

Minutes Police Authority

Thursday 20 June 2019, 10:30
BTP FHQ, 25 Camden Road, London, NW1 9LN

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

Present:

Ron Barclay-Smith, Chair
Mark Phillips, Deputy Chair
Dominic Booth
Andrew Cooper
Graham Evans
Shrin Honap
Willie Gallagher
Kenna Kintrea (private session by telephone)
Craig Mackey
Jeremy Mayhew (part)
Andrew Pollins
Martin Richards
Beverley Shears
Stella Thomas

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Apologies: Dyan Crowther
Bill Matthews

In attendance:

BTP
Paul Crowther, Chief Constable
Adrian Hanstock, Deputy Chief Constable
Simon Downey, Director of Strategy & Change
Charlie Doyle, Assistant Chief Constable
Tracey Martin, Director of Finance & Commercial Services
Robin Smith, Assistant Chief Constable
Elaine Derrick, Senior Advisor
Steff Sharp, Head of Strategic Assurance and Planning

BTPA Executive
Hugh Ind, Chief Executive
Ian Pigden-Bennett, Interim Chief Executive
Sam Elvy, Head of Strategy Planning & Engagement
Stephanie Calvert, Head of Governance & Compliance
Lucy Yasin, Head of Governance & Compliance (& Secretariat)

Public Session

Minutes of meeting 19 March 2019

Agenda item 5

25. The minutes from the 19 March meeting were agreed as an accurate record.

26. The minutes of the 22 May meeting were agreed as an accurate record in the member only session.

Matters arising/actions outstanding

Agenda Item 6

27. The Chair invited comments from those present on the actions arising from previous Authority meetings, which were captured within the actions arising document as a record.

28. It was agreed that Mr Ind, as the new Chief Executive, would pick up action three which was to explore with Members the Interim Chief Executive's initial findings in terms of the effectiveness of the Authority.

Chief Executive's Update

Agenda item 7

29. The Interim Chief Executive reported that:

29.1. A number of ePSAs had been extended.

29.2. The dispute with a funder remained ongoing.

29.3. A new fleet service had been signed, which was a great piece of work.

29.4. Verizon had not been able to deliver on the telephony services contract so this had fallen back to BT and the existing infrastructure for the time being.

30. The report was noted.

Chief Constable's Update

Agenda item 8

31. The Chief Constable presented a new style report and requested feedback. The highlights were:

31.1. There had been growth of 83% in the use of the text service with 105,000 texts over the last year with officers deployed to close to 3,000 text reports. This meant that 9% of all crime was now recorded as a result of a text report and 30% of all sexual offences were now reported by text.

31.2. Violent crime was up, although it had reduced from its peak at the beginning of the year.

31.3. There were still over 300 fatalities a year on the rail network and BTP continued to try and do even more to reduce these.

- 31.4. BTP was working in partnership with Network Rail to develop mental health hubs so that there was a safe place available to vulnerable people.
 - 31.5. There had been encouraging data on diversity following recent recruitment/promotion campaigns.
 - 31.6. An external engagement manager would be joining BTP in the near future.
 - 31.7. The London Bridge inquest was underway and it was noted that all BTP colleagues had been individually praised by the coroner
 - 31.8. The Chief Constable praised his officers for their work during the extinction rebellion protests
 - 31.9. BTP had been working on an organised crime operation which had resulted in seizure of a number of counterfeit travelcards for London Underground, preventing a potential loss of around £20m.
32. The Authority felt that it was a good report with interesting and useful information but did not meet all that was required for this meeting. It was considered to be principally suited as a stakeholder tool. The Authority asked that future reports focus on the top five or six issues that were of most concern to the Chief Constable at that moment in time. The Authority felt that this was where they could add most value.
33. A joint BTP/A submission had been made to the Williams Rail Review. There was a concern of potential unintended consequences arising from the output of this review and the need to be on the front foot was recognised.
34. A question was asked as to whether trauma support would be made compulsory for officers and staff. The Chief Constable responded that trauma support was always available to officers and staff and that there were various trigger points for directly offering trauma support. There was no requirement to attend at present and this was not a direction that BTP was comfortable heading in, nor was it supported by the BTP Federation.

Scotland project

Agenda item 9

35. The Authority had been charged with setting up a joint Committee with the Scottish Police Authority to provide enhanced transparency of railway policing in Scotland.
36. Terms of reference (ToR) for a joint Committee under Schedule 4 of the Railways and Transport Safety Act 2003 and a memorandum of understanding (MoU) had been drafted. Mr Matthews and the Chief Executive had met the Chair of the Scottish Police Authority (SPA) and reviewed these documents line by line. A joint document from the Chief Constable and his Scottish counterpart in respect of collaboration

had also been received. The outcome was that agreement had been reached on final drafts of the ToR and MoU between the Chairs of the Committees and the Justice Secretary in the Scottish Government.

37. The next phase was for formal sign off from this Authority and the SPA. The final drafts of the ToR and MoU had not been circulated for this meeting as the final versions were not available in sufficient time. The SPA had its main board meeting on 26 June where it would discuss and approve the documents. The Chief Executive proposed that he send a note the following week attaching the documents for approval out of committee.

38. The Chair was supportive of this approach, adding that a lot of good work had gone into developing the relationships with Scottish counterparts demonstrating good joint working between BTP, the Authority and industry colleagues.

39. Action

39.1. The Chief Executive to circulate the MoU and ToR out of committee for approval no later than 27 June.

Audit and Risk Assurance Committee

Agenda item 10

40. The Committee had focused on three key areas of business:

40.1. The financial statements, which were endorsed by the Committee.

40.2. The review work done by the internal audit team, which was noted.

40.3. The risk work that had taken place following the risk workshop in March.

41. The Committee Chair reported that there had been no residual issues raised on the financial statements from external audit. There was one outstanding matter to be resolved relating to an outstanding claim and how this should be dealt with proportionately in the accounts.

42. There was ongoing work on the narrative alongside the accounts.

43. The Government Internal Audit Agency (GIAA) had given an annual opinion of a moderate rating. The Committee had agreed that it would like to reach a substantial rating for the next year. In achieving this, it was noted it was not about having more and tighter controls but about having the correct assurances in place.

44. There had been one small change to the audit plan for the year with the addition of contract management. It had also been agreed that the management assurance statement would be updated throughout the year.
45. The work that had taken place on risk had provided a better understanding of BTPA and BTPs shared principal risks. All papers to the Authority and its committees should be addressing these risks either through mitigation or by bringing associated risks to the Authority's attention.
46. The feedback from Members was that the work on risk was a very impressive piece of work and that if reviewed by rotation this was a manageable and penetrable way to understand and manage risk.
47. The Chief Constable agreed that it was an impressive piece of work but was concerned that there wasn't sufficient focus on operational policing. He would take this away and look at how this could be addressed.

48. Agreed

- 48.1. The Authority noted the summary report.
- 48.2. The Authority approved the financial statements for the BTP Fund for the 2018/19 year end.
- 48.3. The Authority approved the new joint BTP/A Strategic Risk Register and Risk Appetite.

Performance and Delivery Committee

Agenda item 11

49. The Committee Chair provided the highlights of the meeting as reported in the summary report.
50. There was a short discussion on staff assaults and what more could be done such as pushing for stronger sentencing. It was noted by BTP that reporting was encouraged which may have contributed to the apparent rise but that work would be done around this to understand the situation.

Strategy and Planning Committee

Agenda item 12

51. A summary report of the meeting had been provided.
52. The two matters for the Authority to consider were:
 - 52.1. Single Online Home - It was recommended that the Authority endorse the Committee's recommendation that BTP move to the next stage of developing a Single Online Home capability by

providing the supplier with a non-legally binding statement of intent. Also that, an update business case be presented to the Committee and the Authority later in the year for formal approval.

52.2. Milton Keynes hub – the business case for the ‘fit-out’ of this new premises was presented for approval but this was subject to further update from the Interim Chief Executive on the assurance in respect of the recommended provider.

53. The Single Online Home recommendation was approved.

54. The interim Chief Executive provided an update on his investigations in respect of the Milton Keynes hub. He advised the Authority that Paragon the proposed supplier had legitimately had the cheapest bid at the end of the process having previously been the most expensive. The issue was that Paragon was a wholly owned subsidiary of Interserve which was the Force’s facilities management company and they had not disclosed this as part of the tender process. This lack of transparency by Interserve was concerning.

55. The Interim Chief Executive advised that despite this lack of transparency he had investigated in some detail and could not find any evidence to suggest that there was a reason not to progress with Paragon. The Authority echoed the Interim Chief Executive’s concerns in respect of the lack of transparency but it was agreed that in light of the further investigation the proposal should be approved with Paragon as the supplier. An audit trail of the decision-making should also be reported to DfT should any issue arise in the future and as Interserve is a government framework provider.

56. Agreed

56.1. The Authority endorses the Committee’s recommendation that BTP move to the next stage of developing a Single Online Home capability by providing the supplier with a non-legally binding statement of intent. Also that, an update business case is presented to the Committee and the Authority later in the year for formal approval.

56.2. The Milton Keynes hub business case with Paragon as the provider is approved.

56.3. The audit trail of decision-making in respect of appointing Paragon to be reported to the DfT.

Appointments and Remuneration Committee

Agenda item 13

57. The meeting had only taken place the day before; as such there was no written report available.

58. The Chair reported that the key updates were that a Compendium of officer terms and conditions had been presented which captured the 'as is' arrangements. This was going through the assurance process in the Executive and was expected to be signed off in the near future. Three minor changes to terms and conditions had been approved as part of this work.
59. There were no decisions currently on the pay award for 2019. The decision of the Home Secretary for Home forces was awaited as BTP has had pay parity for the last 40 years. This was further complicated by separate changes to police pay in Scotland. But the Committee had favoured pay parity in England and Wales over trying to do the same in Scotland. The A&RC would make arrangements out of committee to finalise this.

Board Development and Portfolio Guidance

Agenda item 14

60. This was noted.

Any other business

Agenda item 15

61. The Chair noted that it was Mr Pigden-Bennett's last meeting and that he had joined the Authority at short notice when it was under significant pressure and had worked hard and conscientiously. He thanked Mr Pigden-Bennett for his commitment to the Authority.
62. The Chief Constable thanked Mr Pigden-Bennett for his hard work on behalf of BTP noting that he had brought a useful commercial insight and been instrumental in delivering the Scotland work.
63. The Chair also recorded the Authority's thanks to Ms Crowther who had been very impressive as an Authority Member. The Authority was sorry to lose her and thanked her for her contribution.