# MINUTES

**NATIONAL POLICE AIR SERVICE (NPAS)**

**NATIONAL STRATEGIC BOARD – TRANSITION (MEETING NUMBER 47)**

**25 May 2022 – via Teams**

**PRESENT**

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| **NAME** | **REPRESENTING** |
| CC John Campbell QPM (JC) Interim Chair | Chief Constable Thames Valley Police – South East Region |
| ACC Catherine Akehurst (CA) | Assistant Chief Constable Hampshire Police – South East Region |
| PCC Lisa Townsend (LT) - Chair | Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey – South East Region |
| Ellie Vesey-Thompson (EVT) | Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey - South East Region |
| PFCC Ben Adams (BA) | Police & Fire Crime Commissioner for Staffordshire – West Midlands Region |
| CC Debra Tedds (DT) | Chief Constable Warwickshire Police – West Midlands Region |
| CC Rachel Swann (RS) | Chief Constable Derbyshire Police – East Midlands Region |
| Alison Lowe (AL) | Deputy Mayor West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) |
| CC John Robins QPM (JR) | Chief Constable - West Yorkshire Police – Police Air Operations Certificate Holder (PAOC) |
| Paul Wainwright (PW) on behalf of PCC Jonathan Evison | Assurance Manager – Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner Humberside - North East Region |
| CC Jo Farrell (JF) | Chief Constable Durham Police – North East Region |
| PCC Peter McCall (PM) | Police and Crime Commissioner for Cumbria – North West Region |
| CC Mark Roberts (MR) | Chief Constable Cheshire Police – North West Region |
| Robin Merrett (RM) | Mayor’s Office for Police and Crime (MOPAC) |
| DAC Laurence Taylor (LTa) | Metropolitan Police Service – London Region & Chair of NPAS IAG  NPCC Drones Lead |
| PCC Giles Orpen-Smellie (GOS) | Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk Police – Eastern Region |
| CC Ben Julian-Harrington (BH) | Chief Constable Essex Police – Eastern Region |
| Paul Butler on behalf of PCC Mark Shelford (PB) | OPCC Avon & Somerset – South West Region |
| CC Shaun Sawyer QPM (SS) | Chief Constable Devon and Cornwall Police – South West Region |
| PCC Dafydd Llywelyn (DL) | Police and Crime Commissioner for Dyfed-Powys Police – Wales Region |
| Nigel Harrison on behalf of CC Pam Kelly (NH) | Gwent Police - Wales Region |
| CC Rod Hansen QPM (RH) | Chief Constable NPCC Aviation Lead - Gloucestershire Police - South West Region |
| Aphra Brannan (AB) | National Police Capabilities Unit - Home Office |
| ACC Scott Bisset (SB) | NPAS Chief Operating Officer/Accountable Manager |
| Ch/Supt Vicki White (VW) | NPAS Transition |
| Mark Reeves (MR) | T/Director of Finance and Commercial Services – West Yorkshire Police |
| Glenn Shelley (GS) | NPAS Head of Business Services |
| James Cunningham (JCu) | NPAS Head of Aviation Safety |
| Alan Reiss (AR) | Director of Strategy, Communications and Policing, West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) |
| Rebecca Brookes (RB) | Head of Legal & Governance Services – West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) |
| Caroline Fleming (CF) | Commercial Lawyer, West Yorkshire Legal Services |
| Lianne Deeming (LD) | Chief Executive, BlueLight Commercial |
| Louise Williams (LW) | Regional Policy Officer – West Midlands Region |
| Caroline Peters (CP) | NPCC Aviation Programme Board |
| ACO Gary Ridley (GR) | Durham Police – representing NPCC Finance Committee |
| Susannah Hancock (SH) | Chief Executive, APCC |
| Melanie Jaundziekars (MJ) | NPAS Executive Office Manager |

**APOLOGIES**

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| --- | --- |
| **NAME** | **REPRESENTING** |
| PCC Rupert Matthews (RM) | Police and Crime Commissioner for Leicestershire Police – East Midlands Region |
| Katherine Johnson (KJ) | Assistant Chief Officer – Business Operations West Yorkshire Police |
| Simon Efford (SE) | APCC Secretariat |
| CC Pam Kelly (PK) | Chief Constable Gwent Police - Wales Region |
| PCC Mark Shelford (MS) | Police and Crime Commissioner for Avon & Somerset – South West Region |
| PCC Jonathan Evison (JE) | Police and Crime Commissioner Humberside - North East Region |
| Lisa Fleming (LF) | NPAS Communications Lead |

# ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Apologies were noted and recorded.

# 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were raised.

# 3. MINUTES OF MEETINGS HELD ON 6 APRIL 2022

Minutes were agreed as an accurate record.

# 4. ACTIONS

All actions were discharged.

# 5. CHAIRING ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE NPAS NATIONAL STRATEGIC

# BOARD

CC John Campbell (JC) proposed that PCC Lisa Townsend (LT) take on the role of Chair. Board members unanimously agreed for PCC Townsend to being the new Chair of the Board. Members thanked JC for his work as interim Chair and agreeing to step in and cover under a difficult situation.

Rebecca Brookes (RB) presented the paper and outlined the options and advised there was no provision within the collaboration agreement for the position of Deputy Chair and from a governance perspective it was best practice to have that role for business continuity and resilience.

Members supported the recommendation for a Deputy/Vice Chair and were of the opinion that it should be a PCC as opposed to a Chief Constable given the fact that there are limitations on what Chief Constables can vote on.

**Action 47.1 – LT and RB to discuss the recommendation further regarding a Deputy Chair and to clarify the position regarding designated delegated authorities voting rights**

# 6. WYCA DEADLINE EXTENSION

JC advised members that he had formally written to the Mayor on the 20 May outlining that by no later than 1 June 2023 a decision will have been made regarding a new hosting model and by no later than 1 June 2024 there will have been a suitable handover to the new host model. A formal response is awaited.

**Resolved:**

**Members noted the update provided.**

# 7. NSB AIR SERVICE TRANSITION GOLD GROUP UPDATE

CC Rod Hansen (RH) presented the paper and summarised the six recommendations.

Alison Lowe (AL) advised her understanding was the Board had reached a clear agreement that there would be a continuation of the work to promote lift and shift. It was also understood that BlueLight Commercial (BLC) would look at Plan B with the required resources and expertise and to satisfy value for money requirements and any spending to be in accordance with the rules.

DAC Laurence Taylor (LTa) advised that neither the MPS or WMP were supportive of the lift and shift model and it was important to explore a Plan B and for the Board to identify an appropriate solution.

**Resolved:**

* **Members noted the Gold Group’s progress since the last NSB in April 2022;**
* **Members agreed the status of the Critical Incident should be maintained;**
* **Members agreed that a new Programme Board be established with a new Terms of Reference and to review the membership ensuring relevant expertise and operational input independent of NPAS with an independent Chair. The Programme Board is to have the resource and remit and the capability and capacity to make firm recommendations;**
* **Members agreed to reset a timeline at 18 months using BLC and a new Programme Board to have a decision within 12 months with a six month implementation. Members noted that the NPAS workforce remain uncertain as to their future which also needs to be managed as a Board;**
* **Members agreed that the governance of the Programme Board aligns to the current reporting structures and oversight of the NSB for the national collaboration. It was also agreed that there needs to be very clear decision making as to what the remit of the group is going to be with clear Terms of Reference and would have to follow the Lead Policing Body contract standing orders in consultation with the NPAS financial lead;**
* **Members were supportive of the intention to use BlueLight Commercial (BLC) to facilitate procurement activity in respect of the sourcing of additional external resources and expertise that are not currently available within the NPAS collaboration**

**Action 47.2 – Gold Group to produce a task list for the Board to consider and propose what the independent Programme Board with the involvement of BLC will undertake**

It was agreed that further work was required in order for members to consider the potential source of funding to resource the Programme Board and an indication of costs is to be provided to Board Members in June.

Lianne Deeming (LD) raised it was not about the source of the funding but the scope and it would be difficult to say how much the work would cost until BLC have done the scoping.

Members agreed in principle to pay the additional Deloitte costs up to a maximum of £10.5k subject to detailed negotiations with the Lead Policing Body in order for Deloitte to consider the comments received from NPAS in detail, review the additional information, update and finalise the report.

# 8. FLEET REPLACEMENT UPDATE

Lianne Deeming (LD) presented the report and provided an update in relation to the commercial activity of the Fleet Replacement Programme.

The first stage of the process is underway and are now moving to the Invitation to Negotiate stage; 21 applications were received from 11 suppliers across the 3 lots with 6 suppliers shortlisted.

The two key remaining decisions to be made prior to the launch of the next stage of the procurement process will be the size of aircraft for London Area outsource arrangements and the finance options for NPAS aircraft. A paper is to be presented to Board Members for discussion at the meeting in June.

ACC Scott Bisset (SB) offered to hold a short briefing session for members regarding the seven additional rotary aircraft for the NPAS fleet - members are to contact MJ should they wish to have the briefing.

LD advised that BLC are working on the basis that WYCA is the contracting authority and the considerations and governance that goes with that is the route that would be taken.

LTa stated that drones will develop the capability but drones are not where we need them to be and need a fleet replacement which is essential for the ongoing operation of NPAS.

LTa advised members that there were differing views around the contracting authority and is something which the London region feel very strongly about. AL stated that WYCA do not support subcontracting any part of their contracting authority but would be happy to discuss lifting and shifting the whole contracting authority to another force.

**Resolved:**

**Members noted the update provided and supported the direction of travel**

**9.ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**NPAS Annual Report** – it was agreed that NPAS would produce an Annual Report – **Action 47.3 – NPAS to produce an Annual Report**

LT thanked members for their contribution.

**Date and time of next meeting: 29 June 2022**