

CITY OF LONDON POLICE AUTHORITY BOARD
Wednesday, 13 December 2023

Minutes of the meeting of the City of London Police Authority Board held at
Committee Rooms, 2nd Floor, West Wing, Guildhall on Wednesday, 13 December
2023 at 11.00 am

Present

Members:

Deputy James Thomson (Chair)
Tijs Broeke (Deputy Chair)
Nicholas Bensted-Smith
Alderman Professor Emma Edhem
Helen Fentimen
Jason Groves
Graham Packham
Deborah Oliver
Collett (External Member)
Andrew Lentin (External Member)
Sir Craig Mackey (External Member)
Michael Mitchell (External Member)

Officers:

Greg Moore	- Town Clerk's Department
Chris Rumbles	- Town Clerk's Department
Kezia Barrass	- Town Clerk's Department
Richard Riley	- Police Authority
Bob Roberts	- Environment Department
Ian Hughes	- Environment Department
Frank Marchione	- Comptroller and City Solicitors Department
Alistair Cook	- Joint CFO for COL Police Force & Police Authority
Oliver Bolton	- City of London Police Authority
Josef Shadwell	- City of London Police Authority
Rachael Waldron	- City of London Police Authority

City of London Police:

Peter O'Doherty	- T/ Commissioner
Paul Betts	- City of London Police
Umer Khan	- City of London Police
Christopher Bell	- City of London Police
Alix Newbold	- City of London Police
Oliver Shaw	- City of London Police
Hayley Williams	- City of London Police
Gary Brailsford-Hart	- City of London Police

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Alderman Timothy Hailes and Dawn Wright.

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

There were no declarations.

3. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED, that - the minutes of the meeting held on 22 November 2023 be approved, as an accurate record.

COMMITTEE MINUTES

a. Draft minutes of the Professional Standards and Integrity Committee

The Board received the draft public minutes of the Professional Standards and Integrity Committee on the 7 November 2023

A member commented on the discussion at the meeting relating to whether the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy relating to engagement would cover London widely or specifically the Square Mile. The Chair of the Professional Standards and Integrity Committee agreed to report on this decision. The first draft of the strategy will be completed in early 2024.

The Chair noted a review panel that was held in December 2023 that was not quorate, the Police Authority Team agreed to work on this process to avoid inquorate meetings in the future.

RESOLVED- That the draft minutes be noted.

b. Draft minutes of the Economic Crime and Cyber Crime Committee

The Board received the draft public minutes of the Economic and Cyber Crime Committee on the 9 November 2023.

RESOLVED- That the draft minutes be noted.

c. Draft minutes of the Strategic Planning and Performance Committee

The Board received the draft public minutes of the Strategic Planning and Performance Committee on the 13 November 2023.

RESOLVED- That the draft minutes be noted.

d. Draft minutes of the Resource Risk and Estates Committee on the 27 November 2023

The Board received the draft public minutes of the Resource Risk and Estates Committee on the 27 November 2023.

RESOLVED- That the draft minutes be noted.

4. **OUTSTANDING REFERENCES**

The Board received a report of the Town Clerk, which set out Outstanding References from previous meetings of the Committee and noted the following:

- Vision Zero has been discussed with the Chair of Streets and Walkways and will be presented at the Police Authority Board on 7 February 2024.
- The Deputy Chair gave apologies for his assumption at the last Police Authority Board around the perception of the timing of the Vision Zero report.

RESOLVED, that - the report be noted.

5. **CHAIR'S PUBLIC UPDATE**

The Board received the Chair's update, noting particularly the Chair's thanks for the work of the City of London Police and Corporation officers covering the pro-Palestinian march which started in the City on the 9 December, noting also the cross-border operation with pan London policing partners.

The Chair noted correspondence with the Home Secretary and an impending visit and noted positive engagement with the Policing Minister and the Shadow Policing Minister.

The Chair noted that the Independent Custody Visitors Association (ICVA) had announced that the City's Independent Custody Visitors Scheme is assessed to be 'Code Compliant' when examined against the Association's Quality Assurance Framework (QAF). The Chair expressed his thanks to the ICV volunteers and the Police Authority Team for their work on this.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

6. **COMMISSIONER'S PUBLIC UPDATE**

The Board received the Commissioner's update and echoed their thanks to the City of London Police for its work on the recent protest marches.

It was noted that the Commissioner had been commissioned to lead a review of a data breach which took place in August 2023 for the Police Service of Northern Ireland relating to the publication of personal data of police officers. The resulting O'Doherty report contained 37 recommendations and highlighted the necessity to protect data and information as a priority for all police forces. The City of London Police will be reviewing all 37 recommendations in relation to their own work.

The Commissioner outlined the ongoing work on the Victim Strategy with the Police Authority Team and shared that a short-term delivery plan was being developed, including ensuring the resourcing of its delivery.

A member requested that the report on the O'Doherty recommendations be shared with the City of London Police Authority Board in early 2024 following the Resource Risk and Estates Committee.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

7. **DRAFT REFRESHED POLICING PLAN 2024-2025**

The Board received a report of the Commissioner which provided an update of the refreshed policing plan for 2024-2025.

During the discussion the following points were noted:

- Members were encouraged to send any further comments directly to the report author.
- The Chair noted a plan to share a briefing with the Court of Common Council in January 2024, to include the work on the Victim Strategy, and the public, community and residential engagement with the City of London Police.
- A member requested that benchmarks against success measurables are included in the final version of the plan. The Assistant Commissioner noted that the force already reports on the Policing Plan measures quarterly which were set and agreed by this Board at the beginning of the performance year.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

8. **Q2 CAPITAL AND REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2023-2024**

The Board received a report of the Commissioner which provided an update of the Q2 capital and revenue budget for 2023 – 2024.

During the discussion the following points were noted:

- Members were asked to note the proposal to draw down £2.6m from general reserves to pay legacy Action Fraud and ULEZ loans. The Chair noted exceptional asset recovery levels in previous years and was pleased to accelerate this repayment.
- The Chair welcomed any initiative to reduce Action Fraud overspend or seeks to recover funds from other parts of the programme.
- The Chamberlain noted concerns about the share of funding and if the agreement is equitable.
- There has been a clear strategy established relating to full cost recovery, to ensure that necessary recharges are applied as appropriate.
- There has been a significant uplift in calls to Action Fraud from 1500 to 4000 per month, and this is responsible for some overspend on call handlers.
- It was noted that there are 88 vacancies within the core staff model, which is a national issue in policing. A campaign in January would be launched to attract staff into these roles, and a target has been set to fill these roles by November 2024.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

9. **INTERIM UPDATE ON SPECIAL CONSTABULARY**

The Board received a report of the Commissioner which provided an update on the Special Constabulary.

During the discussion the following points were noted:

- The officer and staff uplift consisted of a mix of new joiners and experienced staff through transfer. This was highlighted as a positive foundation, and a further update will be shared in March 2024.
- A member noted concern about the numbers of special sergeants decreasing.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

10. COMMUNITY SAFETY ACCREDITATION SCHEME, BYELAWS AND PARKGUARD CONTRACT UPDATE

The Board received a report of the Town Clerk, which provided an update on the Community Safety Accreditation Scheme powers, byelaws, the Parkguard contract, and the position of 'other' policing organisations in the City.

During the discussion the following points were noted:

- The Chair shared concerns that the uniforms of the Hampstead Heath Constabulary look very similar to the uniforms of the City of London Police Officers. The Executive Director of Environments was happy to consider this issue and willing to do so in consultation with the Chair of the Board. The Deputy Chair felt that it would be beneficial to engage with the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee. The Chair and Director of Police Authority agreed to write a letter to the Chair of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee expressing these concerns.
- The Deputy Chair felt it crucial that the Police Authority Board has oversight of the use of powers, training, and recruitment of Parkguard employees. A member requested that these reports include activity reports and key performance indicators, and include information about the diversity, the training and the vetting of these constabulary.
- A member requested that there is considered communication with residents once these powers are delegated to outline the powers and changes and ensure continued support and engagement of residents.

RESOLVED, that – The Board agreed to the recommendation to delegate CSAS powers to Parkguard, for a 12-month trial period and an ask for reporting on the use of these powers. The Chair suggested writing a letter with recommendations to Children and Community Services around diversity, training and vetting procedures and expectations.

11. BARBICAN CCTV UPDATE

The Board received a report of the Town Clerk which provided an update of the Barbican CCTV.

RESOLVED, that – The Board agreed to support the recommendation not to progress further installing police-monitored CCTV networks in residential areas of the Barbican Estate and refer this issue to the Safer City Partnership (SCP) for onward monitoring.

12. CITY OF LONDON POLICE RISK REGISTER

The Board received a report of the Commissioner which provided an update on the City of London Police risk register.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

13. SERIOUS VIOLENCE DUTY STRATEGY

The Board received a report of the Town Clerk which outlined the Serious Violence Duty Strategy.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

14. QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE BOARD

There were no questions.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT

There were no items of urgent business.

16. 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 I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act.

17. NON-PUBLIC MINUTES

RESOLVED, that - the non public minutes of the meeting held on 22 November 2023, be approved as an accurate record

17a. PREVIOUS NON PUBLIC MINUTES - PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND INTEGRITY COMMITTEE

RESOLVED, that – the non-public minutes of the Professional Standards and Integrity Committee on the 7 November 2023 be noted.

17b. PREVIOUS NON PUBLIC MINUTES ECONOMIC AND CYBER CRIME COMMITTEE

RESOLVED, that – the non-public minutes of the Economic and Cyber Crime Committee on the 9 November 2023 be noted.

17c. PREVIOUS NON PUBLIC MINUTES RESOURCE RISK AND ESTATES COMMITTEE

RESOLVED, that – the non-public minutes of the Resource, Risk and Estates Committee on the 27 November 2023 be noted.

18. NON-PUBLIC OUTSTANDING REFERENCES

The Committee received a joint report of the Town Clerk and Commissioner which set out the non-public Outstanding References from previous meetings of the Committee.

19. CHAIR'S NON-PUBLIC UPDATE

The Board heard the Chair's non-public update.

20. COMMISSIONER'S UPDATES

The Board received the Commissioner's non-public update.

21. MTFP UPDATE INCLUDING RESERVES POLICY AND PRE-SETTLEMENT BUDGET ENVELOPE 2024-2025

The Board received a report of the Commissioner and PA Treasurer covering the medium-term financial plan update for 2024 – 2025.

22. SECURITY REPORT: INFORMATION SECURITY (DEEP DIVE)

The Board received a report of the Commissioner which provided a deep dive into Information Security within the City of London Police.

23. RISK REGISTER UPDATE – APPENDICES

The Board received a report of the Commissioner on the City of London Police Risk Register Update.

24. NON-PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE BOARD

There were no questions.

25. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE BOARD AGREES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED

There were no items of urgent business

The meeting ended at 13:33

Chairman

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