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**Report to:** Police Authority  
**Agenda item:** 3  
**Date:** 29 January 2015 2014  
**Subject:** Chief Constable's Report  
**Sponsor:** Paul Crowther, Chief Constable  
**For:** Information

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**1. PURPOSE OF PAPER**

- 1.1 This report provides members with an update on activity across British Transport Police (BTP) since the Chief Constable's last report to the Police Authority on 5 November 2014.

**2. POLICING PLAN PERFORMANCE**

- 2.1 As at 30 November BTP was achieving 4 of the 7 national and 40 of the 68 local targets set in the 2014/15 Policing Plan. Detail of performance against all targets is attached at Appendix A. Performance against the national targets is as follows:

- Whilst the Force is achieving a 4% reduction in notifiable offences against the same period last year (30,660 offences compared to 31,953 offences in 2013/14), the linear target of 29,851 offences is being missed by 3%.
- Police related Network Rail lost minutes have increased by 2% compared to the same period last year (888,460 minutes compared to 871,833 minutes in 2013/14). Recorded lost minutes are 14% higher than the year to date target of 780,563 minutes.
- The average clearance time for fatalities is 79 minutes against a 90 minute target. There were 204 non-suspicious and unexplained fatalities on the rail and underground network during the period 1 April to 31 October.
- The average time to partially re-open multi track lines is 43 minutes against a target of 45 minutes.
- Overall sickness is currently running at an average of 4.31 days per employee against a target of 4.26 days. Sickness levels were subject to detailed scrutiny at Service Excellence Board in November.

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- The spring 2014 National Passenger Survey reported 76.6% of passengers were confident in their personal security. The autumn results are due to be published in January.
  - 68% of the Force budget is being spent on frontline resources against a 67% target. Performance against this target is measured quarterly with the next update due at the end of December.

### **3. COUNTER TERRORISM**

3.1 As updated in the Chief Constable's previous report, following the increased threat level and the attacks in Montreal and New York, a review of BTP's capacity and tactics to respond to a similar incident in the UK was undertaken. This review also considered the Force's ability to scale up resources in the event of any further increase to the threat level. The Chief Constable provided members with an update on this review and the deployment tactics at the meeting.

3.2 The Counter Terrorism Awareness Week (CTAW) ran from 24 to 30 November 2014. This was a national event and involved all police forces. BTP committed resources to the CTAW by utilising Op Walmington and dedicated engagement teams. Initiatives focused on matters relating to crowded places and transport hubs.

3.2.1 BTP's Counter Terrorism Support Unit (CTSU) held BTP's launch event on 24 November at the National Rail Museum in York. This event was opened by the Deputy Chief Constable and a project Griffin presentation was delivered to 70 delegates. On 25 November a further Project Griffin presentation was held at Waterloo Station for 20 delegates.

3.2.2 Several joint partnership initiatives took place during the course of the week including the deployment of uniform and plain clothes Behavioural Detection Officers and CTSU Dogs focusing on mainline and LU hubs in central London. BTP also supported engagement initiatives at 85 stations across the country.

3.2.3 Transport hubs was the theme of the second day of the CTAW and the Chief Constable, as national police spokesperson, undertook a number of national TV and press interviews raising the public's awareness to be alert and aware and to report any suspicious activity they may see on the rail and underground network.

#### **4. SCOTLAND**

4.1 As members will be aware, the Smith Commission was set up in the wake of the Scottish Independence Referendum to consider further devolved powers to the Scottish Parliament. Scottish Government, in their submission to the Commission stated that they wished the functions of BTP in Scotland to be devolved: the only submission of the 18,000 or so submissions received by Lord Smith to make mention of BTP. The Commission's report was published on 27 November and included a one line entry "The functions of the British Transport Police in Scotland will be a devolved matter." It will now be for the Scottish and UK governments to decide whether this function, among all the others, should be devolved to the Scottish Parliament.

4.2 The decision as to whether the functions of BTP in Scotland are to be devolved is one for politicians. The Force, working closely with the Authority, will ensure that those who will make that decision are as well informed as possible about the role of BTP across Great Britain, and any associated risks. A working group has been established jointly chaired by Bill Matthews and ACC McCall to take this work forward. An internal communication to BTP Scotland has been made emphasising the importance of maintaining focus and keeping the public safe.

#### **5. TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME**

5.1 Members will have received a comprehensive update on key work streams under Transformation at a Police Authority event on 4 December. The Chief Constable would be happy to personally brief any member who was unable to attend this event. Progress on Transformation will be provided on an ongoing basis to future Police Authority meetings.

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5.2 Following the Chief Constable's 'Make the Difference' road shows, the answers to all questions raised at the events (over 900 questions) have been published on the Force intranet. After listening to and considering the questions and comments raised, the Chief Constable has pledged to deliver '10 Commitments'. These are:

- From December 2014 every officer will complete at least one tour of duty a month in support of an operational Force priority to maximise use of resources and impact on crime, disruption and public confidence.
- Starting in January and throughout 2015, BTP will recruit 300 additional Special Constables specifically targeting police staff under our new 'Employer Supported Policing' scheme.
- We will run a trial using hand held devices to stream CCTV images providing officers with immediate access to images of suspects.
- Building on the 'Make the Difference' road shows, we will consult and engage with the whole workforce through an independent staff survey.
- We will issue supervising officers and staff with hand held tablets to remotely access systems and data so you're no longer tied to an office.
- In April we will introduce a new approach to personal development which will become employees' 'passport' to progression and promotion.
- As part of a pilot we will issue 250 body worn video cameras to help gather evidence and make swift decisions in custody.
- We will upgrade the Duty Management System to ensure all changes to rosters are properly scheduled and last minute changes to duties are kept to an absolute minimum.
- We will roll out a new, simple and accurate booking on and off duty system.
- We will upgrade to Microsoft Windows 7 and Office 2010 - a 'virtual desktop' will mean your data, documents, formats and shortcuts will be available on any police computer you log onto.

## **6. PARTNERSHIP WORKING**

6.1 Following Mark Carne, Chief Executive Network Rail, visit to BTP's CCTV Hub in September, dialogue has taken place with Neal Lawson, Network Rail's Director of

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Maintenance and Operations Services to develop joint strategic initiatives between BTP and Network Rail. This includes developing a national joint strategies to tackle disruption as well as opportunities for Network Rail to adopt a similar approach to TfL in tackling graffiti.

- 6.2 In addition to this, Network Rail has asked BTP to support their 'Perfect 10' initiative (an objective for Network Rail to achieve the best period 10 PPM scores over the last 10 years). This includes a series of initiatives to reduce disruption in that period (January 2015). BTP will be supporting Network Rail through operational activity such as Operation Avert and the initiatives to target disruption hotspots. Each Division has also developed a 'Perfect 10' plan for local action.
- 6.3 Following the Chief Constable's meeting with Michael Roberts, Director General of the Rail Delivery Group (RDG) in October, Michael Roberts has written to RDG members and TOC Managing Directors inviting them to attend an event on 28 January where the Chief Constable will brief them on the Transformation Programme, what the industry can expect to see following its delivery and how, with the support of the industry, the strategic objectives of 20:20:10 will be achieved by 2019.
- 6.4 On 25 November the Chief Constable met with Alex Hynes, Managing Director of Northern Rail. Areas discussed included the Transformation Programme, improved engagement at both a local and senior level following the new structure of the Force, and crime and disruption across the Northern line of route.
- 6.5 At the European Rail Congress Awards on 11 November Network Rail and BTP were presented with an Excellence in Safety and Security Award for the joint work on metal theft. The partnership approach by BTP's metal theft teams and Network Rail's technological developments was recognised as best practice internationally.

**7. SENIOR APPOINTMENTS BOARD**

7.1 On 24 November the Chief Officer Group held a Senior Appointments Board to consider Superintendent and Chief Inspector postings and vacancies across the Force. The postings agreed at this Board were published on the Force intranet on 2 December.

7.2 BTP is establishing a 24/7 Chief Inspector Cadre who will be responsible for providing management and oversight of serious and critical incidents as well as providing an overview of Operation Trafalgar, Evidence Review Gateway and Force escalation procedures. The Cadre, formed of 6 Chief Inspectors, will become operational on 6 April 2015.

**8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

8.1 That members note the update provided in this report.