**Minutes**

**Scottish Railways Policing Committee**

13 November 2020 11:00 hrs

Virtual via Teams

Present:

Bill Matthews, Chair

Willie Gallagher BTPA

Dominic Booth BTPA

Tom Halpin SPA

Robert Hayes SPA

In attendance:

BTP

Adrian Hanstock BTP Deputy Chief Constable

Eddie Wylie BTP Chief Superintendent

Police Scotland

Mark Williams Assistant Chief Constable

BTPA

Hugh Ind Chief Executive

John McBride Senior Scotland Project Manager (Secretariat)

Samantha Elvy Head of Strategy and Planning

Observing

Lynn Brown Interim Chief Executive, SPA

Graham Stickle Risk and Policy Specialist, SPA

Alistair MacLellan Board Secretary, BTPA

Pam Christie Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Manager, BTPA

Brian McInulty HMICS Lead Inspector

**Welcome and apologies**

Agenda Item 1

1. The Chair opened the virtual meeting and welcomed everyone joining online. He recognised the continuing COVID challenge and reflected on the Committee passing one year since its inception. The Chair welcomed staff and retired officers’ representatives who were able to join. The Chair noted no apologies had been received.

Agenda Item 1.1

1. Declaration of interest – both Authorities have existing registers for this purpose, there were no additional declarations.

Agenda Item 1.2

1. Matters to be taken in private – Members agreed to receive an update in closed session concerning the Stonehaven train derailment and investigation and the change in the UK threat level.

**Minutes**

Agenda Item 2

1. The committee reviewed the minutes of the 3 September 2020 meeting and agreed them as a true and accurate record

**Matters arising**

Agenda Item 3

1. The committee secretary updated members that both outstanding actions (i) a request for additional specified data and further information on value for money had been completed and were contained in reports or were items on today’s agenda.

**Performance and Delivery**

Agenda Item 4

1. Chief Superintendent Wylie spoke to a circulated paper and;

* noted strong performance
* explained crime was rising following the CoVID-led reduction and that crime levels were currently 60% of the previous year
* updated that BTP in Scotland had issued 51 CoVID related fixed penalties
* described associated crimes including minor assaults
* shared the approval of investment by Network Rail to help tackle graffiti
* highlighted low levels of hate crime
* observed that violence remains the highest volume and described work-based stakeholder engagement with staff, management and unions
* announced the formation of new (small) disruption team working to good practice from elsewhere in BTP – there has been a reduction in trespass and lost disruption minutes but a rise in fatalities
* updated on the use of stop and search and the appointment of Chief Superintendent Dennis Murray leading on Race and Legitimacy.

1. Members welcomed the report, in particular the detail provided on diversity and asked what more BTP would be doing. DCC Hanstock advised that there exists a very competitive recruitment market between other police forces and the wider public sector. Outside of London BTP has the highest levels of representation and the force has ambitions to do even better. Reference was made to Dame Elish Angiolini’s recent report and members highlighted the dangers of looking solely at numbers and missing staff experience. DCC Hanstock updated on current BTP analysis of staff complaints which showed a proportionate or lower level from BAME than the levels of representation. Members proposed that it would be useful to understand whether complaint levels partly reflected the degree of confidence in the complaints process.
2. It was reported that the industry really value the level of support from BTP on face coverings, the alcohol carrying restrictions, the high detection rate for staff assault and the engagement with work forums.

**Action 1: Arrange future presentation on Diversity & Inclusion strategy focussed on Scotland.**

**COVID-19 update**

Agenda Item 5

1. DCC Hanstock spoke to a pre-circulated presentation and highlighted:
   1. the engagement, explain, encourage and enforcement as a last resort approach continued, with considerable compliance and success
   2. BTP continued to work with other forces to ensure there was a joined-up approach
   3. Footfall remained significantly down

1. Members welcomed the update and asked questions covering longer term changes in demand, managing transition post vaccine and complexity of guidance at borders. The long-term effect on demand was difficult to predict. It was important to understand the various regulations being introduced so the there was a clear local understanding, this was shared on daily-cycle gold calls. It was not easy to ‘turn’ folk around on cross border services so understanding and briefing at stations near to borders was important to support BTP staff, rail industry colleagues in enforcing the health regulations. The industry is looking to other states, and train operators who were now returning to busier peak services, for insight and learning.
2. Members asked if there was any wider organisational learning from the pandemic. DCC Hanstock said any changes were likely to be back office rather than front line, harnessing the use of improved digital capabilities. It might be possible to operate some locations with fewer staff but this needs modelling and the demand for office space may reduce as digital and flexible working become normalised. For example the force is currently looking at the opportunity to co-locate duty and events planning staff, perhaps in D division.

**Policing Plan update**

Agenda Item 6

1. Chief Superintendent Wylie provided an update on the work to develop a new policing plan, this included a successful digital stakeholder engagement day with lots of representation and good contributions including Police Scotland. Sam Elvy provided a summary of the reviews and approval route for the plan. Members who participated remarked on the good level of engagement and debate with tangible outcomes.

**Evaluation framework update**

Agenda Item 7

1. The Committee Secretary spoke to a pre-circulated paper and produced an updated scorecard. The evaluation draws upon a review of previous minutes and papers received by members. It looks to identify within those, evidence and provide an audit trail on page 2 of the scorecard.
2. Members welcomed the work and agreed that alignment between reporting and policing plan year should be achieved when the new policing plan year begins. The scorecard and evaluation could be improved by incorporating a ‘look forward’ in addition to the necessary ‘look-back’. A review of HMICS recommendations for Police Scotland and any read-across for BTP would be useful and the consideration of a confidence rating should also be considered.

**Action 2: Secretariat to consider Members’ feedback**

**Evidence Value for Money**

Agenda Item 8

1. Mr Ind spoke to a pre-circulated table and recapped that at September’s meeting a previous paper detailed D Division costs, A Division costs and centrally delivered support. There was a request for further information on equity across BTP’s operating divisions and members offered some potential areas for this. These were contained in the table and were high-level proxies on how costs were allocated including:
   1. staff and officer numbers
   2. assessment of demand - crimes and calls for service
   3. entry / exit (passenger journey) data
   4. track kilometres.
2. Members found the table very helpful agreeing that it provided good context for resourcing levels for D division and were reassured that it was proportionate and fair. Members further agreed to receiving this information on an occasional basis (once per year) going forward.

**Risk Profile**

Agenda Item 9

1. Sam Elvy spoke to a pre-circulated risk profile that BTPA had developed. This was the second BTPA committee to receive this and feedback was sought. Members broadly welcomed the update and asked for it to be included in future pack for information only.

**Meeting reflection**

Agenda Item 10

1. Mr Hayes and Mr Halpin led this item and reflected that the quality of papers and debate continues to show the maturity of the committee and the opportunity to ask questions and seek clarity is meeting the reasons why the committee was set up. The level of support from BTPA for the committee’s work is really encouraging and it is positive that staff associations are present. The agenda items and opportunity to scrutinise diversity and value for money and the levels of consultation are all positive and meet the expectation of the Scottish Parliament.

**AOB**

Agenda Item 11

1. The Committee heard that the new Chief Constable will be announced in the next two weeks. The secretariat support will also change and thanks were noted for John McBride’s contribution in setting up and the development of SRPC. The Committee noted that BTPA are signing off a new MoU with PIRC which incorporates new integrity regulations – this will be shared with members.
2. There being no further business the public meeting closed at 12:25 hrs.

**PUBLIC SUMMARY OF ITEMS CONSIDERED IN NON-PUBLIC SESSION**

**Stonehaven update**

Agenda Item 12

1. The Committee received a verbal update from the Chief Superintendent regarding the Stonehaven derailment.

**UK threat level change**

Agenda Item 13

1. The Committee received a verbal update from the Deputy Chief Constable regarding the UK Threat Level change.
2. There being no further business the meeting closed at 12:40 hrs.