

**Report to:** Police Authority  
**Date:** 28 September 2021  
**Subject:** Board Effectiveness Evaluation  
**Sponsor:** Chief Executive  
**Author:** Head of Governance and Compliance  
**For:** Information

4th Floor  
British Transport Police  
Force Headquarters  
25 Camden Road  
London NW1 9LN

T: 07900 394 397  
E: general.enquiries  
@btpa.police.uk

[www.btpa.police.uk](http://www.btpa.police.uk)

## 1. Purpose of paper

- 1.1 This paper reports on progress against the delivery of the action plan arising from the 2021 Board Effectiveness Evaluation and provides an overview of preparation for the 2022 Evaluation.

## 2. Background

- 2.1 The annual review of board effectiveness provides a key opportunity to drive improvement in the way we operate by:
- Identifying areas of good practice/governance from within our board operations and from similar organisations and sharing them across the Authority and its committees;
  - Identifying areas of improvement and ways of delivering these improvements; and
  - Identifying areas for development whether at board, committee or an individual level to ensure the board development programme for 2022 focuses on the areas where the BTPA can add most value.
- 2.2 In accordance with good practice, the BTPA should engage independent assessors to provide an input to the annual effectiveness evaluation every three years.

## 3. Progress against 2021 Action Plan

- 3.1 Progress against the 2021 action plan has been moving at pace. A full update is provided at Annex A, but highlights are provided below:
- The Chairs' Forum has been reinstated and met at the start of September. Going forwards it will meet ahead of each cycle of committee meetings with a focus on a forward look.
  - The People and Culture Committee had a successful inaugural meeting on 10 September and a forward plan is under development.
  - The first breakfast briefing is scheduled to take place on 24 September and these are now booked in monthly to increase opportunities to keep in touch between committee cycles and to increase understanding of BTP and industry operations.

- A request for quote (RFQ) for consultants to work with the BTPA on the financial regulations and delegations and the split of duties across BTP/A has been issued with a deadline of 30 September for proposals. This aims to further progress work to empower BTP whilst ensuring that governance remains effective, with a focus on driving a culture of trust, openness and transparency between BTP/A. The procurement process we have used is deemed appropriate for a spend likely to be under £50k. The Executive will engage further with Members on this work once the initial proposals have been received. Should Members seek further information at this point, the RFQ can be found via this link:

<https://www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk/Notice/e29bbf64-9fdb-4472-822d-54fb5861f109>

- 3.2 The Executive is particularly interested to hear Members experiences of the changes that have been implemented thus far, including any proposed refinements.

#### **4. 2022 Evaluation**

- 4.1 The Executive is at the planning stage for the next Evaluation. The focus has been on implementing the priority actions from the 2021 action plan that was approved in June.
- 4.2 The 2022 Evaluation will require the engagement of independent assessors. The Executive is currently considering the various options for how this is accommodated i.e. through the Government Internal Audit Agency (GIAA), the hire of external consultants or peer review etc. The Executive is also considering the focus of the next effectiveness evaluation, which will be led to an extent by the implementation of the current actions and feedback on their success as well as the governance work that is currently out for quotation.
- 4.3 A proposed format for the next Evaluation will be brought to the full Authority in December for approval. In the meantime, we will be testing our thoughts with Members as plans progress.

#### **5. Recommendations**

- 5.1 Members note progress against the 2021 action plan reported at Annex A and provide feedback on how they consider the changes have impacted the effectiveness of the Authority so far, recognising it is early days and the changes are yet to be fully embedded.
- 5.2 The Authority notes the preparatory work that is currently underway to commission the 2022 Evaluation.