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MINUTES

NATIONAL POLICE AIR SERVICE (NPAS) NATIONAL STRATEGIC BOARD (MEETING NUMBER 17)

14 September 2016

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
T/Ch.Supt Tyron Joyce (TJ)	NPAS Chief Operating Officer
Ollie Dismore (OD)	NPAS Director of Operations
Steven Jones QPM (SJ)	Assistant Operations Director – North East Region
Andy Bell (AB)	Deputy CFOA CBRNE Lead – London Fire Brigade
Janine Nelson (JN)	Solicitor, Legal Services, West Yorkshire Police
Katherine Johnson (KJ)	Treasurer – West Yorkshire Office of Police and Crime Commissioner
PCC Barry Coppinger (BC)	Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland - North East Region
CC David Jones (DJ) (by phone)	North Yorkshire Police – North East Region
CC Simon Byrne QPM (SB)	National Police Chief's Council (NPCC) Aviation Lead
Emma Smithies (ES)	Inspector, Cheshire Police
Steven Adams (SA)	Programme Manager – (Bluelight Air Support Programme) London Fire Brigade
PCC Peter McCall (PM)	Police and Crime Commissioner for Cumbria – North West Region
CC Jerry Graham (JG)	Cumbria Police – North West Region
PCC Marc Jones (MJ)	Police and Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire – Central Region
Cmdr. Matt Twist (MT) (by phone)	Metropolitan Police Service – London Region
ACC Darren Davies (DD) (by phone)	MPS – Director CT Change, National Counter Terrorism

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PCC Anthony Stansfeld (AS) (by phone)	Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley - South East Region
PCC Dafydd Llywelyn (DL)	Police and Crime Commissioner for Dyfed-Powys – South West Region
CC Suzette Davenport (SD) (by phone)	Gloucestershire Police - South West Region
Jenny Walker (JN)	NPAS Marketing & Communications Manager
Melanie Jaundziekars (MJ)	NPAS Support Officer

APOLOGIES

NAME	REPRESENTING
Fraser Sampson (FS)	Chief Executive & Solicitor – Office of Police and Crime Commissioner for West Yorkshire
Mark Reeves (MRe)	Temporary Director of Finance & Business Support - West Yorkshire Police
Susan Carte (SC)	NPAS Business Development Manager
CC Neil Rhodes (NR)	Lincolnshire Police – Central Region
Rachel Watson (RW)	Home Office – Head of Police Workforce and Capability Unit
Jonathan Scanlan (JS)	Home Office – Workforce and Capability Unit
T/Chief Supt Simon Hawkins (SH) representing ACC Sarah Hamlin	Hertfordshire Police - South East Region
John Jones (JJ)	MOPAC – Mayors Office for Police and Crime
Alex Anderson (AA)	MOPAC – Mayors Office for Police and Crime

The Chair, PCC Mark Burns-Williamson (MBW) opened the meeting and invited introductions from those in the room and dialling in on the conference call facility. MBW welcomed the new PCC Board members, Peter McCall (PM), Marc Jones (MJ) and Dafydd Llywelyn (DL). MBW congratulated Chief Supt Tyron Joyce (TJ) on his appointment as NPAS Chief Operating Officer.

MBW stated that he was pleased to announce that Phase 1 would be officially completed on 26 September 2016 when Humberside Police formally join the NPAS collaboration and thanked everyone involved for working hard to achieve this.

1. APOLOGIES

Noted and recorded.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared.

3. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 16 JUNE 2016

Minutes were agreed and passed as an accurate record.

4. ACTIONS

All actions discharged. TJ advised that NPAS would be sharing the indicative budgets for next year around October/November 2016.

5. NPAS AIRCRAFT BASING

Ollie Dismore (OD) stated that NPAS were now getting into the detail of introducing the fixed wing capability together with the decision to move the current NPAS London base from Lippitts Hill to an alternative location within the London area. OD requested that Board members note that NPAS are looking at alternative estate options and to approve a more detailed project plan to be brought back to the Board around introducing multi use bases. OD stated that NPAS had started looking internally at whether the current way of operating the fixed wing single base at Doncaster would provide the best outcome.

CC Simon Byrne (SB) raised that there needed to be a discussion around service level and air surveillance provided by other means.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] One of the things that NPAS would be exploring with fixed wing would be how NPAS could use surveillance in a different way. TJ stated that the s22 review would look at the governance and oversight of drones.

PCC Barry Coppinger (BC) stated that NPAS needed to look at each force regarding drones and develop complimentary activity to what NPAS is doing in order to get the balance right and to use the NPAS fleet effectively.

OD stated that NPAS would be able to test the fixed wing in different policing environments without going into a fully fledged, fully developed operating base and can actually see what the complimentary activity is.

PCC Peter McCall (PM) stated that NPAS need to have a concept of operations that everyone understands which encompasses the full spectrum of air support.

The Board acknowledged the update provided and noted that NPAS were looking at alternatives and approved the development of a detailed project delivery plan to be brought back to the Board in December which would look at the cost around introducing multi use bases. OD stated that outline modelling had been produced using a sophisticated simulation that actually runs through five times a years' worth of real tasking, allocates aircraft in real time to where they would be used in practice and then gives an output of how long it would take individual forces to obtain air support. TJ stated that Board members may wish to adopt some of the multi-use bases or none at all.

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Action 17.1 – A detailed project delivery plan to be presented at the National Board meeting on 8 December 2016.

6. EMERGENCY SERVICES MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAMME (ESMCP)

Steven Jones (SJ) highlighted that communications for all emergency services is currently provided by a system known as Tetra which will be switched off at the end of December 2019. SJ stated that the Home Office had been tasked with finding a distinct programme which is Emergency Services Network (ESN) which would be delivered to all police forces and associated emergency services such as NPAS and the Air Ambulance.

SJ confirmed that NPAS had developed a project team to manage the introduction of ESN into service which report back to the NPAS Senior Leadership Team with oversight by the NPAS Local Strategic Board. The project team currently have three distinct work streams to manage, devices that will go into the aircraft, the Operations Centre and finally the NPAS bases. SJ stated that the devices are the most complex element and the Home Office are developing detailed plans to ensure effective devices are made available to end users. SJ stated that NPAS had confidence that the Home Office now had subject matter experts looking at this but there are still associated risks.

SJ stated that due to the values involved NPAS would need to go to tender for installation and cannot wait any later than June 2017 to commence the process. NPAS are working with the Home Office to come up with a generic specification to start the tender.

SJ confirmed that both capital and revenue funding to support the NPAS project would be made available by the Home Office. £6.306m is being made available for the purchase and installation of the devices and a further £6.96m is being earmarked for 2025/26 for ESN replacement and a further £1.43m is being made available to support the project.

CC Jerry Graham (JG) shared the concerns raised above and stated that the North West had severe concerns around the timeline and the plans to go live in 2017.

DC stated that she currently sits on the professional reference group for ESMCP and assured Board members that NPAS are constantly raising concerns. DC confirmed that funding had been secured for a dedicated Superintendent who would be liaising between the Home Office and NPAS.

MBW stated that in view of the concerns raised do NPAS need to write formally to the ESMCP project team. It was stated that as the Chief had already raised the concerns and these had been minuted at the ESMCP meeting, no further action would be necessary at this stage.

Board members noted the update provided by SJ.

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Action 17.2 – ESMCP to remain as a standing agenda item due to the timescales and complexity involved with the programme and to be raised at the Chief’s Conference in November.

Action 17.3 – TJ to formally record the concerns regarding the ESMCP project on the NPAS Service delivery risk register.

7. NPAS FLEET OPTIONS

OD stated that due to the imminent completion of Phase 1, continued operation with the existing fleet is not boundless and core elements of the fleet would require replacing. NPAS had delivered just over 18,000 flying hours last year with 31,000 actioned calls to service and 62,000 requests for service. OD stated that the NPAS fleet had been inherited and pre NPAS the business case was based on a ten year cycle, but as part of the capital compensation to forces the notional life had been moved to fifteen years with no reduction in flying rate or a formal replacement programme put in place to meet the revised target life. OD stated that NPAS would need to replace three aircraft every two years to maintain the optimum cycle of usage versus capability and residual value.

DC stated that NPAS would need to consider all the available options including the variety of the airframes. MBW raised that the formation of a PCC Working Group could consider the options.

Katherine Johnson (KJ) reminded Board members that the Home Office expects NPAS to provide a medium term financial estimate for capital by November 2016 so some of the work would need to be commenced sooner rather than later.

The Board endorsed the need for an ongoing fleet replacement, supporting business as usual and commissioned the production of costed options for presentation to the Board in December along with indicative costs.

Action 17.4 – OD to produce options for ongoing replacement of the NPAS active fleet for presenting to the Board at the meeting on 8 December 2016.

8. COUNTER TERRORISM (CT) UPDATE

ACC Darren Davies (DD) advised that letters had been circulated to MBW, DC and the Home Office regarding the lift and shift capacity. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

9. REVIEW OF s22 COLLABORATION AGREEMENT

Janine Nelson (JN) stated that as Humberside Police would be joining NPAS on 26 September 2016 and are the last policing body to join, the s22 agreement would need to be reviewed within the next twelve months. JN requested Board members consult with their relevant policing bodies in order to obtain feedback on the points that need reviewing, eg. governance, user requirements and drones prior to the next Board meeting on 8 December 2016

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BC raised the issue regarding drones and whether it would be appropriate for NPAS to consult with each force to ascertain the current position. TJ stated that ACC Steve Barry is the national lead and had tasked a member of his team to compile an overview as to where NPAS currently are regarding drones which would be sent to CC Simon Byrne (SB).

PCC Dafydd Jones (DJ) raised whether an update of the work undertaken by ACC Steve Barry would come back through the National Strategic Board or the National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC). MBW requested that the work of ACC Steve Barry is reported back to the NPAS National Board and SB stated that he would update the Board in December.

A discussion took place and Board members agreed to consult with their relevant appropriate policing bodies on the points raised and for a letter to be sent to forces and Police and Crime Commissioners (PCC's) regarding the review of the s22 collaboration agreement.

Action 17.5 – a letter to be sent to forces and PCC's on behalf of T/CC Collins and MBW regarding the review of the s22 collaboration agreement.

10. FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE (FRS) UPDATE

TJ provided a brief update regarding the ongoing work with the Fire and Rescue service (FRS) and the user requirement for the transport and detection, identification and monitoring of radio active devices. This service currently split between the police and FRS will shortly be delivered in its entirety by FRS personnel. TJ advised that he had been working closely with Andy Bell (AB) to see if NPAS could support the FRS with the existing fleet. TJ stated that as the Board had new PCC membership now would be the time to reconvene the NPAS Working Group to determine what the cost would be to non s22 members for the use of air support.

It was agreed in principle that NPAS would establish a Working Group and would circulate more detail to colleagues outside of the meeting in relation to drones and the FRS in order for a sub group to look at what they may wish to consider in further detail. AB stated that he would be happy to attend the first Working Group meeting.

Action 17.6 – MBW to convene a finance working group as soon as practicable to consider the most appropriate charging mechanism for the FRS and other non s22 agencies.

11. BLUE LIGHT AIR SERVICE PROGRAMME

CC Simon Byrne (SB) gave a presentation around the Blue Light Air Service Programme which provided an overview of the current position and the concept of operations. SB stated that the bid had began last Spring and was partially funded by the Home Office with a large amount of support from FRS. SB stated that the programme would look at changes in technology with what you can do with air support. SB stated that work was ongoing to develop a specific user requirement and the plan was to get back into the blue print by the end of the year.

SB stated that he was confident he could keep to stage 1, the need to understand the market and capabilities and would deliver back into Government. SB advised he would expect to put in a further bid into Government within the Spring and by 2020 this is what the future might look like.

BC acknowledged there was certain logic in blue light services coming together and asked what experiences were elsewhere and was this a common approach within Europe. SB advised that some of the European delivery models currently provide more as some of the governance arrangements are different, and advised there would be an opportunity within Phase 2 to look at this.

OD advised that there is a proposed change to the basic regulation going through European Parliament at present which would allow state operators such as NPAS to adopt the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) regulations. OD stated that the military may stay separate and in terms of sharing the assets of air ambulance, fire, coastguard etc this would be a huge step forward. OD advised that NPAS had led on the introduction of the proposed change and did the draft legislation which had gone through the EU Commissioner and covers joint maintenance which would enable shared assets, spares, contracts between commercial and state operators.

TJ endorsed the work so far but raised that the RUSI (Royal United Services Institute) document was sponsored by a large commercial provider. TJ proposed that OD's input would be invaluable as he has both a commercial and State background and wished NPAS to become more involved.

AB stated that once the user requirement had been approved by the Programme Board they would then request OD's assistance along with other technical experts to assist with the blue print.

SB stated he was confident that they will end Stage 1 on time and within budget and would then commission Stage 2. MBW stated that it would require the help and support of the NPAS National Board as the future implications are significant.

BC stated that from an NPAS point of view he would want some assurances that NPAS has got the capacity to support this.

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Action 17.7 – MJ to ensure Blue Light Air Service programme is a standing agenda item

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No AOB raised.

MBW thanked everyone for their attendance at the meeting and stated that the next Board would take place on Thursday 8 December 2016.

**Date and time of next meeting – 8 December 2016 - 1.00pm – 4.00pm
Carr Gate, Bradford Road, Wakefield, WF2 0QD.**