



### Subway Policing and Security - British Transport Police contract renewal

**Date of meeting** 31 March 2017

**Date of report** 8 March 2017

#### Report by Assistant Chief Executive (Operations)

#### 1. Object of report

To recommend approval of the renewal of a contract with British Transport Police (BTP) for the provision of policing services on the Subway.

#### 2. Background

- 2.1 SPT currently has an Enhanced Police Services Agreement (EPSA) with BTP for policing the Subway as part of our overall policing and security strategy for SPT assets. The current EPSA contract commenced in March 2014 for a three year period and is due to expire at the end of March 2017.
- 2.2 A key focus of our policing and security strategy for the subway relates to the busiest periods, such as when football or other major public events take place and the presence of BTP officers, supported by SPT's security team and stewards, provides an effective model for ensuring public safety. This overall strategy has resulted in low level of reported crime on the subway with an average of 60 reported crimes per year over the last 3 year period, against a backdrop of nearly 13 million passenger trips.
- 2.3 Members will recall that Scottish Government is proposing to integrate BTP in Scotland into the wider Police Scotland structure and has recently undertaken public consultation<sup>1</sup>. Given the potential for a changed structure, the duration and contract arrangements set out below have taken this into account.

#### 3. Proposals

- 3.1 Review of existing arrangements
  - 3.1.1 Whilst acknowledging the continued low level of crime, subway senior management undertook a review of the current contract, the incidents of crime and feedback from frontline staff. The review then allowed a detailed discussion with BTP to seek a number of improvements to the current service and negotiation on a proposed cost for the services.
  - 3.1.2 The key improvements relate to a more focussed attendance of BTP officers during periods of greatest operational demand and when incidents are likely to occur (i.e. on weekend evenings, football matches at Ibrox Stadium and during other major public events). Other improvements include the incorporation of

<sup>1</sup> See Report to Strategy & Programmes Committee and SPT Response at <http://www.spt.co.uk/documents/sp090916agenda8.pdf>

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services not currently within the existing contract price such as additional crime advice, intelligence, campaign support and call outs.

## 3.2 Scope of service

From the review of the existing contract noted above, the proposed scope of service is summarised as follows:

- Dedicated patrol officers with specific focus on weekend evenings
- Enhanced cover for football (including pre and post-match times)
- Call-outs included outwith normal contracted provision
- Crime reduction advice
- Crime investigation and intelligence functions
- Enhanced anti-terrorism patrols where required
- Daily mobile patrol visits to Broomloan Depot at vulnerable periods
- Post incident investigation including forensic examinations where required
- Conflict resolution training to SPT staff
- Campaigns to combat fraud/graffiti

## 3.3 Proposed cost

Following detailed negotiations and incorporating the various improvements above, the proposed cost for the contract is £123,000 per annum (subject to annual variation in line with BTP pay award), which equates to the existing contract cost. As noted above, this cost now includes significantly improved services and at times better suited to police presence in the system and therefore is deemed to represent value for money.

## 3.4 Contract length and timing

The proposed contract duration is 2 years, with an option to extend for a further year. This period and timing is to reflect the on-going plans for integration of BTP into Police Scotland, which is currently planned to take effect in 2 years' time. The option to extend for the further year is to allow for the scenario where the integration takes longer than currently planned.

## 4. Conclusions

- 4.1 The current Police Service Agreement with BTP for a dedicated policing service for SPT on the Subway is due to expire on 31 March 2017. There is an on-going requirement for such services within the subway and negotiations with BTP to renew this contract has concluded with a significantly improved service which includes greater focus of BTP Officer time during those periods of greatest operational need including on weekend evenings, during football matches and other major public events at the same cost as the existing contract.
- 4.2 The proposed cost of £123,000 per annum (subject to annual variation in line with BTP pay award) is the same cost as the existing contract with an improved scope of service.

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4.3 The duration and the timing of the contract has allowed for the future integration within Police Scotland.

## 5. Partnership action

The Partnership is recommended to approve the renewal of the contract with the British Transport Police for the next two years with an option to extend for a further one year at a cost of £123,000 per annum (subject to annual variation in line with BTP pay award).

## 6. Consequences

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|-------------------------|--|
| Policy consequences     | <i>In line with RTS outcome of Safety and Security.</i>  |
| Legal consequences      | <i>None at present.</i>  |
| Financial consequences  | <i>The costs have been included within subway revenue budget for policing and security services.</i> |
| Personnel consequences  | <i>None directly.</i>  |
| Equalities consequences | <i>Providing dedicated BTP Officer time promotes passenger and staff safety.</i>                     |
| Risk consequences       | <i>Regular Incident Reviews will improve risk identification and management.</i>                     |

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