

Minutes (Part I)

Police Authority

Wednesday 28 January 2016, 10 am
at BTP Force HQ, 25 Camden Road, London NW1 9LN

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Present:

Rt Hon. Esther McVey PC, Chairman
Brian Phillpott, Deputy Chairman
Dyan Crowther
Liz France CBE
Len Jackson OBE
Bill Matthews
Ray O'Toole
Mark Phillips
Andrew Pollins
Stella Thomas
Anton Valk CBE

Apologies:

Dominic Booth

In attendance:

Paul Crowther OBE, Chief Constable
Adrian Hanstock, Deputy Chief Constable
Mark Newton, Assistant Chief Constable
Stephen Thomas QPM, Assistant Chief Constable
Simon Downey OBE, Director of Capability and Resources
Elaine Derrick, Senior Advisor to Chief Constable
Francesca Annetta, Head of Finance

Andrew Figgures CB CBE, Chief Executive
Charlotte Vitty, Finance Director & Deputy Chief Executive
Samantha Elvy, Strategy and Performance Manager
Iggi Falcon, Senior Policy Officer & Minutes

Sarita Adams, Partner, RSM UK Consulting
Irene Bond, Partner, RSM UK Consulting

PART I – Items taken in Public Standing Items

01/2016 Welcome and Introductions

Agenda Item 1

1. The Chairman welcomed all Members to the first meeting of the year. She noted that RSM consultants had joined the meeting as observers as part of their work on the Governance Review.

02/2016 Minutes of the Meeting 10 December 2015 – Part I

Agenda Item 2

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

03/2016 Matters arising

Agenda Item 3

3. **Item 1 – Information Management** – it was noted that the letter to the Chair of the Home Affairs Committee, Keith Vaz, had now been sent and copied to all Authority Members.
4. **Item 3 – Counter-terrorism** – A report and presentation on CT was to be provided at the March meeting.
5. **Item 4 – Firearms (Scotland)** – The Chief Constable updated Members on his recent discussion with the Scottish Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Derek Mackay, and Justice, Michael Matheson about firearms capability in Scotland; the legislative position and the mismatch in provision to Cat A stations in Scotland compared with those in England and Wales. The issue was of concern to Scottish Ministers and the Chief Constable was to follow it up with them as part of his regular engagement.
6. **Item 5 – Spending Review** – The Chief Executive had circulated to members the answers to a number of Parliamentary Questions by Paula Sheriff MP which included a helpful explanation on the direction given by the DfT following the Spending Review announcement.
7. **Items 6, 7, 8 – Finance/Budget** – The budget report and recommendations were taken at Agenda Item 11.
8. **Item 9 – Airwave Replacement** – The Deputy Chairman had written to the DfT to draw their attention to the BTP's complex position within the Airwave replacement project, as described at the meeting in December. The Chief Constable added that he had liaised with Project

leads to obtain assurances that proposed specification and coverage would suit BTP's requirement. He echoed the concerns expressed by Members that the DfT's role in supporting the BTP's interests in the project needed to be more decisive. The Chief Executive had engaged the SRO ESMCP and a meeting had been set up 29 February to attempt to clarify the financial implications for the Authority.

9. **Item 10 – Housing Allowance** – A response from the DfT had been received and the matter would be considered out-of-committee by the Appointments and Remuneration Committee in order that a recommendation might be made to the March Authority Meeting.

10. All other actions were marked completed.

11. Agreed:-

- 11.1. Further to the DfT's response on the matter of the Housing Allowance Enhancement claim, the issue is to be remitted to the Appointments and Remuneration Committee and taken out-of-committee in order that a recommendation could be made to the March Authority Meeting.

04/2016 Chief Executive's Report

Agenda Item 4

12. The Authority received a report outlining the work of the Authority Executive Team since the last meeting. The report included an update on stakeholder engagement activity led by the Chairman, progress on the Corporate Governance Review by RSM, and progress against the Finance Review Action Plan.

13. The report was noted.

05/2016 Chief Constable's Report

Agenda Item 5

14. The Chief Constable introduced 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. A detailed discussion on performance was to be considered under Item 6.
15. **Infrastructure Policing Review** - The Chief Constable provided an update on recent developments concerning the Infrastructure Policing Review led by the Home Office. The review sought to identify opportunities that may come from joining up the capability of police forces with responsibility for rail, roads, ports, defence estate and other critical national infrastructure sites. Advice is now in preparation to consider the business case for options including a

Single Infrastructure Force, or a Strategic Transport Agency plus a Static Armed Force. The Chief Constable explained that the timescales for producing the business cases were ambitious and he reassured Members that the BTP would remain fully engaged in the discussions.

16. The Deputy Chairman commented that a proposal to brigade resources might give rise to governance issues and it would therefore be sensible to informally advise the APCC about the status of the project.
17. **Undercover Policing** - The Chief Constable referred to the inquiry into Undercover Policing commissioned by the Home Secretary as a result of concerns over practices by the police service and alleged detriment to individuals. The National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) was now an interested person in the inquiry and, as such, would be representing the views of the entire police service. The BTP had been approached to contribute to the NPCC's submission.
18. **Television** - On a separate point, the Chief Constable referred to an approach from a television production company to take part in a documentary about Football. The BTP knew and trusted the production company and expressed confidence that the programme would portray policing of football events in a positive light. The Chief Constable added that a further invitation to take part in a documentary about Mental Health gave rise to rather more significant concerns and, as such, careful consideration was being given to whether there was any benefit in taking part. The Chairman expressed concern about the BTP's involvement in the latter, a sentiment which was echoed by other Members. Following the meeting the Chairman expressed the view that there should be a clear case and the anticipated benefits of taking part identified before proceeding.

19. Agreed:

- 19.1. The Deputy Chairman to update the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners, on an informal basis, on the Infrastructure Policing project with a view to identifying governance issues early on.
- 19.2. There was a strong steer that the BTP should not be involved in a TV programme concerning mental health without a clear case and anticipated benefits.

06/2016 Q3 Performance Review Committee Report

Agenda Item 6

20. The Chairman of the Performance Review Committee introduced a report providing an overview of the work of the Committee at its Q3 meeting. Highlights were as follows:-
- One out of 7 National and 33 out of 52 Local Policing Plan targets were being achieved.
 - There had been a 3% increase in notifiable offences (excluding police generated offences) compared to the same period last year. This, however, followed reductions of 5% for 2014-15 and 7% for 2013-14; as such BTP was still on track to achieve the strategic objective for a 20% reduction by 2019.
 - Crimes per passenger journey were down by 41% over the last five years, and were continuing to fall. The risk of theft of passenger property had reduced from 3.9 offences per million passenger journeys in 2014-15 to a predicted 3.7 for 2015-16. The risk of serious violence against the person and sexual offences had remained static compared to last year. The risk of violence against the person had increased, from 2.8 offences per million passenger journeys in 2014-15 to a predicted 3.2 for 2015-16.
 - Violence against the person was up by 18%, although much of the increase was attributed to improved crime recording.
21. The Chief Constable expressed confidence that the Force would achieve the strategic objectives with respect to Crime and Confidence by 2019. Disruption remained a challenging area, with the debate about primary and secondary minutes continuing to present differing views on how the objective should be tackled. The Committee Chairman explained that her Committee gave special importance to the activities that resulted from the efforts to meet the disruption target, and was now encouraged with the new partnership approach led by Chief Superintendent. Paul Brogden together with Network Rail and TfL. A suggestion was made that the Authority would benefit from hearing about Chief Superintendent Brogden's initiative first hand. The suggestion to receive this presentation at the next Authority meeting in March was agreed.
22. The Committee Chairman also explained that the Committee's monitoring role has been aided by recent improvements in the quality of reporting. This allowed the Committee to put greater context to the vulnerabilities that arise within the year. The Chief Constable added that the Force had taken a new approach to

performance monitoring in recent months, with more detailed daily scrutiny, and also a greater understanding of tolerance levels.

23. Drawing data from his report under Item 5, the Chief Constable described the comparison of the recently released National crime figures for the period Sept 14-Oct 15 and BTP crime figures. These showed a 6% increase in crime across England and Wales compared to a 4% reduction in BTP. Violent crime had increased across England and Wales by 27% but only by 6% on the railways. Sexual offences had increased by an average 36% in England and Wales forces and by 27% in BTP, largely as a result of Operation GUARDIAN. The Chief Constable commented that while any increases were a concern, the Authority might take some comfort that the problem-solving and prevention strategy was beginning to have some positive effects, especially when viewed against the continuing substantial rise in passenger numbers.
24. The Chairman observed there was a need to understand more clearly how the Force planned their work around the targets. The rise in violent crime, whilst less than that experienced by Home Office forces, was a particular worry. Some stakeholders had expressed concern that Operation TRAFALGAR had shifted priorities from violence against the person to volume crime. At the end of Q3, there was still no data for the B Division Local Policing Plan targets for Operation TRAFALGAR. The Chief Constable and Assistant Chief Constable Mark Newton noted that this could be contextualised in terms of the impact of Operation STRONGHOLD (a patrol strategy specifically to tackle violence against the person), and in any case, by the evidence that the BTP performs very strongly in a national context. However, it was deemed beneficial to understand the balance of effort between Operation TRAFALGAR and Operation STRONGHOLD and suggested that this be considered further by the Performance Review Committee, with further updates being provided to the full Authority as required, alongside any data available that allows for performance monitoring.
25. Finally, the Chair noted that B, C and D Divisions were not achieving the police officer sickness target, although performance across the Force was on target. It was therefore suggested that the People and Standards Committee should take this matter forward. The Chief Constable observed that the Force had been concerned for some time about the number of officers suffering from Post-traumatic Stress Disorder and similar conditions. This had indeed led to the increased focus on the Wellbeing Strategy and a request for a budget uplift to invest in this area. He highlighted, nonetheless, that the BTP was reported to have been the best performing force for sickness absence for two years running.

26. The report was noted.

27. Agreed:

27.1. Chief Superintendent Paul Brogden to provide a presentation to the Full Authority meeting on 22 March 2016 concerning the collaboration with Network Rail and TfL on Command and Control, and how this is aimed at improving disruption performance.

27.2. The Performance Review Committee to receive a presentation on Operation. STRONGHOLD, and the balance of effort with Operation TRAFALGAR, alongside any data available that allows for performance monitoring, at its next meeting on 19 May 2016.

27.3. The People and Standards Committee to consider further the police officer sickness.

07/2016 Q3 People and Standards Committee Report

Agenda Item 7

28. The Chairman of the People and Standards Committee introduced a report summarising the key developments at the most recent meeting of the Committee on 20 January 2016. Business at the meeting included work on the upcoming Complaints and Disciplinary reforms, the Quarterly report on PSD Activity and the People and Health and Safety regular update.

29. As noted at the previous meeting, complaint cases continued to show a larger number of allegations within them, something which was attributable to a change in the way PSD was recording cases. Having more allegations – it was explained – allowed for a more precise approach in handling complaints, so that specific elements of the complaint can be probed in isolation.

30. Members noted that, following approval of the Conduct and Performance Regulations at the Authority meeting of 10 December 2015, the Home Secretary had counter-signed the s.26 agreement between the IPCC and the BTPA, thus allowing the Regulations to come into effect on 1 January 2016. The project was hence completed successfully and on target. The Senior Policy Officer was thanked for his work in updating the BTP Regulations.

31. The report was noted.

08/2016 Audit & Risk Assurance Committee

Agenda Item 8

32. The Chairman of the Audit & Risk Assurance Committee gave an oral report updating the Authority on audit activity and risk management issues, as considered by the Committee at its meeting on 26 January 2016. It had not been possible to submit a written report due to the short period since the Committee meeting.
33. A range of issues were covered, including Internal Audit updates on Payroll processes and Contract Management, an update on the Governance Statement and a Progress Report on Forensic Fraud Investigation. The Committee Chairman noted that no evidence of fraudulent activity had been discovered so far.
34. The Committee Chairman also commented on the focused work to deliver the Annual Statement of Accounts, praising the good collaboration between the BTP and the BTPA in making every effort to address risks and prevent a qualified opinion. The Authority Finance Director spoke of the good and regular engagement with KPMG, the auditors, as part of this work.

35. The report was noted.

PART II - SUMMARY OF ITEMS TAKEN IN PRIVATE

09/2016 Minutes of the Meeting 10 December 2015 - Part II

Agenda Item 9

The Authority agreed the minutes as an accurate record.

10/2016 Minutes of the Strategy Session - 10 December 2015

Agenda Item 10

The Authority agreed the minutes as an accurate record.

11/2016 Finance Committee Report

Agenda Item 11

The Authority agreed:-

- *The BTPA budget of £2,008m for 2016/17*
- *The BTP budget of £293.1m and in-year monitoring proposal for 2016/17*
- *The £3.5m for CT in addition to the £293.1m gross budget was recommended, to be monitored and reported on within the financial year to give an indication of emerging expenditure vs. budget to enable early warning to be given to members.*

At the end of the year a decision would be taken whether to include the CT expenditure within the wash up charges, or to utilise the confirmed reserves to cover this.

- *The 2014/15 wash up charges*
- *The 2016/17 provisional charges to be allocated on the same basis as the 2014/15 wash up charges*
- *The Body Worn Video business case at £3.33m*
- *The increased funding for the ISP business case from £6.4m to £8.3m.*

12/2016 Any other Business

Agenda Item 12

There were none.

PART II - SUMMARY OF MEMBERS ONLY ITEMS

13/2016 Minutes of the Meeting 10 December 2015 - Part III

Agenda Item 13

The Authority agreed the minutes as an accurate record.

The meeting finished at 11.30am.

Date of next meeting:

22 March 2016

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