# MINUTES

**NATIONAL POLICE AIR SERVICE (NPAS)**

**NATIONAL STRATEGIC BOARD (MEETING NUMBER 44)**

**27 January 2022 – via Teams**

**PRESENT**

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| **NAME** | **REPRESENTING** |
| PCC John Campion (JC) - Chair | Police and Crime Commissioner for West Mercia – West Midlands Region |
| CC Debra Tedds (DT) | Chief Constable Warwickshire Police – West Midlands Region  |
| David Peet (DP) on behalf of PCC Rupert Matthews | CEO - OPCC for Leicestershire Police - East Midlands Region  |
| Oliver Bryan (OB) | OPCC for Leicestershire Police - East Midlands Region |
| ACC Steve Cooper (SC) on behalf of CC Rachel Swann  | Assistant 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) |
| PCC Jonathan Evison (JE)  | 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 (LT)  | Metropolitan Police Service – London Region & Chair of NPAS IAG |
| Commander Owain Richards (OR) | Metropolitan Police Service - London |
| PCC Giles Orpen-Smellie (GOS) | Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk Police – Eastern Region  |
| CC Ben Julian-Harrington (BJH) | Chief Constable Essex Police – Eastern Region  |
| PCC Lisa Townsend (LT)  | Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey - South East Region |
| T/ACC Tim Metcalfe (TM) on behalf of CC John Campbell QPM  | T/Assistant Chief Constable Thames Valley Police – South East Region  |
| Paul Butler on behalf of PCC Mark Shelford (MS) | OPCC Avon & Somerset – South West Region |
| DCC Jim Colwell (JCo) on behalf of CC Shaun Sawyer QPM  | Deputy Chief Constable Devon & Cornwall Police – South West Region |
| PCC Dafydd Llywelyn (DL)  | Police and Crime Commissioner for Dyfed-Powys Police – Wales Region |
| CC Pam Kelly (PK) | Chief Constable Gwent Police - Wales Region  |
| CC Rod Hansen QPM (RH)  | Chief Constable NPCC Aviation Lead - Gloucestershire Police - South West Region |
| ACC Scott Bisset (SB)  | NPAS Chief Operating Officer/Accountable Manager  |
| Chief Superintendent Vicki White (VW) | NPAS Transition  |
| Aphra Brannan (AB) | National Police Capabilities Unit - Home Office |
| Katherine Johnson (KJ) | Assistant Chief Officer – Business Operations West Yorkshire Police  |
| Mark Reeves (MR) | Finance and Commercial Services Director – West Yorkshire Police  |
| Glenn Shelley (GS) | NPAS Head of Business Services  |
| James Cunningham (JCu) | NPAS Head of Aviation Safety |
| Steph McKenzie (SM) | NPAS Head of Technical Services  |
| Scott Gallagher OBE (SG) | NPAS Project Manager |
| Lisa Fleming (LF) | NPAS Communications Lead |
| Rebecca Brookes (RB) | Head of Legal & Governance Services – West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) |
| Caroline Fleming (CF) | Commercial Lawyer, West Yorkshire Legal Services |
| Louise Williams (LW) | Regional Policy Officer – West Midlands Region |
| Caroline Peters (CP) | NPCC Aviation Programme Board |
| Lianne Deeming (LD) | Chief Executive, BlueLight Commercial  |
| Lisa Fleming (LF) | NPAS Communications  |
| Simon Efford (SE) | APCC Secretariat |
| Melanie Jaundziekars (MJ) | NPAS Executive Office Manager |

**APOLOGIES**

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| **NAME** | **REPRESENTING** |
| PCC Rupert Matthews  | Police and Crime Commissioner for Leicestershire Police – East Midlands Region |
| CC Shaun Sawyer QPM | Chief Constable Devon and Cornwall Police – South West Region  |
| CC Rachel Swann | Chief Constable Derbyshire Police – East Midlands Region  |
| CC John Campbell QPM  | Chief Constable Thames Valley Police – South East Region  |
| PCC Mark Shelford  | Police and Crime Commissioner for Avon & Somerset – South West Region  |

# ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Apologies were noted and recorded.

# 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Alison Lowe (AL) declared an interest in Item 7 and advised her intention was not to comment on the particular matters due to the conflict of interest as Deputy Mayor for the West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA). CC John Robins (JR) also declared a conflict of interest for Item 7 as lead local policing body.

# 3. MINUTES OF MEETINGS HELD ON 2 DECEMBER 2021

Minutes were agreed as an accurate record.

# 4. ACTIONS

All actions were discharged.

# 5. FIXED WING UPDATE

ACC Scott Bisset (SB) introduced the paper and summarised the key points and also advised increasing fatigue within the operation - particularly in the North West region. Removing the fixed wing capability which provides national resilience risks increasing fatigue. SB stated all four aircraft are fully serviceable and airworthy, with no further mechanical or technical work required. Katherine Johnson (KJ) advised that NPAS are currently unable to meet the User Requirement (UR) and by retaining the assets would allow greater capacity for the UR to be met. KJ asked members to consider the value of the assets to national policing as opposed to the cost to individual forces and stated disposal would represent a poor example of value for money at this moment in time.

SB advised he would encourage an independent review of the performance benefits following a period of the 4 aeroplanes being in full operation as proposed in the paper.

SB presented the proposal to utilise the aeroplanes to support operational policing across England and Wales, in conjunction with the helicopter fleet. Their deployment would provide much needed resilience and enable the most appropriate asset to undertake the most appropriate task. A debate took place and a vote was taken in respect of whether the planes should be retained or disposed. Consideration was given to the fleet’s capability, endurance, cost, value for money, local user requirements, the need to support national policing, the advantages of a blended fleet, and the issue of the ageing rotary fleet. Under the S22A, 75% of voting members were required in order to dispose of the four fixed wing aircraft.

CF confirmed the Board were quorate and able to take a decision. Each regional chief constable and police and crime commissioner voted and outlined their reason.

**Resolved:**

**As less than 15 members had voted “dispose”** **insufficient consent had been obtained to dispose and all four aircrafts will be retained and utilised as national assets.**

The Chair thanked Board members for the debate and subsequent vote.

# 6. BUDGET SETTING 2022/23

Mark Reeves (MR) presented the balanced revenue budget for the financial year 2022/23 which has been calculated at £40,871m for the rotary fleet plus the cost of retaining all four fixed wing at £2.8m; the total revenue budget is therefore £43,687m.

Board members considered whether to use NPAS reserves to support the funding of the fixed wing fleet but concluded that this was not the best use of reserves. Members also considered how best to split the cost of the fixed wing across the regions using either Net Revenue Expenditure (NRE) or User Requirement flying hours.

**Resolved:**

1. **Board members approved the revenue budget of £43,687 million for 2022/23**
2. **Board members did not support the proposition of using £1.5m of reserves to subsidise the cost of fixed wing in the next financial year**
3. **Board members approved the contributions set out in Appendix C – Force Level rotary cost/plus retaining 4 fixed wing apportioning costs of the basis of the existing User Requirement flying hour %.**

Board members wished to see a strategic overview of how reserves are to be utilised to ensure the Board are making the best use of reserves.

**Action 44.2 - review of reserve strategy to be added to the Work Programme**

JC thanked MR and the finance team for the work in achieving the budget position and thanked Board members for their support in setting the budget.

# 7. NSB GOLD GROUP UPDATE

CC Rod Hansen (RH) presented the report and updated members on the progress of the due diligence work.

Members were informed that the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) and West Midlands Police (WMP) were considering the Phase 1 Due Diligence draft report to inform their future decision on hosting NPAS. The two forces will consider whether they wish to progress to Phase 2 which would entail a deeper dive into 3 areas identified within Phase 1, specifically the Fleet Replacement strategy, future of Fixed Wing and issues relating to liabilities due to TUPE transfer / pensions. If Phase 2 progresses, this would take approximately 6 weeks and be completed at the end of March 2022. The due diligence work continues to be overseen by the NSB Gold Group and Board members are due to have sight of the report in the coming weeks.

A discussion took place regarding contingency planning and members agreed for the Gold Group to step up the work on the contingency plan should neither WMP or MPS decide to become the Lead Local Policing Body for NPAS. Whilst it is the Gold Group’s view that the S22A states that West Yorkshire Police must remain the Lead Force until a replacement is found, concerns were raised regarding the collapsing timeframe and the political will of the potential hosts. The Plan B workshop held in November 2021 identified that there were alternative solutions but none of these were desirable and would require substantial resource to develop further.

A discussion took place regarding independent legal advice in relation to the S22A. JR and AL declared a conflict of interest in respect of the interpretation of the S22A offered by the Gold Group relating to the obligations of the Lead Local Policing Body / Force in respect of their notice to withdraw from that role. The Chair requested that the NPAS legal officer source independent legal support/advice to the Board on such matters going forward, via the APCC/APACCE network.

**Resolved:**

1. **Board members noted the report and agreed the need for further ‘Plan B’ contingency planning**
2. **Board members agreed for CF to facilitate unencumbered advice directly either via the APCC and APACE or other mechanisms**

# 8. HOME OFFICE UPDATE

Aphra Brannan (AB) advised there was nothing further to update from the Home Office.

# 9. ITEMS FOR NOTING

Board members noted:

* Meeting notes from the NPAS Fleet Replacement Strategic Board held on 12 November and 16 December 2021. LD advised the Standard Selection Questionnaire (SSQ) had now been advertised (26th January) on the EU Supply portal for the provision of police aviation services including the fleet replacement programme.
* NPAS Work Programme

# 10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No AOB was raised

JC thanked members for their contribution.

**Date and time of next meeting: 6 April 2022**