

Minutes

Police Authority

Thursday 27 September 2012, 1.30pm
at The Snow Room, BMA House, Tavistock Square,
London WC1H 9JP

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Present:

Millie Banerjee, Chairman
Brian Phillpott, Deputy Chairman
Lew Adams (part)
Patrick Butcher
Colin Foxall
Elizabeth France
David Franks
Michael Holden
Wendy Towers
Anton Valk
Jeroen Weimar

Apologies:

Howard Collins
Len Jackson

In attendance:

Andrew Trotter, Chief Constable
Alan Pacey, Assistant Chief Constable Territorial Policing &
Crime
Steve Thomas, Assistant Chief Constable Central Operations
Paul Brogden, Chief Superintendent
Simon Hart, Head of Finance
Elaine Derrick, Senior Advisor, BTP
Mike Furness, Senior Advisor BTP (part)

Andrew Figgures, Chief Executive
Liz Pike, Authority Finance Director
Samantha Elvy, Performance Review Manager
Lucy Yasin, Authority Business Manager & Minutes
Michael Daventry, Communications Officer

PART I - ITEMS TO BE TAKEN IN PUBLIC

43/2012 Welcome and Apologies

Non Agenda

1. The Chair gave apologies from Mr Jackson who was out of the country and Mr Collins who was required at another meeting.
2. Following feedback from Members, the Chair announced that Committee minutes would no longer come to the Full Authority meetings, but would be directly sent to Members once they were finalised and posted on the Authority's website. Questions could be routed through the Executive. The intention was to allow more time at the Full Authority to concentrate on strategic matters. It was further noted that any significant matters were reported separately to the Authority.

44/2012 Discussion of the Morning Workshop

Agenda Item 1

3. The general feeling was that the stakeholder event had been very positive. There seemed to be a desire from the industry to collaborate and work in partnership. There had been a suggestion to work together on processes such as fatality management to see how the time taken to clear these could be reduced, whilst ensuring that the initial decision making process was not adversely affected.
4. In summing up at the Stakeholder Workshop the Chairman stated that BTPA should develop a relationship with the industry and its customers such that if the statutory requirement for BTP to police the railways did not exist, the industry and its customers would not consider any other provider since no other provider could compete in terms of quality, range and unit cost of service.
5. The initial feedback from the Industry was that they felt the BTPA has struck the balance between allocation of resources and the effectiveness of the Force. There was concern that a change in leadership and membership of the BTPA would give rise to an unwarranted cost increase.
6. The next steps to continue the engagement were important. It was noted that at the strategic and fiscal level a different architecture was required and this would need to be part of the discussions with respect to the next steps. It was suggested that engagement could be through a sub group of the Rail Delivery Group (RDG) in future and this option could form part of the discussions.

7. A key concern of the industry was the unpredictability of the charges. The BTPA should consider how to address this within the Act. This unpredictability and apparent lack of influence over future costs was a major driver in nervousness with the new PSA.
8. BTPA should consider how it could engage and consult with the Passenger Transport Executives.
9. **Agreed**
 - 9.1. The next steps with respect to engagement with the stakeholders to be developed and agreed. The option of engaging through a sub group of the RDG to be considered.
 - 9.2. The BTPA Executive to develop a proposal for how BTPA could engage and consult with the Passenger Transport Executives.

45/2012 Minutes

Agenda Item 2

10. The minutes were approved as an accurate record.

46/2012 Matters Arising

Agenda Item 3

11. Members noted that all actions were closed or addressed elsewhere on the agenda.

47/2012 Chief Constable's Report

Agenda Item 4

12. The Chief Constable introduced his report highlighting the key areas:
 - 12.1. The policing of London 2012 had been very successful following the comprehensive planning and preparation process. The Chief Constable thanked ACC Thomas, his team and the industry for a job well done. BTPA added their thanks to that of the Chief Constable.
 - 12.2. The new Chief Constable of the Police Service of Scotland had been announced as Mr Stephen House. The Chief Constable advised that he would be visiting Mr House in the near future.
 - 12.3. The Chief Constable cautioned that police officer morale had been struggling as a result of pay and pension amendments from Winsor and Hutton. This had been further impacted following the deaths of the two officers in GMP, which highlighted the personal risk officers faced in the line of duty.
 - 12.4. ACPO funding was due to expire in the current financial year and there was uncertainty about what mechanism police chiefs would engage through in the future. This was compounded by the concern around the potential move to elected Police and Crime Commissioners leading to local agendas.

- 12.5. The Chief Constable advised that an officer had recently resigned from BTP having been convicted of dangerous driving.
- 12.6. Performance against Policing Plan targets was progressing well.
- 12.7. A new governance structure was in the process of being implemented at BTP. This had been developed following a number of control issues and was designed to embed a culture of compliance.
- 12.8. Work on reducing metal theft continued to be positive with the main focus on the legislation in this area. The task force continued to be successful.

48/2012 Chief Executive's Report

Agenda Item 5

13. The Chief Executive updated that the new version PSA was with the DfT and the sponsorship team were expecting to brief the new Ministers in the next week. The DfT lawyers wanted to stay as close to the 2003 Act as possible and clauses had been included to help reconcile the PSA holders to this. Peter Strachan, Director General at the DfT, had written to ATOC outlining the DfT position. It was noted that if the DfT proposed any changes the BTPA would have to consult stakeholders before deciding to adopt them.
14. It had been hoped that approval from the DfT could be secured by 30 September, but owing to the changes at the Ministerial level it was expected that this would take longer as the new Ministers would need to be fully briefed. It was not anticipated that this delay would cause a significant issue in getting the PSA in place by 31 March 2013, as long as approval was received before the end of November.
15. The TfL PSA was close to conclusion with the insurance indemnity the only outstanding item and this was expected to be resolved by mid-October.
16. The Police Officer pension scheme was due to be valued at 31 December 2012. The result was expected to be a deficit owing to the assets and discount rate, but it was expected that the assumptions would be challengeable to reduce but not eliminate the deficit. The Hutton and Winsor implications complicated the issue and a paper on these would be brought to the Authority meeting in December along with a scoping paper on the valuation.
17. **Agreed**
 - 17.1. A scoping paper on the Valuation of the police officer scheme to come to the December Authority meeting along with more information of the impacts of Hutton and Winsor on pensions.

49/2012 Changing Media Challenge Presentation - for Information

Agenda Item 6

18. BTP gave an excellent presentation on the changing media challenge and how they were using social media to engage with the public.
19. The main issues in this area were privacy and data protection laws, and for BTP and the police service in general, staff and officers writing inappropriate comments in the public arena. There had been, and continued to be, a number of disciplinary proceedings taking place with respect to inappropriate comments on social media, resulting in a range of sanctions up to and including dismissal.
20. There was Home Office guidance on both using and managing social media. ACPO had also established a working group in this area working with the Home Office.
21. The Members asked that Ms Bird return and present in 6 months time when work in this area had progressed further.
22. **Agreed**
 - 22.1. BTP to present again in 6 months when work in the area has progressed further.

50/2012 Committee Minutes

Agenda Items 7

Professional Standards Committee 25/07/12

23. BTP had implemented a Service Recovery Model which was designed to be a more proportionate response to dealing with low level expressions of dissatisfaction. This had been working well and the Committee had reviewed its Quarterly Report to include the most appropriate monitoring information to cover this.
24. The Professional Standards Department (PSD) had developed a 'Subject Intervention System' which combined data from a number of existing sources such as complaint, conduct, performance and absence data. This then enabled potential issues to be identified at an early stage. This had proved successful and a number of other forces were interested in the system.
25. There were a number of changes in the PSD and a presentation would be given to the full Authority on these.

26. Agreed

- 26.1. The Full Authority to receive a presentation on the changes to both PSD and the processes in place.

Audit Committee 26/09/12

27. The Committee had only met the previous day so an oral update was provided.
28. The Accounts had been filed on-time and unqualified. The risks associated with the new PSA had been discussed, and a request made that advice be sought to cover the prospect that approval may not be received in time for signing by 31 March 2013.
29. The Committee had received an update on the new governance structure following lessons learned from control issues. The Management Assurance Return had also been discussed. This was due to be submitted to the DfT by 2 November.
30. BTPA/BTP had been instructed by the DfT that when its current internal audit contract expired at the end of March 2013 it would be required to use the DfT's internal auditors. Therefore, from 1 April 2013 DfT/PwC would provide the internal audit function. It was suggested that it would be useful to establish a protocol with DfT/PwC.

PART II - ITEMS TAKEN IN PRIVATE

51/2012 Committee Minutes (continued)

Agenda Item 13

Strategy Group 17/07/12

31. The output from this meeting had fed into the morning session, as such there was no further update.

52/2012 Minutes of Meeting 12 June 2012 (continued)

Agenda Item 13

32. The minutes were approved as an accurate record.