



MINUTES

**NATIONAL POLICE AIR SERVICE (NPAS)
NATIONAL STRATEGIC BOARD (MEETING NUMBER 11)**

2 July 2015

PRESENT

NAME	REPRESENTING
PCC Mark Burns-Williamson OBE (MBW) Chair	Police and Crime Commissioner for West Yorkshire police – Lead Local Policing Body
T/CC Dee Collins QPM - DC	West Yorkshire Police – Lead Local Chief Constable
Ch. Supt. Ian Whitehouse (IW)	NPAS Accountable Manager
Fraser Sampson (FS)	Chief Executive & Solicitor – Office of Police and Crime Commissioner for West Yorkshire
Katherine Johnson (KJ)	Treasurer – West Yorkshire Office of Police and Crime Commissioner
Mark Reeves (MRe)	Head of Accountancy - Financial Accounts and Projects Manager West Yorkshire Police
Supt Tyron Joyce (TJ)	NPAS Programme Director
Ollie Dismore (OD)	NPAS Director of Flight Operations
Susan Carte (SC)	NPAS Business Development Manager
Supt. Richard Watson (RW)	NPAS Director of Ground Operations
Captain Phil Barlow	NPAS Fixed Wing Lead Pilot
Janine Nelson (JN)	Commercial Lawyer West Yorkshire Force Solicitor
CC Simon Byrne (SB)	National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) Aviation Lead
PCC Barry Coppinger (BC)	Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland - North East Region
Peter Harrison (PH) representing CC David Jones (DJ)	Project Manager - North Yorkshire Police – North East Region
PCC John Dwyer (JD)	Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire – North West Region
CC Mark Polin QPM (MP) (by phone)	North Wales Police – North West Region

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PCC Ron Ball (RB)	Police and Crime Commissioner for Warwickshire – Central Region
Chief Insp. Steve Potter representing DCC Andy Frost (AF)	Northamptonshire Police – Central Region
CC Neil Rhodes (NR)	Lincolnshire Police – Central Region
PCC Christopher Salmon (CS)	Police & Crime Commissioner for Dyfed Powys – South West Region
CC Suzette Davenport (SD)	Gloucestershire Police - South West Region
T/Chief Supt Simon Hawkins (SH) – representing ACC Sarah Hamlin	Hertfordshire Police – South East Region
Emma Smithies – Staff Officer to CC Simon Byrne	Cheshire Police
Chief Insp. Tim Scott (TS) Representing ACC David McCall	British Transport Police
Rachel Watson (RWa) (by phone)	Home Office –Head of Police Workforce and Capability Unit
Jonathan Scanlan (JS)	Home Office – Workforce and Capability Unit
Camilla Black (CB) (by phone)	Mayors Office for Police & Crime (MOPAC)
Nick Jones (NJ) (by phone)	Defence Equipment & Support (MOD)
Andy Bell (AB)	Deputy CFOA CBRNE Lead - London Fire Brigade
Melanie Jaundziekars (MJ)	NPAS Support Officer

APOLOGIES

NAME	REPRESENTING
ACC Ian Wiggett (IW)	Greater Manchester Police – North West Region – IAG Chair
Cmdr. David Musker (DM)	Metropolitan Police Service – London Region
PCC Anthony Stansfeld (AS)	Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley - South East Region
CC David Jones (DJ)	North Yorkshire Police – North East Region
ACC David McCall (DMc)	British Transport Police
AC Mark Rowley (MR)	Metropolitan Police Service – Counter Terrorism
Patricia Gallan (PG)	Assistant Commissioner – Metropolitan Police Service

The Chair, PCC Mark Burns-Williamson (MBW) opened the meeting and gave introductions.

1. APOLOGIES

Noted and recorded. JD stated he had spoken to PCC Anthony Stansfeld (AS) who was unable to attend the meeting and wished to pass on his apologies.

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2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No Declarations of Interest were declared.

3. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 24 MARCH 2015

Minutes were agreed and passed as a correct record.

4. ACTIONS

See Action list for updates.

5. FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Andy Bell (AB) Deputy CFOA CBRNE Lead from the London Fire Service (FRS) expressed his thanks for being invited to the meeting and stated that the FRS would like to build on Operation DART where NPAS have supported the FRS nationally during periods of industrial action and NPAS have demonstrated they are able to move other equipment on behalf of the FRS. The FRS wish to work with NPAS to develop a model that enables the rationalisation of the current FRS Detection Identification Monitoring (DIM) capability through the provision of air support. AB has been working with Alex Marshall together with Richard Watson (RW) and Ollie Dismore (OD). AB outlined how he wished to develop a closer collaborative partnership within the FRS and for its officers to work in partnership with NPAS and wished the Board to consider representation on the NPAS Strategic Board.

PCC John Dwyer (JD) stated that in principle he was unconcerned with the proposal and that it made sense but he asked for more information around what the cost implications would be before making a decision. PCC Christopher Salmon (CS) asked whether NPAS would be providing a service to the FRS or was a merger with the FRS proposed, the latter being a larger issue.

CC Simon Byrne (SB) said that the issue linked to the ongoing work supported by NPCC Uniformed Operations Group which was looking at working with other blue light responders. A discussion took place among Board members who expressed support for the idea with significant opportunity and indicated that they would be happy for NPAS officers to work with the FRS. It was noted that there needed to be greater detail and more information would be required before any approval could be given to the closer collaboration aspects before consideration of representation at the Board from the FRS.

Action 11.1 – a further detailed report to be produced by SB before the next Strategic Board meeting in September for further consideration by the Board.

6. UPDATE FROM NPCC AVIATION LEAD

SB updated the Board on his report which had gone to the NPCC Uniformed Operations Group and asked that consideration be given as to how this business case may be supported in advance of a future Innovation Bid for 2016/17 alongside other agencies and government departments.

It was agreed that this item be linked to Agenda item 5. OD highlighted the partner agencies with whom NPAS could collaborate under current legislation and the Board noted this did not include the air ambulance service.

7. NPAS END OF YEAR PERFORMANCE REPORT

Richard Watson (RW) provided a summary of the air support delivered to the police service and other agencies. In 2014/15 NPAS had received 68,789 calls resulting in 62,920 requests for service and 8,388 declines and RW believed the number of missing people found and saved as a result of the service provided by NPAS was exceptional. RW stated that forces need to be educated when requesting air support and there was a need for Control Rooms to understand requests. It was noted that it would be helpful for Board members to receive a summary and analysis about the data. CC Suzette Davenport (SD) asked for the data to be shown in the form of graphs/charts rather than blocks of numbers. In respect of requests that had been declined, members agreed that it would be helpful to understand the reason why. It was noted that some of the data supports flying hours rather than outcomes.

RB queried how declines were made - IW said in general terms 55% were weather related, 12% not suitable for a helicopter and 25% were because of unavailability.

Action 11.2 – the report to be amended to show the figures in graph/chart detail for future Boards.

8. T2 MISSION SYSTEM UPGRADE

Susan Carte (SC) updated the Board on the T2 mission system upgrade project. The Board had approved monies for 7 NPAS aircrafts to receive role equipment and performance modification to economically extend their operational life and minimise weight. The first aircraft was due to be delivered in August at NPAS Boreham and the upgrade had been delivered on budget. IW stated that this had taken 18 months to finalise and asked the Board to recognise the complexities of what was involved in upgrading aircraft. MBW thanked the team for their hard work regarding the T2 mission system upgrade.

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It was noted that there would be a formal handover from Bond (the supplier) to the West Yorkshire PCC, Mark Burns-Williamson and T/CC Dee Collins, West Yorkshire Police at Helitech, an international helicopter exhibition and conference in London on 7 October 2015.

Action 11.3 – Board members to be provided with details of the handover prior to 7 October 2015 by SC.

9. FINANCE UPDATE

Mark Reeves (MR) provided a finance update stating that this had been a challenging year for NPAS. The budget monitoring report as at 31 March 2015, showed that the revenue budget was £1.2m underspent and the capital budget has a balance of £1m underspend. The Board had previously agreed that this money could be utilised to fund the new operational model and noted the reports. CS acknowledged the progress that had been made given discussions at previous Boards.

10. FUNDING FORMULA UPDATE

MBW stated that NPAS had received numerous communications and correspondence regarding the funding formula and NPAS continue to address all the questions and issues raised.

MR stated that at the previous Board meeting in March 2015, 3 funding models were presented and the general consensus from the Board was for a more simplistic model which culminated in a presentation at the APCC event on 19 2015 May in London. To date, the summary of the feedback identified Option 1, actioned calls to service, as the preferred model with 13 forces indicating a preference for this model with a request for a regular review to be built in to which the Board had already agreed to a 12 month review.

PCC John Dwyer (JD) asked if all forces had now signed the Collaboration Agreement and it was stated that Humberside were the only force yet to sign owing to an issue with their lease but the NPAS team were working with the force.

SD expressed a desire to go back and speak with her colleagues to ensure they were content with Option 1 as 3 of the forces had responded and stated Option 1 and one force had suggested Option 3. It was noted that a presentation had been given at the APCC event to Chief Constables and Police and Crime Commissioners and the majority were content with Option 1. A discussion took place and it was agreed that a decision had to be made regarding which Option would be implemented due to time constraints. T/Chief Supt Simon Hawkins (SH) stated that he would be writing to NPAS in due course regarding this decision as Bedfordshire were in a unique position.

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After a lengthy discussion it was unanimously agreed that Option 1 was the appropriate model with an implementation date of the full model of 1 April 2018. It was also agreed that there would be a 3 year phased approach to implementing the new funding model, with an annual review.

Agreed – Option 1 (Actioned Calls for Service) unanimously agreed as the appropriate model with a review period of 12 months for the activity data and the data to be used to calculate contributions for 2016/17.

PCC Ron Ball (RB) asked who would carry out the review and T/CC Collins (DC) confirmed that the Home Secretary had written to both MBW and DC offering support from an independent point of view which would be looked at and reported back to the Board. MBW also suggested continuing with the NPAS Working Group meetings.

Action 11.4 – MJ to diary next Working Group meeting to particularly discuss Option 1 and the outstanding action of cross charging partner agencies.

11. FIXED WING PROPOSALS

Ian Whitehouse (IW) and T/CC Collins (DC) gave a presentation on the fixed wing proposals, noting that the complexities involved in the sale and disposal of aircraft and that, until fixed wing aircraft were operational there would be difficulties in closing bases without a significant impact on performance. It was highlighted that the modelling had been predicated on fixed wing being introduced into the fleet.

The point was made that only 3 of the bases that were closing were able to do so without fixed wing capabilities being in place, thereafter there were serious concerns about capacity to deliver performance. The new model would see 9 rotary aircraft being taken out of the current capability. The knock on effect of delays were that revenue savings cannot be made. 12 forces were impacted upon and a decision had to be made on the following options:-

- (a) whether to deliver 4 airframes per the current requirement,
- (b) deliver 3 airframes per the minimum purchase commitment,
- (c) remove specific items from the proposal, in particular (flight into known icing) FIKI which would mean stopping the procurement process
- (d) cease the current procurement process and re-commence with fewer than three aircraft and/or a reduced specification.

Nick Jones (NJ) a Ministry of Defence (MoD) lead in this area joined the meeting by conference call and provided a summary of his background as the accountable person on behalf of the Secretary of State (Defence) for all matters relating to type airworthiness of aircraft types and the lead advisor to military fixed wing acquisition and support.

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Discussions followed on from previous Board meetings where the issues of cost for flight into known icing (FIKI) were raised. Captain Phil Barlow (PB) advised the Board on relevant technical issues arising from de-icing equipment and FIKI situations.

RB stated that he supported having 4 airframes with FIKI fitted rather than having the aircraft supplied and have to retrofit at a later stage which would be more expensive.

JD agreed with CS and queried whether NPAS taking an aircraft with FIKI meant that NPAS did not require 4 airframes. There was a discussion about the modelling that had been done on 4 aircraft with 3 airframes running and one in maintenance. The modelling had been done with the rotary aircraft removed and NPAS having the fixed wing in place. JD asked what would happen to the capital receipt for the aircraft that will subsequently be sold by NPAS. SC confirmed that the capital receipt came into the capital programme. CS questioned the value of FIKI given the costs balanced against the performance information provided by the modelling. IW stated that the delay in upgrading the EC145 enabled NPAS to pay for the FIKI.

JD raised the question why it was costing so much money for what seemed to be a small addition to the aircraft. OD explained that NPAS had gone through a competitive tender process against a specification agreed by the Board. Multiple bidders had bid the same type of aircraft and the preferred bidder, had been the most economically advantageous. Other bids would have been significantly more not only in cost terms but also timelines to deliver. If NPAS had compiled a different specification then it would have highlighted different aircraft.

JD was reassured by OD's explanation which had justified his decision to agree to the delivery of 4 airframes with FIKI fitted.

NJ was asked to comment on whether he felt the costs were reasonable and NJ stated that in his opinion the cost appeared relatively cheap and good value due to the amount of intellectual testing involved.

IW pointed out to the Board that with having FIKI fitted NPAS estimate they would be able to attend an extra 1500 calls and by not having FIKI would mean NPAS would struggle to move to a 24/7, 365 days a year service that the Board had agreed was required.

KJ stated that NPAS did not currently have approval from the Home Office for this level of spend. RWa stated it would be subject to Treasury rules and the Home Office would seek to confirm the capital grant as soon as possible. FS advised that the lack of certainty in the arrangements raised significant issues of legality for West Yorkshire as the Lead Local Policing Body within the local government legislation. MBW advised that this issue would need to be taken up at Ministerial level as West Yorkshire Police, and he as the lead PCC could not take on the responsibility for such expenditure legally.

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After a lengthy discussion and subject to the Board receiving Home Office Capital grant confirmation, it was unanimously agreed by the Board to deliver 4 airframes with FIKI and noted that, by taking early delivery of the first fixed wing, NPAS could utilise the airframe while waiting certification.

Agreed – unanimously agreed to award the contract for 4 fixed wing airframes subject to confirmation from capital funding.

Action 11.5 – DC and MBW to write to the Home Secretary

12.AOB

CC Mark Polin (MP) requested that an early communication be provided to Chief Constables and Police and Crime Commissioners notifying them of the decisions made by the Board. It was stated that this could be delivered in respect of the funding model but in relation to fixed wing NPAS were still in a tendering process.

A presentation was made to Supt. Richard Watson before his imminent retirement after 33 years police service and MBW, IW and DC thanked RW for all his hard work and dedication to NPAS during the last 6 years.

MBW closed the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance and important contributions.

**Date and time of next meeting - 9 September 2015 - 1.00pm – 4.00pm
Bishopgarth House, Carr Gate, Bradford Road, Wakefield, WF2 0QD.**