

Report to: Police Authority
Item: 12
Date: 10 November 2016
Subject: Policing Plan Group report
Sponsor: Group Chairman
Author: Sam Elvy
For: Information

The Forum
5th Floor North
74-80 Camden Street
London NW1 0EG

T: 020 7383 0259
F: 020 7383 2655
E: general.enquiries
@btpa.police.uk

www.btpa.police.uk

1. Purpose of paper

- 2.1 This paper summarises key matters arising from the first Policing Plan Group (PPG) meeting of the 2017/18 planning cycle. The meeting took place on 14 October 2016.

2. Background

- 2.2 As set out in sections 50 and 52 of the Railways and Transport Safety Act 2003, at the start of each financial year the Authority is required to issue a plan setting out the arrangements for the policing of the railways during that year. As in previous years the detailed work on the development of the draft National and Local Plans for 2017/18 is being carried out by the Authority's PPG. The purpose of the Group is to provide governance and oversight of the development of the 2017/18 Policing Plan, which will be signed off by the full Authority in March 2017.
- 2.3 Prior to the first meeting of the PPG, the Group Chair convened a teleconference with senior BTP representatives to discuss the process and options for the development of national and local plans including the relationship to the strategic objectives and the initial identification of the direction of travel.

3. Terms of reference

- 3.1 An updated terms of reference for the current planning cycle was considered and approved.

4. Issues considered

4.1 Planning context:

The Chair opened the meeting by inviting the Group to reflect on the context for setting the Policing Plan for 2017/18; in doing so it was necessary to consider a range of opportunities and challenges which might impact the forthcoming planning cycle. The pilot industry dinner in Manchester had generated some positive feedback and there was clear willingness for the industry to engage on next year's priorities and longer term planning. However in parallel the industry had been briefed that information shared at the recent Rail Delivery Group Policing and Security sub-group (RDG P&S) should be a cause for concern, particularly with respect to financial management and the perceived impact this was having on resource availability.

4.2 The Chair emphasised that what the Authority needed to take away from recent developments was that the work to develop the forthcoming Policing Plan must be carried out in a spirit of genuine consultation. To support this process the Executive was commissioned to develop the current planning timetable to include clear communications activities and objectives at each stage.

4.3 To begin to inform that work it was agreed that the stakeholder maps for BTP and BTPA also be updated and compared to identify any existing or emerging pressure points, in particular where it would be useful for the Chair and the Deputy Chief Constable to make an offer of a meeting to discuss proposals. Finally, once the communications timetable had been updated, a letter from the Authority Chairman should be sent out to the industry signalling the intent and the consultation process come.

4.4 Maturing the planning approach:

The Deputy Chief Constable introduced his overarching ambition to develop a greater focus on threat, risk and harm and the consequences of this for likely proposals for the 2017/18 plan. Taking this approach the Force was likely to recommend a focus on preventing crimes that cause harm to people and affect the confidence of people to use and work on the railway; which could then be translated into a series of measures of effectiveness. Such measures might reflect activities such as responding quickly to incidents involving vulnerable people, collaborative working to tackle persistent concerns which affect confidence, preparatory and protective activities in relation to

counter terrorism (CT), establishing standards around delivering policing services with integrity and demonstrating a supported workforce should be another commitment in future plans.

- 4.5 Members supported the development of a continuous improvement philosophy, thus maturing the binary approach taken to date. Further, given the recent level of additional investment in CT, Members welcomed the proposal to provide a visible commitment relating to use of CT resources to protect the railway.
- 4.6 The Deputy Chief Constable then set out high level proposals around grading of assurance for service delivery which sought to identify areas of satisfactory/improving performance and areas where further improvement should be expected. The Chair recommended that the Group consider developing a narrative to support the proposed change in approach, reflecting that performance benchmarking and reporting within the industry had recently changed to reflect system changes on the railway.
- 4.7 Members confirmed their support for the proposed performance reporting based on demonstrating effectiveness but noted there was a need to make a compelling case to stakeholders about the benefits of the new approach to assure them that the change was purely based delivering improved outcomes not on withdrawing from challenging objectives. The Deputy Chief Constable noted that the evidential burden of the new approach would be greater and would likely require reporting a combination of qualitative and quantitative information to a range of committees. This message on greater assurance could also form part of the communications work on the 2017/18 plan and its subsequent monitoring.
- 4.8 Members agreed that the narrative for the development of the 2017/18 Policing Plan should refer to the fact that this was start of a transition to a new Strategic Plan and the current '20:20:10' objectives were set in a different period and it was now right to revisit and mature the existing approach. The Deputy Chief Constable was commissioned to develop a short narrative on a page document setting out the journey so far and driver for change.
- 4.9 The Group reflected on the need to make sure value for money aspirations were also appropriately visible in the forthcoming plan as this had been a particular challenge since the start of the Strategy; noting that the Force was reviewing opportunities around estates efficiency and frontline deployments, Members

were invited to come forward with any further ideas for exploration at the next committee meeting.

4.10 The Chair asked for clarification about where budget discussions would have reached by the next meeting and what certainty could be provided to BTP and the industry about the resource assumptions for the forthcoming plan. It was confirmed that the Finance Committee should be making recommendations about the agreed budget envelope to the next Authority meeting on 10th November.

5. Next steps

5.1 Key tasks to be completed ahead of the next meeting of the Group on 2nd December include;

6. Recommendations

6.1 Members are invited to note the paper.