

CITY OF LONDON POLICE AUTHORITY BOARD
Monday, 9 November 2020

Minutes of the meeting of the City of London Police Authority Board held virtually on
Monday, 9 November 2020 at 10.00 am

Present

Members:

Deputy James Thomson (Chairman)
Douglas Barrow (Deputy Chairman)
Caroline Addy
Nicholas Bensted-Smith
Deputy Keith Bottomley
Tijs Broeke
Alderman Emma Edhem
Alderman Timothy Hailes
Dawn Wright
Andrew Lentin (External Member)
Deborah Oliver (External Member)

City of London Police Authority:

Simon Latham	- Deputy Chief Executive
Alex Orme	- Head of Police Authority Team
Oliver Bolton	- Deputy Head of Police Authority Team
Rachael Waldron	- Compliance Lead
Alistair Cook	- Head of Police Authority Finance
Chandni Tanna	- Town Clerk's Department
Polly Dunn	- Town Clerk's Department
Kerry Nicholls	- Town Clerk's Department
Christopher Bell	- Chamberlain's Department
Gary Brailsford-Hart	- Chamberlain's Department
James Gibson	- Chamberlain's Department
Paul Chadha	- Comptroller and City Solicitor

City of London Police:

Ian Dyson	- Commissioner of the City of London Police
Alistair Sutherland	- Assistant Commissioner
Clinton Blackburn	- Commander (Economic Crime)
David Evans	- Commander (Operations and Security)
Cecilie Booth	- Chief Operating and Chief Financial Officer
Martin O'Regan	- Estates and Support Services Director City of London Police
Rebecca Rigg	- Det. Chief Supt Action Fraud and NFIB, City of London Police
Hayley Williams	- City of London Police

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Alderman Alison Gowman.

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

The Chairman declared an interest in the additional public report to be taken under item 13 of the agenda. The report contains reference to the affiliation of the Cadets with the Grocers' Company, of which the Chairman was a member.

3. **MINUTES - 1 OCTOBER 2020**

RESOLVED, that the public minutes and the non-public summary of the meeting held on 1 October 2020, be approved as an accurate record.

4. **MINUTES - 6 OCTOBER 2020**

It was noted that use of algorithms and artificial intelligence within the City of London Police should be submitted to the Board as an annual item. Force colleagues were asked to advise the Town Clerk where the report should sit within the annual cycle of meetings.

RESOLVED, that the public minutes and the non-public summary of the meeting held on 6 October 2020, be approved as an accurate record.

5. **OUTSTANDING REFERENCES**

The Committee considered a report of the Town Clerk which set out Outstanding References from previous meetings of the Committee.

- 37/2019/P – The projected completion date for works on the exercise yard was the 5 February 2021.
- 38/2020/P – The Chairman confirmed that invitations had been extended to IASG colleagues to attend the Board meeting in December 2020. It was also hoped that the Chairman of the PSI Committee would also meet with IASG in due course.

RESOLVED, that the report be noted.

6. **MINUTES OF COMMITTEES**

a) **Professional Standards and Integrity Committee**

In the absence of the Chairman of the Committee, the Chairman of the Board drew Members attention to the discourse on Stop and Search figures and the importance of keeping on top of any concerns involving racial bias in light of BLM and COVID-19 enforcement.

Whilst acknowledging the porous policing boundary around the City, a question was raised as to whether there was sufficient transparency on how this works. In response the Commissioner confirmed that the COLP and Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) would both respond to immediate demands for assistance, whether that be special resource or otherwise,

as safety of Londoners was paramount. There was, however, a long-standing arrangement between the Forces called the Benbow agreement. Some work was being undertaken on the Benbow Agreement and it was suggested that at an appropriate time the Force would provide a briefing note to Members on the subject.

RESOLVED, that the draft public minutes and non-public summary of the meeting held on 14 September 2020, be received.

b) Police Pensions Board

RESOLVED, that the draft public minutes and non-public summary of the meeting held on 9 October 2020, be received.

c) Economic Crime Committee

RESOLVED, that the draft public minutes and non-public summary of the meeting held on 12 October 2020, be received.

d) Performance and Resource Management Committee

RESOLVED, that the draft public minutes and non-public summary of the meeting held on 16 October 2020, be received.

7. CHAIRMAN'S PUBLIC UPDATE

The Chairman provided a verbal update on his activities in his capacity as Chairman of the City of London Police Authority Board.

The Chairman had been involved in presenting to the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC) and West Midlands Fraud Forum on the 19 October 2020. The presentation focussed on Action fraud and on National Lead Force (NLF) and was made to a range of interested parties including some PCCs as well as individuals from a range of organisations such as HMRC. The Forum coincided with a launch of a report conducted by West Midlands on fraud in the UK, covering successful strategies and shortfalls on tackling economic crime. The Chairman felt that this report tied in with what City of London Police were seeking to do in terms of a pro-active engagement and communications strategy across the Force, Authority and Corporation, ensuring there was no perceived vacuum within that narrative.

The Chairman also participated in discussions last week with PCCs on the Strategic Policing requirement. There was ongoing consultation on the existing arrangements and how it may, or may not, be changed going forward. There had been very little support from PCCs to change the current Policing Requirement, but the Chairmen felt that it could have the ability to bring greater focus on tackling fraud at a local level.

Regarding the national agenda, a session was being set up with PCCs (with support of APCC) on what was being done on NLF, featuring various specialist units including updates on Action Fraud. This was due to take place on 9 December.

The Chairman had given some time to Brexit preparedness and what that means with various agreements with European law enforcement going forward.

Finally, the Chairman wanted to flag a significant matter being reported through PRM Committee: the budget for next year and Medium-Term Financial Plan.

RESOLVED, that the update be noted.

8. **COMMISSONER'S PUBLIC UPDATE**

The Commissioner provided a verbal update regarding activities of the City of London Police Force.

Crime continued to remain low compared to this time last year, which was considered understandable given the circumstances in the City. Nevertheless. The Force were alive to the fact there is still crime taking place. For example, in addition to the continued focus on protective security and Counter Terrorism (CT), last week, the Force identified a group that was stealing pedal cycles in the City. Having identified their address, around 60 cycles recovered and were to be reunited with their owners. The individuals in question were being dealt with and interviewed accordingly.

In light of the pared back ceremonies for Remembrance Sunday, the Commissioner had laid a wreath outside the war memorial at the Royal Exchange and had paid respects on behalf of the City of London Police Force.

Recruitment of officers continued in line with the overall plan, and 10 days prior to the meeting, the Commissioner had attended a Passing Out Parade at Wellington Barracks for the Force's latest intake of recruits. It had been a good event despite the fact that, frustratingly, no families had been able to attend. The event was recorded, and Members would have the opportunity to watch it if they so wished.

The Commissioner had initiated a series of workshops within the Force, to get the Senior Team to think about the future and the Force and its relationship with national policing and within the Square Mile, in light of changing environment of COVID-19. Questions were being asked about what it might mean for a small Force and its future. Members of the Police Authority Board had been involved in some of this work already. A series of different areas had been identified for further work: will landscape of policing and city change? What will the City look like? Considering the Force's relationship with businesses and with other Forces. Considering any impact on the Force's national and local responsibilities. The Commissioner explained that the work would not expand into that which was already covered under Transform. Once further progress had been made, the Commissioner would provide Members with a further update on this work.

Members were provided an update on the Force's COVID response. Gold Group meetings continued to be held within the Force and the Commander (Operations and Security) continued to represent the Force at the City Corporation's Gold meetings. The SCG meetings were being held on a fortnightly basis whilst the Delivery Coordination Group met weekly.

Crime and antisocial behaviour levels were down, as were calls for service. With the ringfenced government funding, dedicated, the Force had led COVID Enforcement Patrols which were conducted in conjunction with the City Corporation's Licensing Officers. In Wave 2 of the pandemic, the Force had issued four fixed penalty notices and had issued one larger premises fine of £10k following a blatant breach. It was felt that the low numbers of penalties reflected the appropriate adoption of the 'four E' approach on top of the low footfall in the City.

The Force had experienced a higher rate of persons isolating, likely to be caused by the increase in usage of the Test and Trace system, which had set directions for those in contact with a confirmed COVID case. There had been a couple of positive tests within the organisation, but critical services had been maintained throughout. This process did require some closer consideration when it came to specialist skill sets. There had been no policing issues with Guildhall Yard testing site. The overall readiness of Force to respond to the various impacts of the virus was good.

In respect to Brexit planning, Gold Groups had been reconvened. Whilst it was being coordinated by London SCG, it was receiving less airtime than it once did. The Force had no specific intelligence of Brexit protest activity to the scale seen over past years. There had been some reference to the Forces' readiness assessments, which was a document prepared by the International Crime Coordination Centre. The City of London Police Force continued to have an officer embedded within this NPCC coordination team. The Force had successfully converted all previous records which included four outstanding European arrest warrants. There were no issues of risk within back record conversion. Whilst in no way was the loss of Schengen databases or agreements preferable, the Force were prepared and were running a parallel system into Interpol so there would be no loss or drop in data come 31 December. The 31 December remained as a cancelled leave day for the Force; whilst there were no NYE celebrations this year, this cancelled leave day had been held in anticipation for any required events/demonstrations and this decision would be reconsidered as Gold Group was updated.

In regard to policing databases and the possible impact of a no deal Brexit, the Commander explained that the Force was in the best position it could be, and that all steps had been taken to ensure there is no loss of data. The loss of the European Arrest Warrant status would be an operational deficiency for the Force in the event of a no-deal Brexit but there were alternatives, such as the extradition procedures held with other countries. This was considered a volatile solution as different countries had vastly different conditions surrounding the extradition of nationals. It would likely result in a significant increase in workload, particularly in the area of Economic Crime Unit and NLF.

When asked about the worrying statistics indicating an increase in attacks against officers in London, the Commander explained that he had met with a panel of frontline officers, who had given him their frank and honest assessments. It was felt that whilst the City of London Police were not suffering from the same issues as the Metropolitan Police (e.g. unlicensed music events

and community tensions) they were still involved with a number of events requiring public order interventions, such as the a recent demonstration at which 100 people were arrested. The wellbeing and mental health of officers was being even more closely monitored alongside established sickness absence processes throughout the Force.

The Commissioner added that, on the matter of Brexit, the Force may be required to assist with the policing of, ports airports etc. but that was to be expected as part of the national picture.

Following a question from a Member the Commissioner confirmed that a report on HR data, including an overview of the ethnicity of new recruits, was being submitted at the forthcoming PRM meeting. The Commissioner explained that the last two intakes had seen encouraging improvement on diversity. Approximately one third of the first intake were from BAME backgrounds, the second intake was slightly lower but still encouraging.

A further question was raised regarding the Presidential Election in the United States of America, and the possible impact to the Force and to national policing, particularly with respect to Northern Ireland. At that stage, the Force was not aware of anything specific. However, as part of National Policing the City of London would need to be alive to the fact that, should there be any physical border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, Northern Ireland would not have the capacity to police the border and there may be a requirement to provide resource. It was still too early to know if this would become a reality. Assurances were given that National Policing would be considering all impacts of the US Elections, be that protests or otherwise.

The Chairman confirmed that he had requested for a Brexit paper to come to the December Board.

The Chairman welcomed the work being led by the Commissioner on the future of policing. He had been in discussions with the Chair of Policy & Resources Committee to highlight the work of the Force and to explore how it might have greater engagement with the City Corporation. The Chair of Policy & Resources suggested linking up with the City's Innovation and Growth Team on the matter of local vs national. By providing this link the Chairman was hoping to ensure the Corporation reflected on how it might promote the work of the Force on NLF, the Square Mile, nationally and internationally.

9. **NATIONAL LEAD FORCE**

The Commander (Economic Crime) provided a verbal update on the work of National Lead Force.

The new concept of the Lead Force Operations Room (LFOR) for NLF had commenced on 5 October with a soft roll out. The new operational unit had become the heart of activity and had overseen a number of arrests following a romance fraud campaign. The centralised function played a significant role in coordinating operational responses to fraud from all 43 Forces and provided a single point of contact for policing and other partner organisations in the

industry. Going forward, work would be undertaken to improve policing performance. A review of progress to date would be conducted, with next stages and timelines to be reported to the Commissioner in due course.

A brief overview of a recent operation tackling romance fraud was given, the victims of which were particularly vulnerable. The campaign aimed to raise awareness of the crime to assist in leading to more significant arrests and featured a number of initiatives, such as working directly with the online dating industry to help develop protocol to remove profiles as they are identified as fraudulent. There had also been some improved collaboration with overseas counter fraud agencies including with Ghanaian authorities; the Force had been exploring the possibility of funding a secondment there to seek to stop criminality at its source.

RESOLVED, that the update be noted.

10. **CITY OF LONDON POLICE AUTHORITY – GOVERNANCE**

Members considered a report of the Town Clerk regarding the City of London Police Authority Governance.

The City of London Corporation would engage with the Force on governance issues as/when it was appropriate.

There was a call to remove duplicative structures and inefficiencies. The review was considered an opportunity to remove silo working across the City Corporation and its institutions. Concern was voiced about the importance of the culture at the Corporation and if no practical impact was seen or felt, the proposals would not be as successful as hoped. Ongoing work on Transform was cited as being of particular relevance to items under paragraph 8 of the report.

Members requested that governance concerns identified separately to the Lisvane Review be fed into the work led by Sheriff Hayward (e.g. the review led 18 months ago on what was done externally with other PCCs).

It was proposed that a report of this nature, on governance, should be considered by the Board every 18/24 months.

A simplified version of key strands of work was sought for tracking progress and developments. The Deputy Chief Executive agreed to work on this with Tijs Broeke.

The Force welcomed the thrust of the report and was keen to work with the Authority Team to consider the implications to the Force. The Commissioner felt that current governance arrangements could be confusing and that at times the process to achieve goals was unclear.

RESOLVED, that the proposals and course of action for future reporting, as set out in the report, be approved.

11. INDEPENDENT CUSTODY VISITING SCHEME ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20

Members received the 2019/20 annual report of the Town Clerk regarding the Independent Custody Visiting Scheme.

An agreement had been reached with the Adult Service, which would be provided on a 24/7 basis going forward. At time of reporting this agreement was in the process of being finalised.

The Police Authority had sought further assurance on a longer-term resilience plan in light of COVID-19. It was noted, however, that officers and volunteers working in the custody suite had been doing a superb job at dealing with the constraints of COVID-19, whilst making sure those in custody were well looked after and properly treated. Very effective interventions had been made to make this possible.

The Board issued their thanks for the comprehensive report.

RESOLVED, that the contents of the report, be noted.

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

There were no questions.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

There was one item of urgent business.

a) City of London Police Reserve - Utilisation and Deployment

The Chairman issued apologies for the lateness of this report, which highlighted the broad range of involvement of the Special Constabulary. A significant amount of time was dedicated by these individuals and the Board was interested to know the number of hours committed, how the SC were being utilised and how are they could be best utilised.

Members were eager to know how they could better advertise the volunteering opportunities, both within the City Corporation and within their own constituencies. The Force felt there was a new and exciting opportunity with the new Dedicated Ward Officers, who under the umbrella of Sector Policing would work on how the offer could be developed and how best to engage with businesses. A question was raised as to how the City Corporation could do more to provide support to employees wishing to volunteer. There was some concern that businesses encourage rhetoric on this matter but fail to put measures in place to support employees in pursuing volunteering opportunities.

RESOLVED, that the report be noted.

14. 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.

15. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**

RESOLVED, that the non-public minutes of the meeting held on 6 October 2020, be approved as an accurate record.

16. **NON-PUBLIC OUTSTANDING REFERENCES**

Members received a report of the Town Clerk regarding the Board's non-public outstanding references.

17. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES OF COMMITTEES**

a) **Professional Standards and Integrity Committee**

RESOLVED, that the draft non-public minutes of the meeting held on 14 September 2020, be received.

b) **Police Pensions Board**

RESOLVED, that the draft non-public minutes of the meeting held on 9 October 2020, be received.

c) **Economic Crime Committee**

RESOLVED, that the draft non-public minutes of the meeting held on 12 October 2020, be received.

d) **Performance and Resource Management Committee**

RESOLVED, that the draft non-public minutes of the meeting held on 16 October 2020, be received.

18. **CHAIRMAN'S NON-PUBLIC UPDATE**

The Chairman provided a verbal update on non-public matters relating to the Board.

19. **COMMISSIONER'S NON-PUBLIC UPDATE**

The Commissioner provided a verbal update on non-public matters relating to the Board.

20. **NATIONAL LEAD FORCE**

A verbal update was given on non-public matters relating to the National Lead Force.

21. **CITY OF LONDON POLICE TRANSFORM PROGRAMME**

Members received a verbal update on the City of London Police Transform Programme.

22. **FRAUD AND CYBER CRIME REPORTING AND ANALYSIS SERVICE - STAGE 1 PROCUREMENT STRATEGY REPORT**

Members considered a joint report of the Chamberlain and the Commissioner regarding the Fraud and Cyber Crime Reporting and Analysis Service – Stage 1 Procurement Strategy.

23. **FORENSIC COLLISION INVESTIGATION NETWORK (FCIN) S22A COLLABORATION AGREEMENT**
Members considered a report of the Commissioner regarding the FCIN S22A collaboration agreement.
24. **GATEWAY 1/2: POLICE ACCOMMODATION STRATEGY: PHASE 3G MOUNTED UNIT**
Members considered a joint Gateway 1/2 report of the Commissioner and City Surveyor regarding the Police Accommodation Strategy: Phase 3G Mounted Unit.
25. **NON-PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE BOARD**
There were no questions.
26. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE BOARD AGREES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED**
There was one item of urgent business.
27. **CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES - 1 OCTOBER 2020**
RESOLVED, that the confidential minutes of the meeting held on 1 October 2020, be approved as an accurate record
28. **CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES - 6 OCTOBER 2020**
RESOLVED, that the confidential minutes of the meeting held on 6 October 2020, be approved as an accurate record

The meeting ended at 12.35 pm

Chairman

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