

Report to: Police Authority
Agenda #: 10
Date: 27 September 2022
Subject: Chief Executive's Report
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BTPA Goals

- We want to be a well-run Arm's Length Body, trusted by all our stakeholders.
- We want to promote & enable a modernised and inclusive culture in the BTP.
- We want to provide effective, supportive and challenging police oversight for today and tomorrow across the full range of BTP activity.
- We want to develop our vision for security and lead the conversation with industry and DfT to improve outcomes for industry and passengers.
- We want to drive transformation and ensure BTP is respected for their specialism by the rail industry and for their innovation across policing.
- We want continuously to deliver efficiencies and keep improving productivity.

1. Purpose of paper

- 1.1 To update and inform Members of current issues and activity relevant to the British Transport Police Authority.
- 1.2 To complement the associated report of the Chief Constable provided at the Full Authority's 27 September 2022 meeting.

2. 'We want to be a well-run Arm's Length Body, trusted by all our stakeholders'

2.1 2022/23 Forecast Outturn

Outturn for 22/23 has been very hard to predict. Underspends created by continued difficulties in recruitment need to be balanced against a variety of pressures. The latest (Quarter 2) assessment from BTP is shared with the papers for this meeting. At this stage, the forecast (including all transformation expenditure) sits at a £5.3m overspend for 22/23. Experience would suggest this forecast overspend is likely to reduce as the year progresses, though extra costs from Operation London Bridge have yet to be factored in.

2.2 Cost Allocation Model

The Executive Team continues to press on with devising a simplified model for allocating out BTP costs across the rail industry. Some Members have the chance to discuss progress on 23 September, before the Executive Team next meet with DfT on 28 September.

2.3 Stakeholder Engagement

The first meeting of BTPA's Stakeholder Working Group will take place on 30 September. The aim of the Group is to devise a more proactive approach to stakeholder engagement across BTP and BTPA as appropriate.

2.4 Deloitte Report on Governance

We have shared with Members Deloitte's report on our financial governance documentation and related governance matters. A workshop to progress this between the Executive Team and key BTP colleagues was postponed due to Operation London Bridge pressures. The workshop will be rescheduled.

2.5 Scotland

BTP report some renewed interest from the Scottish Government in the reasons for not proceeding with integration with Police Scotland in 2018. BTP, BTPA and DfT will need to agree the best way for responding to the new questions.

2.6 Member Activity outside Committees

The Executive Team have tabled a paper for this meeting aimed at better orchestrating Member activity outside of the formal BTPA committee structure. This responds to requests from Members and is a workstream we will need to develop further.

2.7 Member Recruitment

DfT report their current plan to start a new BTPA Member recruitment exercise in November.

3. **‘We want to promote & enable a modernised and inclusive culture in the BTP’**

3.1 Diversity and Inclusion Oversight

Kate Carr has started her work on how BTPA can improve its oversight of BTP's inclusion and diversity agenda and of how BTPA can itself lead on this work. There is some space on today's agenda to test Member thoughts and appetite for this important work.

3.2 London Estate

The London Estate business case is before today's meeting. While it may seem on the face of it to be a straight forward property business case, a key element of the case for integrating the largest element of BTP accommodation in London stems from the opportunity it provides to enable a modernised and inclusive culture within BTP. This is not the cheapest option.

4. **‘We want to provide effective, supportive and challenging police oversight for today and tomorrow across the full range of BTP activity.’**

4.1 Voluntary External Oversight of BTP

With BTP, the Authority's Performance and Delivery Committee has sponsored work to map all the existing voluntary sources of oversight of BTP operational activity. This is with a view to ensuring that both COG and BTPA appreciate the range of these voluntary contributions to BTP's legitimacy agenda and are able to make best use. A paper before today's meeting summarises this activity and invites views from Members on how best BTPA can value and use this important seam of oversight.

4.2 BTP Annual Report

Our legislation requires BTP to report annually on its activity to the Authority, which report must then be published. This year's report is on today's agenda. Of note is the statistical annex, shared in the background pack for this meeting for ease of access.

4.3 HMICFRS activity

In addition to the substantial PEEL inspection of BTP in train this autumn, HMICFRS are also inspecting BTP's vetting and counter corruption operations as part of a thematic inspection across police forces in England and Wales.

5. **'We want to develop our vision for security and lead the conversation with industry and DfT to improve outcomes for industry and passengers'**

5.1 Future of Railway Policing and Security

Kate Carr completed her work on her assessment of current policing and security arrangements for the railway in July. This has been shared with Members. We have since been working on an action plan with DfT to respond to her recommendations. That plan is close to completion and we intend that it should form the basis of forward collaboration with DfT, RDG and GBR transition team as the plans for the establishment of GBR progress. We will share the action plan with Members once it is complete.

6. **'We want to drive transformation and ensure BTP is respected for their specialism by the rail industry and for their innovation across policing.'**

6.1 Operation London Bridge

This note represents a formal opportunity for me to express my own appreciation of the work of teams across BTP in contributing to the safe period of national mourning leading up to and including the State Funeral. These efforts were appreciated across GB by the public as well as at the most senior levels. In many instances, BTP's contribution relied on the railway specialisms which only BTP can provide.

7. **'We want continuously to deliver efficiencies and keep improving productivity'**

7.1 Medium Term Financial Plan

BTP have shared for this meeting some of their thoughts to date on what it will take to live within the indicative envelope for future funding supplied by BTPA and by DfT. This will remain a major focus for BTP and the Executive Team leading up to decisions by the end of this calendar year. This will include a strong focus on the 22/23 forecast financial outturn (see para 2.1 above) which will

provide a strong indicator of what may be achievable (financially and operationally) across the MTFP period.

7.2 Layers and Spans, CT Review

These two early projects which may both enhance BTP's effectiveness and provide opportunities for reprioritisation of resource are very close to fruition and we expect BTP will be able to share their findings shortly.

8. **Decisions between Scheduled Meetings (since June 2022)**

8.1 **A032 Actuary Services Award (12 July 2022).** The Full Authority approved entry into a new 7-year contract with XPS Pensions Group for actuary services.

8.2 **A033 Contract Approval – Chief Financial Officer Maternity Cover (22 July 2022).** The Appointments, Remuneration and Appraisal Committee approved a contract regarding maternity cover for the BTPA Chief Financial Officer post.

8.3 **A034 BTP 2022/23 Pay Award and Allowance Proposals (2 August 2022).** Following scrutiny by the People and Culture Committee the Full Authority approved,

- A pay award of average 5% increase effective for officers and staff
- Increase of 5% in London weighting
- Increase of dog handler allowance of 5%
- Recruitment of all officers and staff at spine point 2
- An increase in pay for Control Room staff
- Changes to a variety of allowances to assist with recruitment and tackle issues of unfairness.

For completeness Members will note **Serial A31** offered Members opportunity to comment on a draft BTPA response to a DfT consultation on legislation to implement rail transformation and was not strictly, therefore, a formal decision between meetings under the Code of Governance.