MINUTES

**NATIONAL POLICE AIR SERVICE (NPAS)**

**NATIONAL STRATEGIC BOARD (MEETING NUMBER 59)**

**19 March 2024 – via Teams**

**PRESENT**

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| **NAME** | **REPRESENTING** |
| PFCC Ben Adams (BA) – Chair | Police Fire & Rescue and Crime Commissioner for Staffordshire Police - West Midlands Region |
| Darren Webster (DW) on behalf of CC Debbie Tedds | Chief Supt Warwickshire Police – West Midlands Region |
| Ellie Vasey-Thompson (EVT) on behalf of PCC Lisa Townsend | Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey – South East Region |
| CC Jason Hogg (JH) | Chief Constable Thames Valley Police – South East Region |
| Paul Wainwright (PW) on behalf of PCC Jonathan Evison | Head of Assurance & Statutory Duties - OPCC for Humberside - North East Region |
| ACO Julie Diamond (JD) on behalf of CC Rachel Bacon (RB) | Assistant Chief Officer Durham Police – North East Region |
| PCC John Dwyer (JD) | Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire – North West Region |
| Chris Hill (CH) on behalf of CC Mark Roberts | Chief Supt Greater Manchester Police – North West Region |
| PCC Rupert Matthews (RM) | Police and Crime Commissioner for Leicestershire – East Midlands Region |
| CC Rachel Swann QPM (RS) | Chief Constable for Nottinghamshire Police – East Midlands Region |
| Ian Dalgarno (ID) on behalf of PCC Festus Akinbusoye | Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner for Bedfordshire Police – Eastern Region |
| CC Ben Julian-Harrington QPM (BJH) | Chief Constable for Essex Police – Eastern Region |
| Robin Merrett (RM) | Mayor’s Office for Police & Crime (MOPAC) |
| PCC Philip Wilkinson OBE (PW) | Police and Crime Commissioner for Wiltshire Police – South West Region |
| Mark Cooper (MC) on behalf of CC Catherine Roper | Assistant Chief Constable for Wiltshire Police – South West Region |
| Neil Evans (NE) on behalf of PCC Dafydd Llywelyn | Business Manager Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Dyfed-Powys Police – Wales Region |
| Alison Lowe OBE (AL) | Deputy Mayor for Police and Crime  West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) |
| CC John Robins QPM DL (JR) | Chief Constable - West Yorkshire Police – Police Air Operations Certificate Holder (PAOC) |
| Monique Wrench (MW) | National Police Capabilities Unit - Home Office |
| Aphra Brannan (AB) | National Police Capabilities Unit - Home Office |
| Ashleigh Taylor (AT) | Police Aviation Lead - Home Office |
| Colleen Rattigan (CR) | Head of Strategy & Innovation Northamptonshire Police – East Midlands Region |
| T/Chief Superintendent Mark Jessop (MJe) | NPAS Chief Operating Officer |
| Glenn Shelley (GS) | NPAS Head of Business Services and Accountable Manager |
| James Cunningham (JC) | NPAS Head of Aviation Safety |
| Bruce Cooper (BC) | NPAS T/Head of Technical Services |
| Lisa Fleming (LF) | NPAS Communications Lead |
| Katherine Johnson (KJ) | Assistant Chief Officer – Business Operations West Yorkshire Police |
| Mark Reeves (MR) | Finance and Commercial Services Director – West Yorkshire Police |
| Rod Brown (RBr) | Programme Director Transition Programme Board |
| Russell Plummer (RP) | Business Architect Transition Programme Board |
| Lianne Deeming (LD) | Chief Executive, BlueLight Commercial |
| Steph Leaver (SL) | Director of Legal Services, BlueLight Commercial |
| Ian McGibbon (IM) | Regional Policy Officer - Staffordshire OPCC – West Midlands Region |
| Elaine Grocock (EG) | Regional Collaboration Manager – East Midlands Region |
| Herval Almenoar-Webster (HAW) | National Policy Officer – OPCC Surrey |
| Rebecca Brookes (RB) | Head of Legal & Governance Services – West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) |
| Julie Reid (JR) | Head of Policing & Crime Team - WYCA |
| Caroline Fleming (CF) | Commercial Lawyer, West Yorkshire Police Legal Services |
| Simon Efford (SE) | APCC Secretariat |
| Melanie Jaundziekars (MJa) | NPAS Executive Office Manager |

**APOLOGIES**

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| **NAME** | **REPRESENTING** |
| PCC Lisa Townsend (LT) | Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey – South East Region |
| CC Debbie Tedds (DT) | Chief Constable Warwickshire Police – West Midlands Region |
| CC Pam Kelly (PK) | Chief Constable Gwent Police - Wales Region |
| CC Mark Roberts (MR) | Chief Constable Cheshire Police – North West Region |
| PCC Jonathan Evison (JE) | Police and Crime Commissioner for Humberside - North East Region |
| CC Rachel Bacon (RBa) | Chief Constable Durham Police – North East Region |
| DAC Laurence Taylor (LTa) | Metropolitan Police Service – London Region & Chair of NPAS IAG  NPCC Drones Lead |
| CC Charlie Hall (CH) | Chief Constable Hertfordshire Police & NPCC Aviation Lead |
| CC Catherine Roper (CR) | Chief Constable for Wiltshire Police – South West Region |
| PCC Festus Akinbusoye (FA) | Police and Crime Commissioner for Bedfordshire Police – Eastern Region |
| T/ACC Vicki White (VW) | T/Assistant Chief Constable West Yorkshire Police |

Rebecca Brookes (RB) raised PCC Townsend had sent apologies for the meeting and had invited PFCC Ben Adams to Chair the meeting in her absence. Board members confirmed they were content to proceed on that basis.

PFCC Ben Adams (BA) opened the meeting and welcomed everyone joining via Teams.

1. **ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES**

Apologies were noted and recorded.

1. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None raised

1. **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 07 FEBRUARY 2024**

Minutes were agreed as an accurate record.

1. **ACTIONS**

All actions were discharged.

1. **NPAS CAPITAL PROGRAMME UPDATE**

Glenn Shelley (GS) presented the report which showed the estimated year end position and advised NPAS had maximised the Home Office grant due to a high level of expense on capital parts. GS provided a summary of next year’s Capital programme and the longer term potential capital expenditure of NPAS over the next three years. GS will continue to provide an update within the MTFF as the business case for fleet replacement progresses.

**Resolved:**

**Board members noted the estimated year end position on capital for 23/24 and approved the 24/25 capital programme**

1. **NPAS TRANSITION AND AIR SUPPORT TRANSFORMATION BUDGET FORECAST FOR FY 2024/25**

Rod Brown (RBr) gave a short presentation. RBr advised that an IT Project Manager is required to support the development and implementation of the IT and Business Services workstream within the NPAS Transition Programme.

**Resolved:**

**Board members noted the update provided**

**NPAS TRANSITION PROGRAMME UPDATE**

RBr presented the report and advised a decision was made at the meeting in October 2023 to progress the business case to detailed design phase and there were three areas that required further work before the business case could be presented to the NSB. RBr advised that the NPAS Transition full business case will now be presented to the NSB on the 19 September alongside the Air Support Transformation Outline business case.

It was agreed to prepare a briefing for any incoming PCCs to take place prior to the September meeting.

**Action 59.1 – APCC to produce a briefing to incoming PCCs and Mayors so they are fully informed prior to the meeting on the 19 September in order to take a decision.**

CC John Robins (JR) stated there will need to be 10 new helicopters across England and Wales and there should be no delay to the fleet replacement programme caused by Transition and Transformation and all the uncertainty is creating an operational risk and a structural risk whereby people will leave the organisation and will end up being in a position where NPAS is unable to fly.

**Resolved:**

**Members noted the update provided**

1. **AIR SUPPORT TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME**

RBr presented the report and provided members with a progress update in relation to the Air Support Transformation Programme.

RBr advised that seven of the nine planned workshops within each region have now been completed and over 150 User Requirements have been gathered over the seven workshops to date, which have been grouped into nine key requirement areas across four operating categories.

RBr outlined the priority activities for the next three months which involves collating the questionnaire responses from Chief Constables and PCCs to inform the next phase of work..

**Resolved:**

**Board members noted the update provided**

1. **AVIATION FLEET REPLACEMENT UPDATE**

Steph Leaver (SL) presented the paper following a decision taken at the NPAS Fleet Replacement Strategic Board (FRSB).

SL highlighted that whilst a single Contracting Authority will enter into the contracts and will need to assume responsibility for anything that might happen throughout the whole of NPAS, the liability is a shared liability amongst all NPAS members. SL advised that with regard to any novation of contracts where there might be a requirement to underwrite any new company or party that the contracts novate to, that while a single Contracting Authority may be required to underwrite the position it will be a shared liability across all forces.

**Resolved:**

**Board members noted the update and understood that any liability will be shared amongst NPAS members as outlined in the S22 Agreement shared liability provisions.**

1. **AVIATION FLEET REPLACEMENT COMMERCIAL UPDATE – COMMERCIAL IN CONFIDENCE**

Lianne Deeming (LD) gave a short presentation and summarised the position to date. LD reminded members that the procurement process remains at a commercially sensitive stage and therefore details are strictly confidential until a preferred supplier is identified.

**Resolved:**

**Board members noted the contents of the report and the confidentiality and agreed to continue to support the commercial activity.**

1. **NPAS SAFETY UPDATE**

James Cunningham (JC) presented the report and advised members that NPAS are operating at a heightened risk due to Transition and Transformation and highlighted that Drone mid air conflict risk remains a significant concern.

JC raised that NPAS received it’s first Airprox where a force had failed to advise NPAS that a drone had been deployed and advised the Airprox proximity report will now go to the UK Airprox Board who will take statements from both parties and review. A public independent report will then be produced around whether safety was compromised. JC advised that NPAS are working collaboratively with the NPCC Drones Working Group and their consultants to come up with a better process and work is ongoing with the regulator to discuss the issue.

JC made a formal request for deconfliction of platforms to be made directly to police forces. Board members agreed on the seriousness of the issues and the need to address it. JR advised that he would be writing out to all Chief Constables and will raise at Chiefs Council.

**Resolved:**

**Board members noted the update and agreed that action needed to be taken as soon as possible due to the risk to the public and aircraft and proposed that the Chair of the NSB writes out to all forces copying in the PCCs to stress the importance of this.**

**Action 59.2 – the Chair of the NSB to write to all forces and PCCs outlining the seriousness of the issues in relation to drone mid air conflict risk.**

1. **NPAS PERFORMANCE UPDATE**

T/Chief Supt Mark Jessop (MJ) provided members with a Performance overview from April 2023 – February 2024.

* 39.0% of calls for service were attended (lower than previous month 41.4%).
* Demand was lower at 2520 calls compared to 3021 in the previous month.
* The decline rate at 25.0% was higher than the previous month (19.9%).
* Received to scene time was 9m 47 for P1s and 19m 24s for P2s.
* Availability was lower than in the previous month (69.2% compared to 73.4% last month).
* Engineering rose from 11.3% to 17.3%..
* The EM region made 7 calls for service outside of their UR hours, the SE made 2, the SW region made 11 requests and Wales made 5.

Year-to-date, rotary aircraft have flown for 10193 hours on behalf of forces and fixed wing for 443 hours. Year-end force usage is likely to be under budget by around 1051 hours. Training, transit & maintenance is also likely to be under budget at the year-end by about 473 hours.

MW raised what progress is being made with regards to fixed wing in order to get the full value from the fixed wing fleet.

**Action 59.3: NPAS are to produce a report for the next meeting with a plan outlining how to get the full value out of the fixed wing**

**Resolved:**

**Members noted the update provided.**

1. **AHUK QUARTERLY CONTRACT REVIEW**

Bruce Cooper (BC) presented the report and gave an overview of availability, key issues, parts usage, costs and service credits for the period October to December 2023.

BC advised that the EC145 mission equipped availability achieved 34.6% against the previous quarter of 56.1%. The EC135 mission equipped availability achieved 61.4% against a previous quarter of 61.7%.

In terms of serviceable aircraft the EC145 fleet achieved 35.8% in the quarter against the previous quarter of 58.7%. The EC135 increased to 80.9% from 76.7% in the previous quarter impacted by a variety of repairs leading to maintenance overruns and gearbox and engine issues leading to some AOG delays.

**Resolved:**

**Board members noted the update provided and the contents of the report**

1. **NPAS FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND FORECAST POSITION**

Mark Reeves (MR) presented the report and advised the financial position as of 29th February 2024 is indicating an operational underspend of £992k. The year-end forecast is reporting an operational underspend of £1.041m.

MR advised that due to the high number of vacancies across NPAS this equates to an underspend in pay and due to NPAS flying less some of the power by hour costs and other related variable costs are not being incurred resulting in some favourable variances.

**Resolved:**

**Board members noted the financial position of NPAS**

1. **HOME OFFICE UPDATE**

MW stated that the Home Office continue to support various programmes around Transformation, Transition and the Drones programmes and are conscious there is a large amount of work ongoing. MW advised that the Policing Minister has reiterated the importance of working collaboratively across all Programmes to ensure we have both a future fleet and a current fleet that is available to serve the needs of policing collectively.

1. **ITEMS FOR NOTING**

Board members noted:

* Meeting notes from the NPAS Fleet Replacement Strategic Board held on 18 January and 20 February 2024
* Meeting notes of the NPAS Local Strategic Board held on 29 January 2024
* NSB Work Programme

1. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Chair raised that the next meeting will take place on the 20 June and wished PCC colleagues well for the forthcoming PCC elections.

**Date and time of next meeting: 20 June 2024**