lead in the National Metal Theft Taskforce Programme (NMTTP) has agreed with DfT to increase the frequency of these. The latest took place between 8th and 15th March. Initial results from BTP's activity show:

- 200 officers were deployed
- 106 Scrap metal dealers were visited and inspected
- 10 arrests were made
- 6.5 tonnes of suspected stolen metal seized

- Over 50 local Scottish police officers received BTP training around scrap metal dealers and metal theft
- Partners included, BT, Kegwatch, Smartwater, Environment Agency, SEPA and National Grid

Results on the whole week's activity are being collated from forces across the country and will be communicated in due course.

5.3 BTP has successfully negotiated with the Environment Agency (EA) for the secondment of 3 EA staff into BTP as part of the NMTTF. EA have agreed to provide an intelligence officer into the BTP Fusion Intelligence Unit (FIU) and two co-ordinators who will provide a link between BTP and local police forces into the EA's regulatory staff. These officers will:

- provide access to EA systems and data from the FIU
- play a significant role in contributing to the national risk assessment
- work closely with BTP areas
- work with BTP to prioritise the regulatory inspection work
- work with BTP and police forces to accurately determine SMD numbers in E&W from police and EA records
- share intelligence on SMDs of concern to both EA and police
- add to the intelligence picture during the planning of operations
- provide guidance and support to FIU and operational teams on best practice in relation to EA legislation and Licensing/registration

The agreement that has been reached for these staff will provide BTP and the wider police service with links into this major partner in terms of their staff, powers and system and data access

5.4 An aggressive approach is being used to tackle the increase in metal theft on the London Underground, including an increase in the number of officers deployed across the night to deter and catch criminals undertaking such activity. This increased level of resource is not sustainable, particularly during the Olympic period, and therefore Transport for London has agreed to fund a helicopter, crew and associated costs to provide a crime prevention presence in the sky and create a hostile environment over the London Underground areas of track that are overground. This six month trial will be supported by a mixed economy team of officers and security staff who are deployed on the ground.

6. FATALITY MANAGEMENT REVIEW

6.1 BTP deals with around 350 fatalities each year, and the Force's expertise and reputation in dealing with fatalities on the railways is widely recognised. The Authority have previously been updated on the work that is ongoing to improve fatality management even further, including the development of a Fatality Guidance Manual, which includes a section on how the National Decision Model (NDM) should be used, and provides best practice, guidance and support to officers and staff responding to fatalities and making decisions.

6.2 To build on this work, the Deputy Chief Constable requested a number of work streams, centred around the development of a fatality management categorisation model that will support an evidence-based, risk managed corporate response to fatalities. BTP has achieved considerable success over the past decade through the use of a similar categorisation model, used to deal with bomb threats.

6.3 The development of a categorisation model to assist with fatality management will support officers and staff in pragmatic decision making using the NDM. Analytical, forensic, scientific and investigative expertise will be further developed and applied to enhance BTP's management of risk through helping to shape the evidence base. Expert peer reviews will be used to identify opportunities for improvements and to validate work undertaken as part of the project.

6.4 ACC Pacey is leading this review and will provide a detailed update on progress to Police Authority in June.

7. ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

7.1 To help improve focus on anti social behaviour (ASB) issues and spread best practice across BTP, a new ASB Strategy has been published. Whilst ASB may be low level crime, it is high impact and can have a detrimental impact on passengers and rail staff. The revised ASB Strategy has an emphasis on partnership activity and effective communication. Key elements of the ASB Strategy include:

- working in partnership
- effective communications
- focusing on offenders and vulnerable victims
- measuring success.

8. ACPO ACTIVITY

8.1 As Chair of the ACPO Communications Advisory Group, the Chief Constable has been providing advice to ACPO and the police service in relation to the Leveson Inquiry. The Chief Constable was required to submit written evidence to the Inquiry covering aspects of his BTP Chief Constable and ACPO roles, and is due to give evidence to the Inquiry on 28 March. Going forward the Chief Constable will lead the work on issuing new media guidance for the police service in light of the HMIC report 'Without Fear or Favour', the Filkin Report and the outcome of the Leveson Inquiry.

8.2 The Chief Constable continues to attend the Emergency Services Mobile Communication Programme Steering Group meetings chaired by the Permanent Secretary of the Home Office. This group was formed to take forward the work to identify a suitable communication system for the emergency services when the contract with Airwave, expires in 2015.

8.3 The Chief Constable attended the BTP Police Federation Annual Conference in York where he presented several bravery awards.

8.4 The Chief Constable was the Inspecting Officer at the Scottish Police College on 9 March 2012. A British Transport Police officer, PC Stuart Douglas, won the Baton of Honour for the top student.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 That members note the content of this report.