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MINUTES

NATIONAL POLICE AIR SERVICE (NPAS)
NATIONAL STRATEGIC BOARD (MEETING NUMBER 21)

21 September 2017

PRESENT

NAME	REPRESENTING
PCC Mark Burns-Williamson OBE (MBW) – Chair	Police and Crime Commissioner for West Yorkshire police – Lead Local Policing Body
CC Dee Collins QPM (DC)	West Yorkshire Police – Lead Local Chief Constable
Ch. Supt Tyron Joyce (TJ)	NPAS Chief Operating Officer
Ollie Dismore (OD)	NPAS Director of Operations
Steven Jones QPM (SJ)	NPAS Assistant Operations Director – North East Region
Janine Nelson (JN)	Solicitor, Legal Services, West Yorkshire Police
Glenn Shelley (GS)	NPAS Head of Business Services
Jenny Walker (JN)	NPAS Marketing & Communications Manager
Katherine Johnson (KJ)	Treasurer – West Yorkshire Office of Police and Crime Commissioner
Mark Reeves (MRe)	Head of Accountancy - West Yorkshire Police
PCC Barry Coppinger (BC)	Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland - North East Region
Claire Craven-Griffiths (CCG) (representing CC David Jones)	North Yorkshire Police – North East Region
PCC Stephen Mold (SM)	Police and Crime Commissioner for Northamptonshire – Central Region
CC Simon Edens (SE)	Northamptonshire Police – Central Region
Cmdr. Matt Twist (MT)	Metropolitan Police Service – London Region

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DS Andy Bevan (AB) (by phone)	Operational Advisor and Deputy Director CT Change Portfolio, National Counter Terrorism
ACC Steve Barry (SB) (representing CC Giles York)	Sussex Police – South East Region
PCC Dafydd Llywelyn (DL) (by phone)	Police and Crime Commissioner for Dyfed- Powys – South West Region
DCC Jon Stratford (JS) (representing CC Andy Marsh) (by phone)	Avon and Somerset Police – South West Region
Robin Merrett – MOPAC (by phone) (representing Rebecca Lawrence)	MOPAC – Mayors Office for Police and Crime
Melanie Jaundziekars (MJ)	NPAS Executive Support Officer

APOLOGIES

NAME	REPRESENTING
PCC Anthony Stansfeld (AS)	Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley - South East Region
CC Dave Jones (DJ)	North Yorkshire Police – North East Region
CC Andy Marsh (AM)	Avon & Somerset Police – South West Region
PCC Peter McCall (PM)	Police and Crime Commissioner for Cumbria – North West Region
CC Giles York (GY)	Sussex Police – South East Region
CC Jerry Graham (JG)	Cumbria Police – North West Region
Fraser Sampson (FS)	T/Chief Executive – Office of Police and Crime Commissioner for North Yorkshire
CC Simon Byrne QPM (SB)	National Police Chief's Council (NPCC) Aviation Lead – North West Region
Rebecca Lawrence (RL)	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 and thanked everyone for attending either in person or via the telephone.

APOLOGIES

Noted and recorded.

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2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared.

3. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 29 JUNE 2017

Minutes were agreed and passed as an accurate record.

4. ACTIONS

See Action List for updates.

5. HMICFRS UPDATE

MBW stated following the last Board meeting the draft HMICFRS study had now been received and had been circulated to Board members. MBW advised that a number of conversations had taken place with the Policing Minister and both himself and CC Dee Collins (DC) had provided feedback. NPAS wanted to ensure Board members had the opportunity to discuss their views and decide the way forward. MBW acknowledged the journey had been challenging so far and NPAS had achieved a great deal to get to this point.

Tyron Joyce (TJ) gave a short presentation which covered the key aspects of the study and areas of concern. TJ thanked Board members for providing feedback and advised there had been an initial submission which resulted in the draft being recirculated and HMICFRS had agreed to change the timeline slightly to take account of the timing of the Strategic Board meeting.

PCC Barry Coppinger (BC) raised concern as to how the study had been commissioned and felt it was an extremely unprofessional reflection on the police service as a whole. Board members highlighted that the study had been commissioned via the National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC) and felt this was the most relevant body to respond. Board members were happy to report back on factual accuracy, tone and contributory data but stated they wanted the NPCC to take a view. DC stated HMICFRS had been briefed around the aspiration of going to a blue light service, however no conversation had taken place at NPCC and it was unfortunate that it had not been articulated anywhere within the report.

Board members considered and discussed the 18 recommendations and made the following comments:-

Recommendation 3 'separation of responsibility' – members supported the recommendation in the short term but felt there was an opportunity for NPCC

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to look at this further and members agreed there needed to be some synergy with the ongoing specialist capabilities work.

Recommendation 6 'latent and patent demand' – not supported in current format as the development of a user requirement is most appropriately undertaken by the NPCC Aviation Lead and inappropriate for NPAS to determine the business requirement.

Recommendation 8 'deployment' – Board members recommended that this sits with the NPCC Aviation Lead

Recommendation 10 & 11 'performance measures'– it was considered that HMICFRS do not have a performance framework for the assessment of specialist capabilities

Recommendation 12 'replacement parts accounting via revenue' – this would be contrary to capital accounting regulations and would mean this would breach external audit scrutiny

Recommendation 13 'maintenance of 19 rotary aircraft' – not supported in its current format as 19 airframes do not cover the usage required

Recommendation 15 'security and CT deployments' – the current reporting and accounting mechanism for the use of CT funding is defined by CT Command.

Recommendation 17 'collaboration' - not supported in current form – members felt this would benefit from the clear ownership of the NPCC Aviation lead.

Recommendation 18 'termination of the existing s22' – members felt the timeline was not tenable and were unable to support

Board members agreed that once the study is published communications need to be in place in order to respond positively.

Action 21.1 – JW and TJ to develop a draft Comms Strategy for consideration

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6. S22 COLLABORATION UPDATE

Janine Nelson (JN) advised feedback had been received from the regions which had been mostly positive. The majority of forces had stated they were happy to sign whereas some forces had stated they would prefer to wait until the funding model had been reviewed. JN stated the current agreement would remain in place until all 43 forces had signed the new collaboration agreement.

7. FIXED WING UPDATE

Ollie Dismore (OD) updated Board members following the flight test conducted by the test pilot who had flown aircraft 3 and 4 and had found deficiencies in performance against the flight manual. OD advised that the process had been followed through and the manufacturer of the aircraft (██████████) was invited to witness a further test flight which corroborated the evidence provided by the test pilot. OD informed members that the issue had now been resolved by an amendment to the flight manual bespoke to the aircraft which is acceptable to NPAS. The first aircraft remains on schedule for delivery in January 2018 with the last aircraft due in April 2018. A project is now in place to cover the transition to business as usual and OD advised he would report back to the Board in December. OD stated NPAS had sought independent legal advice from ██████████

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Board members noted the content of the report.

8. EMERGENCY SERVICES MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS (ESMCP) UPDATE

Steve Jones (SJ) stated the Home Office Programme had published a paper on its review of the air to ground element which states the progression towards a full long term evolution (LTE) solution is the correct way forward. Satellite communication has now been discounted as this is no longer a viable option. The national shutdown date remains the same at 31 December 2019; however the LTE solution is not expected to be available until 2020. There is therefore a need for an interim solution. SJ highlighted there are four end users as well as NPAS, these being Air Ambulance, Maritime & Coastguard, Search & Rescue and MOD. ██████████

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██████████ The Home Office are looking at each end user in terms of their requirements.

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The Programme has proposed a possible solution which they are currently working on and NPAS awaits the solution to see if it is fit for purpose.

Using professional judgement, NPAS estimates that it will take until 2024 to fully modify its fleet to the network. This is based on modifying two aircraft at a time and does not take account of other activity that may impact upon fleet abstraction.

Board members noted the update provided.

9. NPAS CAPITAL PROGRAMME

Glenn Shelley (GS) updated Board members regarding the latest capital programme for NPAS. GS advised that due to the delays with the Fixed Wing project, funding would need to be moved from 2017/18 to 2018/19 in order to meet the final payments for the aircraft upon their acceptance. There had also been an increased provision in 2018/19 for spare parts. Following delays with the procurement process for the IT network the majority of spend will occur in 2018/19 rather than 2017/18 as originally planned.

Board members noted the 17/18 capital programme.

10. NPAS LONDON

GS updated Board members on the delivery of the replacement base for Lippitts Hill. NPAS have received details of the full costs for [REDACTED] GS stated that NPAS are making good progress with North Weald Airfield and recently attended the cabinet meeting at Epping Forest District Council where subject to planning permission the Council were in favour of NPAS attending and being based at North Weald air field. This would be a significant saving in cost compared to Lippitts Hill. GS stated there are a number of operational advantages at North Weald over Northolt and an estimated timeline is for completion at the end of September; NPAS hope to have planning permission in place at the end of November 2017.

Board members noted the update provided and supported continuing development of the base of NPAS London at North Weald airfield.

CC Simon Edens (SE) raised the point that the DIO had stated that NPAS is not recognised as a State Operator and would be treated as a commercial enterprise. With regard to lighting at North Weald, OD advised NPAS would have their own lighting for helicopter operations; should North Weald become

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a significant operating base for fixed wing, NPAS would need a full set of runway lights. OD advised a further update would be provided at the Board meeting in December.

TJ advised a letter had been sent to Air Commodore Stringer, RAF High Wycombe, regarding a national agreement for landing fees as at present NPAS individually negotiate with each of the MOD airfields when visiting for operational purposes.

Action 21.2 – MBW to write on behalf of the Board in order to progress the issue with landing fees

MBW noted the good progress made in respect of North Weald and thanked the NPAS team.

11. FINANCE UPDATE

Mark Reeves (MR) advised Board members as at 31 August the revenue budget for NPAS had delivered £106k of early savings with a projection to the end of the year of £227K early savings. Police staff pay is overspent due to costs of employment tribunals, secondments are also overspending as the mix of staff is slightly different. MR stated aircraft costs are underspending mainly due to aircraft fuel which is likely to increase as the assumptions made around fuel required for the fixed wing aircraft have slipped.

Board members noted the budget position of NPAS as at 31 August 2017

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

LOCAL BOARD MINUTES

Board members noted

SWORD OF HONOUR AWARD

TJ advised that the Honourable Company of Air Pilots make awards to people who have delivered outstanding achievements in aviation and had approved the presentation of the Sword of Honour to NPAS for 2017 in relation to the terrorist events. PCC Mark Burns-Williamson and CC Dee Collins are to represent NPAS along with two operational staff who were involved in the response at that time.

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

HOME OFFICE LETTER

MBW advised members that a letter had been received on 21 September from the Home Office reiterating their position that they are awaiting the fleet replacement plan and summarises their response to the HMICFRS report.

Action 21.3 – a copy of the letter to be circulated to Board members

MBW thanked everyone for their contributions and for attending the meeting.

**Date and time of next meeting – 7 December 2017 – 13:00 – 16:00
Carr Gate, Bradford Road, Wakefield, WF2 0QD**