

Report to: Full Authority
Date: 1 October 2024
Subject: Chief Executive's Report
Author: Chief Executive
For: Information



25 Camden Road
London NW1 9LN

E: btpa-enquiries@btp.police.uk

www.btpa.police.uk

1. Finance

- a. **In Year Performance.** This meeting will take a separate paper on in-year financial performance. BTP is forecasting an overspend based on Buckingham Palace Rd overruns (£3.5m) and the additional costs of the 20204 Pay Award (£900k). BTP are asking for supplementary income to meet these costs, which request Members will find it difficult to agree to.
- b. **Financial Oversight.** This meeting will also take a paper updating on progress since Sarah Church's paper on enhanced financial oversight presented to the 30 January 2024 Board Development Day. That paper also seeks approval for a new financial protocol as agreed between Force and Authority in July 2024. A further, associated, paper will seek Member agreement to consequential for an updated Code of Governance and Schedule of Delegations.
- c. **BTPA Annual Report and Accounts 2023/24.** To note that, once again, BTPA managed to lay our annual report and accounts before Parliament rose for the summer recess, due to much hard work from Force and Authority colleagues alike.
- d. **Cost Allocation Model Reform.** BTPA Executive Team colleagues have continued development of and consultation on a simplified cost allocation model for 2025. A separate paper for this meeting asks for Member approval of the simplified model. Secretary of State approval for a new standard Police Service Agreement (PSA) with our funders is a key dependency for the adoption of this new model and is being pursued in parallel.

2. Governance and Industry Relations

- a. **Policing Plan Consultation.** A series of seven consultation events took place in September, co-delivered by BTP and BTPA, to garner industry views on our policing plan for 2025. Much effort was put in to do this in a different way and so to stimulate richer feedback this year. With one or two exceptions, this was well received and elicited more thoughtful feedback. The final policing plan will be brought to the December 2024 Full Authority meeting for approval.

- b. **Senior Stakeholders.** The BTPA Executive Team, along with Chair and Deputy Chair, have pursued a series of discussions with senior industry and government partners surveying their current views on the service and responsiveness from BTP, alongside thoughts of how to preserve and improve relationships through the process of rail reform. No firm conclusions have been drawn at this stage, but we aim to continue the dialogue.
 - c. **BTPA Dinner in Scotland.** The Chair, Members and BTP Chief Officer Group colleagues hosted a successful dinner in Glasgow on 18 September 2024 with rail, third sector and policing partners in Scotland. This continues the programme of events across Great Britain, providing a good opportunity to meet and understand the perspectives of our partners.
 - d. **Board Effectiveness.** A separate paper for this meeting updates on actions taken in pursuance of our Board Effectiveness Review of 2024 and in the spirit of continuous improvement.
 - e. **Forward Look.** In the context of improving our working practices, the annex to this update summarises the key decisions we expect to put to Members in correspondence before the next Full Authority meeting in December 2024. A more detailed forward look is available on *Board Intelligence*. The look/feel of both products will be subject to review to ensure they meet Member requirements.
3. Concessionary travel
- a. A separate paper before today's meeting seeks approval for a way ahead on the long running ambition to achieve some form of concessionary travel for BTP officers and staff.
4. Oversight and Assurance
- a. **His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary, Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS).** BTPA relations with HMICFRS have become strained in the last quarter. HMI has an ambition for legislative reform to award himself greater powers of inspection and follow up over BTP (and other non-Home Office forces). He wrote to the Secretary of State in July 2024 setting out this ambition and did similar with Secretaries of State covering Civil Nuclear Constabulary and Ministry of Defence Police and with the Northern Ireland government (covering NI Police Service).
 - b. Separately, a long running discussion over the justification for a significant hike in HMICFRS fees this year resulted in my writing to them delaying the start of a PEEL inspection planned for this financial year. I received a strongly worded reply. We plan to use BTP internal review and inspection preparation to offer extra assurance to Audit and Risk Assurance Committee this November, and my intention is to conclude our discussions with HMICFRS over the value of their oversight in time to return to a fuller inspection regime for the next financial year.
 - c. **Misconduct panels.** BTP and BTPA plan a joint training session for Legally Qualified Chairs (LQCs), Independent Panel Members (IPMs) and BTP superintendents on 26

October. This is becoming a near annual event. At the latest count, 21 LQCs and IPMs have confirmed their attendance, including some newly recruited. As a reminder, BTPA still operates a system for LQCs presiding over Misconduct Panels but Home Office police have reverted to using a Chief Officer to chair the Panels.

5. Staffing and Accommodation

- a. **BTP Chief Officer Group.** Members will note that T/ACC Paul Furnell leaves BTP in October 2024. He will leave with the appreciation and best wishes of BTPA Executive Team and Members alike. The Secretary of State has approved the appointment of a new Assistant Chief Constable, the announcement of whom is imminent, pending security clearance. The permanent Chief Officer Group role of Director of Corporate Development has been out to advert. Short-listing is scheduled for 2 October 2024.
- b. **BTPA Executive Team.** Fiona Mackie starts as my Head of Office in the BTPA Executive Team on 7 October. Fiona plans to attend this meeting of the Full Authority. Fiona's close family includes retired and serving BTP officers. Her own background is in the Civil Service.
- c. **Buckingham Palace Road.** BTPA are expected to vacate FHQ by mid-November at the latest. We do not expect our accommodation in Buckingham Palace Road to be ready until February 2025. Executive Team staff will mainly work from home in the intervening period. BTPA committee meetings after mid-November will take place on Teams. We are looking for a venue outside London for the Full Authority meeting in December 2024. Members who wish to have a touchdown space in London in the intervening period should contact Raquel Cortes, who may be able to identify space in a separate BTP building on any given day.

6. Decisions in between meetings

- a. The following decisions have been taken by Members in correspondence since the last meeting in June 2024, in line with the BTPA Code of Governance.
 - i. **Serial A052 – Full Business Case, Ebury Bridge and Ivason House [21 June 2024].** Members approved the full business case for the Ebury Bridge and Ivason House elements of the London Estates Programme.
 - ii. **Serial A053 – Full Business Case, Recruit Training Redesign [28 June 2024].** Members approved the full business case for Recruit Training Redesign.
 - iii. **Serial A054 – [Audit and Risk Assurance Committee] Replacement Internal Audit Topic 2024/24 [15 July 2024].** Audit Committee approved the replacement of a planned Counter-Fraud internal audit with an internal audit of Asset Management during 2024/25.

- iv. **Serial A055 – [Appointments, Remuneration and Appraisal Committee] Chief Officer Extension [15 July 2024].** Appointments Committee approved the extension of appointment of a BTP Chief Officer.

- v. **Serial A056 – Outline Business Case, Enhanced Public and Personal Safety Training [28 August 2024].** Following a high degree of scrutiny in correspondence and a Member Breakfast Briefing on 24 August 2024, Members approved the outline business case for Enhanced Public and Personal Safety Training.

- vi. **Serial A057 – Croydon AMP House Lease [5 August 2024].** Members approved entering into a lease for Croydon AMP House.

- vii. **Serial A058 – [Audit and Risk Assurance Committee] Audit Completion Report 2023/24.** Further to the delegation provided by Full Authority in June 2024, Audit Committee reviewed and confirmed approval of the External Audit Letter of Representation, finalised Audit Completion Report and BTPA Annual Report and Accounts 2023/24.

Official

Appendix 1 / Forthcoming Issues requiring Member Approval

Subject	Date	Request	Delegation
TOC/TfL charges split	Oct'24	Approval of the end of year outturn position across the TOC and TfL funding streams	Approval for potential additional charges / credits across TOC and TfL funding streams.
Motor, Casualty, Property and Crime Insurance policies	Oct'24	Approval for increase costs for the Y3 premiums. This provides third party motor insurance, public liability and employer liability cover.	Total contract value in excess of £2m.
Integrated Communication Control System (ICCS)	Oct'24	Used in the control rooms for radio and telephone communication. Contract variation approvals to support additional requirements and needs of BTP including fall back control room move and infrastructure upgrade.	Total contract value in excess of £2m.
ControlWorks	Oct'24	Command & Control System used in the control rooms. Contract variations to support the re platforming of the server infrastructure.	Total contract value in excess of £2m.
Virgin Media – Wide Area Network (WAN) and Local Area network (LAN)	Oct'24	Support of our WAN and LAN across the estate. Contract variations to support estate moves and requirements.	Total contract value in excess of £2m.
Psychological Assessment and Treatment Services	Dec'24	New contract and provider for psychological assessment treatment and services.	Total contract value expected to be in excess of £2m.
Future Networks / NNS	Dec'24	New contract to support the WAN and LAN across the estates as the current contract is due to expire. Procurement process is underway.	Total contract value expected to be in excess of £2m.
Baches Street – location of scientific support services.	Dec'24	A new lease for Baches Street premises.	Total contract value expected to be in excess of £2m.