

POLICE COMMITTEE
Friday, 1 November 2013

Minutes of the meeting of the Police Committee held at Committee Rooms, 2nd Floor, West Wing, Guildhall on Friday, 1 November 2013 at 11.00 am

Present

Members:

Deputy Henry Pollard (Chairman)
Deputy Douglas Barrow (Deputy Chairman)
Mark Boleat
Simon Duckworth
Alderman Alison Gowman
Brian Harris
Don Randall

Officers:

| | |
|----------------|----------------------------|
| Alex Orme | - Town Clerk's Department |
| Xanthe Couture | - Town Clerk's Department |
| James Goodsell | - Town Clerk's Department |
| Suzanne Jones | - Chamberlain's Department |

City of London Police:

| | |
|----------------|--|
| Adrian Leppard | - Commissioner |
| Wayne Chance | - Commander of Operations |
| Eric Nisbett | - Director of Corporate Services |
| Stuart Phoenix | - Deputy Head of Strategic Development |

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Deputy Joyce Nash, Helen Marshall, Vivienne Littlechild, Keith Knowles and Deputy Regan.

2. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES

3.a) The public minutes and summary of the meeting held on 23 September 2013 were approved as a correct record subject to the following amendments -

- Item 7 (Crime and Courts Act 2013) - a correction to specify the Remembrancer would brief the Chairman further as opposed to the Town Clerk;

- Item 10 (Accommodation Review Update) - to note the robust reserve methodology developed by the Force; and
- Item 12 (Questions on Matters Relating to the Work of the Committee) – to note the Commander of Operations had clarified the existing Force Twitter accounts.

Matters Arising

Transient Community and / Visitors

The Chairman noted the Road Safety report, which would be brought to Committee in January 2014, would include further information on the work of the Street Intervention Team and Police Community Support Officers to reduce cycle crime.

3.b) The public minutes and summary of the Economic Crime Board held on 23 September 2013 were received subject to the following amendments -

- Item 4 (Economic Crime Update, National Fraud Authority) – corrected to state the Chairman would liaise with the Town Clerk and the Chamberlain on the form of the letter that would be sent to the NCA advisory board on funding for Action Fraud.

Matters Arising

The Chairman noted that the Economic Crime Awareness Day had been well received, including positive feedback from the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners. He expressed thanks to the Commissioner, the Force and the Town Clerk's Department for their work in delivering the event and suggested that it could serve as an annual event.

4. OUTSTANDING REFERENCES

Integrity Dashboard

The Commissioner informed Members that there was increasing public focus on police ethics and this would be an important report for the Committee to receive in December.

CoLP Reserves Report

The Chamberlain advised that this report would demonstrate the rationale for the Force reserves, and the views of Police Committee Members would be important to consider in advance of the report being considered at Finance Committee in February 2014.

Social Media Report and Workshops

In response to timeline for Force workshops on social media use, the Commissioner suggested that a report on the Force's use of Twitter could be

included as part of the next Community Engagement update before the workshops scheduled in February 2014.

Members and officers discussed that the use of social media by large organisations was resource intensive and faced unique obstacles. A Member suggested that the Force prioritise Twitter communications for practical and current information directed at people and businesses in the City.

5. STANDARD ITEM ON THE SPECIAL INTEREST AREA SCHEME

5.a) Community Engagement Update

The Committee received a report of the Commander of Operations that updated Members on recent community engagement activities, community priorities and forthcoming events.

The Commander of Operations advised that a squat had been closed down in Tower Hamlets which had led to a slight increase in rough sleepers in the City. There had been an incident on the 30th of October that had led to the arrest of thirteen people and ended an occupation of a property. The Force was working with the City of Westminster to relocate people into housing. Supt Norma Collicott was a Member of the City's Health and Well Being Board where she supported initiatives to help rough sleepers such as suicide prevention and mental health assistance.

A Member remarked on the importance of Operation Fennel in working with City businesses, and the Commander of Operations added that it was important to deal with the issues that caused begging as displacement could skew figures. The Commissioner added that the project required resources, shared intelligence and constant vigilance.

The Chairman noted that the Hotel Forum launch had been well attended as well as the Safety First event.

Members and officers discussed the Eid event held at the Guildhall, Members supported the idea that in future, the City of London Corporation could play a larger role in hosting the event. It was noted that in the past, an Eid event had been hosted by the Lord Mayor at Mansion House and was in line with City of London priorities.

5.b) Equality Diversity and Human Rights (EDHR) Update

The Commander of Operations provided an update on behalf of the Equality and Diversity Manager that outlined the following –

- The initial feedback from the Stonewall Index and connections that had been established with other Forces were helping the Force to develop its own areas of improvement in identified areas;

- Self-assessment of the Disability Standard had begun and results would be analysed; and
- Events were being coordinated for the International Day of Persons with Disabilities for the 3 December 2013 and a Women's Network event scheduled for the 2 December 2013.

5.c) Any Other Special Interest Area Updates

There were no other updates.

6. SPECIAL INTEREST AREA SCHEME 2013/14 - MID YEAR UPDATE

The Committee received a joint report of the Town Clerk and Commissioner of Police which informed Members of key developments in each of the Special Interest Areas over the past six months (April to September 2013).

Anti-Social Behaviour

The Lead Member for Anti-Social Behaviour remarked that several measures had been met with reduced resources. It was noted that these figures were substantial for the Force, regardless of the fact that national statistics for Anti-Social Behaviour were on the decline.

The Commissioner added that there was still a perception that levels of anti-social behaviour were unchanged from last year. It was discussed that the Force should work to share the message with the public that the City has low levels of crime and low anti-social behaviour.

Economic Crime / Fraud

The Lead Member for Economic Crime / Fraud stated that the Force was doing a good job in its response to economic crime and in its role as the National Lead Force for Fraud, for which resources were diminishing. While crime figures were dropping nationally, the rates of economic crime were increasing and could be considered as the new 'clean crime'. He added that Police and Crime Commissioners had not been pleased with the response rate of Action Fraud when economic crime was previously reported.

Members and officers discussed the recent Home Office reforms, of which Action Fraud would now be part of the Force's National Fraud Investigation Bureau. The Force needed to communicate its role and the role of police local authorities on cases of economic crime as there could be reputational risk involved when the Force assumed responsibility for Action Fraud.

The Commissioner added that the Economic Crime Awareness Day had supported the PCCs gaining further details of how Action Fraud functioned and that PCCs needed to influence resources through their Chief Constables. The Force would need to establish quality control, and the number of complaints

that were being allocated back to Forces and being investigated was not satisfactory.

Members discussed that the Force needed to articulate the lack of resources nationally to defend against the increasing amount of fraud and the role the Force played that would grow with responsibility for Action Fraud. A Member suggested that complaints received at Professional Standards Integrity Sub (Police) Committee may need to be reported separately. The Commissioner added that these would begin to be categorised as part of a national reporting process.

Business Improvement, Performance Management and Risk

The Lead Member for Business Improvement, Performance Management and Risk stated the inspections and audits undertaken with the Member engagement were highly regarded by the HMIC.

7. CITY FIRST EVALUATION AND MEASURES

The Committee received a report of the Commissioner of Police which updated Members on the City First Change Programme.

The Commissioner noted that the City First Programme had resulted in an overall reduction in staff headcount, notwithstanding increases in the Economic Crime work stream and the expected force establishment would now be 730 officers.

The Chairman noted that the City Futures programme had been discussed at the Member's Police Committee workshop and the Commissioner would present it to Members at Committee in December.

A Member remarked that the current figures did not measure the diversity in the workforce and would be included in a future report to Committee.

The Deputy Chairman noted that the detection rates were being examined as part of considerations for targets for the Policing Plan 2014-15. Members agreed that caution was required in establishing additional targets as there was the risk of distorting behaviour and creating perverse incentives. The Commissioner added that the Home Secretary held the view that having large numbers of targets was not necessarily better and that established rates of crime and detection should be clear. While the focus remained on crime reduction, the best way to measure this was a dashboard indicator system.

A Member noted that detection rates and crime rates were both down, which could hypothetically be due to underreporting. It was thus important that the Force communicate crime reporting and current figures and engage with communities.

8. QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

There were no questions.

9. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT**

The Chairman noted that the Police Committee dinner had been a great success, with a range of different policing stakeholders present. He thanked all those who had attended.

The Chairman reminded Members of the next Police Committee workshop to be held the 6th December and the next meeting of the Safer City Partnership.

10. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

RESOLVED – That under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of the Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act.

| Item No | Exempt Paragraphs |
|---------|-------------------|
| 11 | 3 |
| 12 | 3 |
| 13 | 3 |
| 14 | 3 |
| 15 | 3 |
| 17 | 3 |

11. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**

11.a) **The non-public minutes and summary of the meeting held on 23 September 2013 were approved as a correct record.**

11.b) **The non-public minutes and summary of the Economic Crime Board held on 23 September 2013 were received.**

11.c) **The non-public minutes and summary of the Police Leadership Team meeting held on 8 October 2013 were received.**

12. **FINAL GATEWAY 3 - POLICE ACCOMMODATION STRATEGY**

The Committee considered report of the Chamberlain that requested Members approve the Final Gateway 3 of the Police Accommodation Strategy.

13. **EXTENSION TO THE OFFICE LEASE FOR INSURANCE FRAUD ENFORCEMENT DEPARTMENT AT 21 NEW STREET**

The Committee considered a report of the Commissioner of Police that sought approval for the extension of the lease for the second floor of 21 New Street, London EC2 until October 2016.

14. **POLICE DESKTOP UPGRADE**

The Committee considered a joint report of the Commissioner of Police and Chamberlain that requested approval for a City of London Police desktop upgrade.

15. **COMMISSIONER'S UPDATES**

The Commissioner of Police was heard concerning on-going and successful operations undertaken by the City of London Police.

16. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

There were no questions.

17. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE COMMITTEE AGREE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED**

The following items of urgent business were raised –

The meeting ended at 12.27 pm

Chairman

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