

Minutes (Part I)

Police Authority

Wednesday 10 December 2015, 9 am
at BTP Force HQ, 25 Camden Road, London NW1 9LN

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Present:

Rt Hon. Esther McVey, Chairman
Brian Phillpott, Deputy Chairman
Dyan Crowther
Len Jackson OBE
Andrew Pollins
Stella Thomas
Anton Valk CBE
Dominic Booth
Bill Matthews
Mark Phillips

Apologies:

Liz France CBE
Steve Thomas QPM, Assistant Chief Constable

In attendance:

Paul Crowther OBE, Chief Constable (via video link)
Adrian Hanstock, Deputy Chief Constable
Mark Newton, Assistant Chief Constable
Simon Downey OBE, Director of Capability and Resources
Elaine Derrick, Senior Advisor to Chief Constable
Francesca Annetta, Head of Finance
Charles Le Fevre, Corporate Budget & Governance Manager

Andrew Figgures CB CBE, Chief Executive
Charlotte Vitty, Finance Director & Deputy Chief Executive
Samantha Elvy, Strategy and Performance Manager
Harriet Andrews, Audit & Risk Manager
Orla Sedze, Communications Manager
Iggi Falcon, Interim Business Manager & Minutes

Andy Murray, Partner, RSM UK Consulting

PART I – Items taken in Public Standing Items

73/2015 Minutes of the Meeting 4 November 2015 – Part I

Agenda Item 3

1. The minutes (Part I) were approved as a correct record.

74/2015 Matters arising

Agenda Item 4

2. Concerning **Item 3 Stakeholder Engagement plan** – it was noted that letters to senior representatives of the Rail Industry were being prepared and would be sent in the coming weeks. The letters would offer them an opportunity to meet the Chairman in the New Year.
3. All other outstanding actions were noted and carried till next meeting.

75/2015 Chief Executive's Report

Agenda Item 5

4. The Authority received a report outlining the work of the Authority Executive Team since the last meeting.
5. As part of the report, Andy Murray of RSM UK Consulting, gave a presentation on the assessment plan for the BTPA's Corporate Governance Review. This was the first time assessment plan had been presented to members since agreeing the terms of reference in November.
6. The Plan set out to review the BTPA systems in place for governing BTP and the BTP systems in place for internal governance to enable the Accounting Officer and Treasurer to discharge their legal and statutory duties, and make appropriate recommendations for their improvement. The review would consider the following:-
 - 6.1. Ensuring the systems take account of and are consistent with the statutory requirements of the Authority and Force
 - 6.2. Ensuring these reflect the national scale and significant business operations of the Force and Authority
 - 6.3. Identifying whether the system of governance in place ensures appropriate direction and oversight of statutory responsibilities and are in line with best practice for a public sector and policing organisation of this size
 - 6.4. Reviewing the management and reporting of information to ensure that the BTPA has full and complete access to

the necessary objective evidence for assurance and decision making

7. In addition, the Plan contemplated the following tasks:-
 - 7.1. Identify areas of duplication, and make recommendations to clarify roles and responsibilities and on where efficiencies can be made
 - 7.2. Consider whether relevant individuals responsible for internal governance have the necessary skills to fully discharge all aspects of their governance responsibilities in an effective and appropriate manner
 - 7.3. Review the systems in place for ensuring that the Authority has adequate oversight of the BTP's management of its officers and staff, and the organisation's culture and values, and has the ability to provide an appropriate challenge to the BTP on these issues
8. In his presentation, Mr Murray also covered the methodology of the review, and the analysis that would be applied to the finding. He also explained that the aim was to provide a final draft of the report to the Audit & Risk Assurance Committee in March. Members also requested that the draft be shared with the full Authority as well, for approval at the March committee. The final report would be finalised by June 2016.
9. The report was noted.

76/2015 Policing Plan Group Report

Agenda Item 6

10. The Authority considered a report providing an overview of the main business done at the second meeting of the Authority's Policing Plan Group (PPG) on 3 December 2015. The report also invited Members to note the proposed National Policing Plan targets, as set out in the BTP report at Appendix A, for consultation in January 2016.
11. In introducing the report, the Chairman of the Policing Plan Group, Mark Phillips, explained that the Group had noted the financial context for 2016/17 as well as ongoing projects which were expected to result in operational benefits and which may impact delivery in 2016/17, including Mobile Project, joint work with Network Rail and the Demand Review.
12. Members also noted developments relating to the transfer of crime recording to the Niche IT system. The Group was informed that other police forces had experienced an apparent increase in crime resulting from the changeover of their crime recording systems to Niche. This was because Niche integrated the crime system with the command

and control, and incident recording systems, making the conversion of incidents to crimes easier, resulting in less under-recording of crimes.

13. The Group had noted ongoing work on a future productivity target, with proposals including measuring the administrative cost per officer, an indicator based on existing Force activities; and cost per passenger km. Cost per passenger km was to be further explored as an option by the Chief Constable.
14. The Group had also discussed the position of the confidence measure following the removal of the BTP diagnostic questions from the National Passenger Survey. Despite this issue, the BTP provided assurance that it was able to respond to confidence related issues as they were identified.
15. The Chief Constable added that the DfT was scheduled to attend an RDG meeting on 17 December to provide greater details on their Spending Review guidance. A Member suggested that the BTP should share the graphs prepared for the DfT submission with the RDG, as well as the diagrams used in the Counter-Terrorism presentation, in order to illustrate the challenges facing the Force.
16. Finally, reference was made to the independent review of Police Targets carried out by Superintendent Irene Curtis, the report of which had recently been published. The Chief Constable commented that the BTP would be considering the findings carefully and that this might lead to a future discussion with industry on target-setting.
17. During discussion, a Member raised the issue of 'primary' and 'reactionary' disruption minutes - ie. the distinction between delay minutes directly connected with an incident and those connected with the knock-on effects. The Member felt that the way the target was currently set was unhelpful as the Force had no control over 'reactionary minutes'. Other Members pointed out that work had taken place to understand the breakdown of the performance data, and that this could usefully support engagement with the Rail Industry to promote a better response to incidents.
18. The report was noted.

77/2015 Q3 Audit & Risk Assurance Committee

19. The Chairman of the Audit & Risk Assurance Committee introduced a report updating the Authority on audit activity and risk management issues, as considered by the Committee at its meeting on 3 December 2015.
20. A range of issues were covered, including the Quarterly updates from the BTPA and BTP, the Finance Review and Internal/External Audit updates. The Committee Chairman highlighted that a forensic

investigation to determine the potential for fraud was being carried out as a result of the Phase 2 Finance Review. The Committee had noted that no evidence of fraudulent activity had been discovered so far.

21. The Committee Chairman referred to an article which appeared on the Guardian newspaper that day, which raised questions over the limited range of the new emergency services network. He commented that the news piece echoed concerns that the BTP had been expressing for some time, i.e. coverage on the Underground/ deep tunnels. Together with the prospect of a fragmented transition to new provider, the BTP continued to feel there were a number of issues to resolve and the Committee Chairman suggested that a letter should be sent to the DfT to draw attention to the issue and the significant risks which the current status of the projects presented to the BTP. Members endorsed the suggestion.

22. Agreed:

- 22.1. To bring to the DfT's attention the urgent concerns regarding BTPs continued use of the Emergency Services and Mobile Network, particularly in respect of adequate coverage in underground/ deep tunnels and of the cost and complexity of transitioning to new provider.

PART II - SUMMARY OF ITEMS TAKEN IN PRIVATE

78/2015 Chief Constable's Report

Agenda Item 8

The Authority received and noted a report which provided an update on the BTP's activity to deliver the key objectives in the Strategic Plan undertaken since the last Authority meeting.

79/2015 BTP Conduct, Performance, etc.

Agenda Item 9

The Authority agreed a report recommending that the:-

*BTP (Conduct) Regulations 2015;
BTP (Performance) Regulations 2015;
BTP (Complaints and Misconduct) Regulations 2015; and
BTP Police Appeals Tribunal Regulations 2015;*

as attached at Annexes B - D, be made by order of the Authority pursuant to the provisions of the Railways and Transport Safety Act 2003.

80/2015 Appointments and Remuneration Committee Report

Agenda Item 10

The Authority received and noted a report which provided an update on the work of the Appointments and Remuneration Committee at its meeting of 17 November 2015.

The meeting finished at 13.20hrs

Date of next meeting:

28 January 2016

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

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