

Report to: Authority
Agenda item: 8
Date: 22 March 2018
Subject: Scotland Project - Update
Sponsor: Authority Chief Executive
Author: Scotland Project Manager
For: Information and decision

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1. Purpose of Paper

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update members on our input to the Scotland project in the light of the Scottish Government's decision on 20 February to review the timetable for devolution

2. Project Scotland

- 2.1 The decision follows an intense period of joint work with Police Scotland to explore issues such as employee terms and conditions, pensions, contracts and equipment, financial impact, IT networks and cross-border working arrangements.
- 2.2 Ministers' decisions, based on the advice of the JPB was that successful and safe integration cannot be achieved on 1 April 2019. The JPB met on 20 February and based its assessment of the MTT risk register and specifically on continuing high risk scores associated with a number of areas of work around:
- (i) the current lack of resources, skills and data;
 - (ii) the continuing failure to agree key asset transfers;
 - (iii) the lack of progress on the development of Railway Policing Agreements;
 - (iv) the inadequacy of Police Scotland ICT systems and processes
 - (v) the continued lack of clarity over transferring BTP officers terms and conditions; and
 - (vi) concerns over the rising cost of integration and its impact on both Police Scotland and BTPA's transformation programmes.

- 2.3 Immediately after the JPB, the Scottish Government wrote to the Scottish Parliament (Annex A). In addition, the interim Authority Chairman wrote to PSA holders (Annex B) and the Chief Constable communicated outcomes to officers and staff (Annex C).
- 2.4 Further joint work is underway to re-plan with the support of EY to determine the date of 'full integration' with a recommendation being presented to the JPB by September 2018. Ultimately, the decision on a new integration date is a matter for the Scottish Government on advice from the JPB.
- 2.5 Although EY led, and with the onus on Police Scotland to articulate how it intends to fully integrate railways policing, there is still a significant amount of work to do to support the re-planning exercise and manage the risks that devolution poses.
- 2.6 Senior members of the MTT met on 16 March in Glasgow to agree next steps. In the light of this, we think there are two objectives to support the re-plan work:
 - A new transition date must be supported by a robust plan and critical path; and
 - In addition to a clean break transition, the plan needs to prepare for a continuing operational railways policing relationship between both forces that serves the interests of the whole national rail network after the transition date.
- 2.7 Work is underway to support the re-plan and will continue to be overseen by the internal Joint Scotland Board chaired jointly by the Deputy Chief Constable and Authority Chief Executive.
- 2.8 The Scottish Police Authority will be considering its next steps at its meeting on 29 March.

3. Scrutiny and Assurance

- 3.1 As well as media interest, the project has attracted interest in both Scottish and UK Parliaments. There have now been debates in both Houses of Commons and Lords in Westminster and 14 Parliamentary Questions tabled in Holyrood in the last month.
- 3.2 BTP integration will also be reviewed by Audit Scotland, as part of the annual review of the Scottish Police Authority due to report in October 2018.

3.3 Auditors in the Government Internal Audit Agency (GIAA) have undertaken early audit work on the BTP/A's management of the project. This work is in abeyance whilst the re-plan is underway. However, we think that there would be benefit in asking GIAA to review the outcomes of the revised plan and its effect on remaining railways policing in England and Wales.

4. Recommendations

4.1 Members are asked to:

- note the need to support the EY re-planning work;
- agree that our aims should be to ensure that a new transition date is supported by a robust plan and critical path and to prepare for a continuing operational railways policing relationship between both forces; and
- agree to commission GIAA to review the outcomes of the revised plan and its effect on remaining railways policing in England and Wales.