

CITY OF LONDON POLICE AUTHORITY BOARD
Wednesday, 17 February 2021

Minutes of the meeting of the City of London Police Authority Board held virtually on
Microsoft Teams on Wednesday, 17 February 2021 at 2.00 pm

Present

Members:

Deputy James Thomson (Chair)
Douglas Barrow (Deputy Chairman)
Munsur Ali
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:

John Barradell	- Town Clerk
Simon Latham	- Deputy Chief Executive
Alex Orme	- Head of Police Authority Team
Rachael Waldron	- Compliance Lead
Alistair Cook	- Head of Police Authority Finance
Polly Dunn	- Town Clerk's Department
Emma Cunnington	- Town Clerk's Department
Joseph Anstee	- Town Clerk's Department
Chandni Tanna	- Town Clerk's Department
Peter Kane	- Chamberlain
Bukola Soyombo	- Chamberlain's Department
Paul Chadha	- Comptroller & City Solicitor's Department
Ian Hughes	- Department for Built Environment

City of London Police:

Ian Dyson	- Commissioner
Alistair Sutherland	- Assistant Commissioner
Clinton Blackburn	- Commander (Economic Crime)
David Evans	- Commander (Operations and Security)
Cecilie Booth	- Chief Operating Officer and Chief Financial Officer
Christopher Bell	- City of London Police
Fiona Murphy	- City of London Police
Hayley Williams	- City of London Police
Suzanne Ferris	- City of London Police

Observing:

Helen Fentimen

- Common Councillor

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Alderman Alison Gowman.

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

There were no declarations.

3. MINUTES

The Chair noted that the recruitment of an external Professional Standards & Integrity Committee member was underway. The application period would close on 26 February 2021. Members were asked to circulate the advertisement among their broader networks.

RESOLVED – That the public minutes and non-public summary of the meeting held on 7 January 2021, be approved as an accurate record.

4. COMMITTEE MINUTES**a) Professional Standards & Integrity Committee**

RESOLVED, that the public minutes and non-public summary of the meeting held on 26 November 2020, be noted.

b) Performance & Resource Management Committee

RESOLVED, that the draft public minutes and non-public summary of the meeting held on 2 February 2021, be noted.

5. OUTSTANDING REFERENCES

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

- **37/2019/P** - Works had been subject to a small slippage following the delay of getting materials to site due to extreme weather conditions. There was also a need to recalculate the steel distribution weight as it had become apparent that this would be more than the original estimate. It was believed that this would not impact the build, but the calculations needed to be made before works could continue. The new delivery date was estimated at 4 March 2021.
- **29/2020/P** – Draft job descriptions would be circulated to Members by email for comment. Any suggestions will be integrated and presented for approval at the March 2021 Board meeting.
- **30/2020/P** – the Special Interest Area (SIA) draft guidance was being developed and would be circulated to Members by email for comment later in the week. As with the draft job descriptions, formal approval would be sought by the Board in March 2021. Other actions for the

Board coming out of the Governance Review remained on track following reporting in November 2020.

- **1/2021/P** – the Commissioner wished to ensure that the Strategic Communications and Engagement Plan (SCEP) was aligned with the Policing Plan. The SCEP would be reported to the Board in March 2021.

RESOLVED, that the report be noted.

6. ANNUAL REVIEW OF TERMS OF REFERENCE

Members considered a report of the Town Clerk regarding the annual review of the Board's Terms of Reference.

The Chair highlighted that the majority of changes were clarifications of existing responsibilities. Members were supportive of the recommendation to increase external member representation by two, but requested that these additional two Members would not be subject to the Police Authority Board Membership Scheme in so far as they did not have to live or reside in the City (**3/2021/P**).

The Chair noted that there was no immediate proposal to change the frequency of meetings. However, it was hoped that the number of meetings could be reduced in due course.

RESOLVED, that

- subject to a clarification on the application of the Membership Scheme to only two external members of the board, that the Terms of Reference (as set out in appendix 1), be approved; and
- any further changes required in the lead up to the Court's appointment of Committees, be delegated to the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chairman.

7. CHAIR'S PUBLIC UPDATE

Members heard a public update from the Chair. The following matters were raised:

- The Chair had participated in an APCC engagement in his capacity of Deputy Lead for Fraud. This included a helpful presentation from Commander (Economic Crime) to the members of the APCC who were interested in this area. Further work was required on how the City of London Police can promote the importance of fraud through APCC to PCCs and to address this, a series of events and communications were being worked up by Assistant Commissioner and the Commander (Economic Crime).
- The Chair had also participated in a recent session on the APCC's Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR), an update on which was given at the Economic Crime Committee. Most PCCs were not looking for substantial changes on the SPR. Likely changes would be the obligation

for Policing Plans to explicitly comment that the SPR had been incorporated within them. This would be picked up in the drafting of the current Policing Plan. There was also a likelihood that fraud and cyber would be referenced in the SPR, but exactly how had not yet been agreed.

- The Chair met with Nickie Aitken MP (Cities of London and Westminster), who had offered to support the work of the Force and Authority. Once COVID-19 restrictions permitted, it was hoped the MP could see the work of National Lead Force (NLF) and the Lead Force Operations room.
- Work on the Policing Plan was ongoing. A briefing session for Court had been set up for 8 March 2021. A reminder was to be sent by the Town Clerk to all Court of Common Council Members. (4/2021/P)
- The Police Authority Team had been working on the areas of diversity and inclusion, which would be picked up under item 17 of the agenda.

RESOLVED, that the update be noted.

8. **COMMISSIONER'S PUBLIC UPDATE**

Members heard a public update from the Commissioner and the following points were made:

- The footfall within the Square Mile remained quiet, with crime and antisocial behaviours low.
- The Force had an absenteeism at 5-7%, with all critical services maintained.
- A lateral flow testing regime had been implemented for officers. This had returned some non-symptomatic positives.
- The Force had received 90 vaccines from St Bartholomew's Hospital for those delivering critical frontline services and for staff who were deemed clinically vulnerable.
- The Force was working with various Corporation departments in planning of the reopening of different sectors, particularly licensing.
- 76 fines had been issued in response to breaches to COVID-19 restrictions to the end of January 2021; 33 of those were issued in the month of January alone.

RESOLVED, that the update be noted.

9. **NATIONAL LEAD FORCE**

Members heard a public update from the Commissioner and the following points were made:

- There had been an 8% increase in performance in comparison to the 2020 monthly average.
- COVID19 related fraud remained under 1% but there had been a significant increase in the number of reports for vaccine related fraud (447 in one week). There had been a good number of arrests including for a vaccine fraud phishing scheme, for which the contact centre was able to quickly prevent £80k leaving the bank account of a victim.
- Action Fraud had seen an increase in use of its contact centre, but these were impacted by Court handling and abandonment rates.
- 100 full time posts had been confirmed for the Call Centre.
- There had been success in relation to a case brought to light by investigative journalism by the Mirror newspaper.
- Assistant Commissioner Angela McLaren had recently reported to the Treasury Select Committee.
- HMIC had finished their inspection during which they were looking at the Force's response to recommendations made in 2018. Initial feedback seemed positive but the full report would be forthcoming in due course.
- The Force had been working on communications on widespread national and regional coverage, taking advantage of interview opportunities.

RESOLVED, that the update be noted.

10. **Q3 REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING 2020/21**

Members considered a of the Commissioner regarding the Q3 revenue and capital budget monitoring 2020/21.

After introducing the report, the Chief Finance Officer thanked Corporation colleagues for their help in the success of COLP memorabilia sales. A net surplus of £500k was forecast which was a significant contribution to the budget.

There was discussion on the impact on the establishment based on the proposed savings.

14.42 Munsur Ali joined the meeting.

The Chairman commented on the slippage on the capital programme and requested for the Board to be issued a copy of the final report by email before it was submitted to Resource Allocation Sub-Committee. A Force 'deep dive' review was going to be conducted on this year's Capital Programme 2020-21 to ascertain the reasons for the slippage and Members requested it be reported to the Board to provide Members with assurance for next year's capital budget. **(7/2021/P)**

Following a question regarding the overtime, particularly in the case of the Bank of England, the Force confirmed that overtime is covered within the contracts with external organisations and is fully recovered.

Some of the initial COLP budget underspend had been allocated to Action Fraud following Board approval at a previous meeting. The reported £5.5m

additional underspend had been generated mainly by the high level of vacancies and securing of additional grants relating to policing and the COVID-19 pandemic. Whether this underspend or the Action Fraud reserve might be better allocated toward Action Fraud costs would be picked up at year end.

The Assistant Commissioner confirmed that the COLP establishment was based on an annual Strategic Threat and Risk Assessment (STRA) of the whole Force. COLP was one of only a small number of Forces to do this.

RESOLVED, that the report be noted.

11. CITY OF LONDON POLICE REVENUE BUDGET 2021/22

Members considered a report of the Commissioner regarding the City of London Police Revenue Budget 2021/22.

The Chief Finance Officer clarified a discrepancy on the savings tracker between pages 52, 56 and 62 of the agenda pack. The appendices were written before the saving tracker at the front was finalised. Consequently, the narrative should say 'savings' rather than 'unallocated savings'.

There was discussion on the vacancies being held and the decision to delete 40 posts going forward (noting that police officers could not be made redundant so would be re-deployed). A long-term solution was sought, rather than a temporary fix, which was why the Force was looking carefully at the services provided and what could be delivered well within the budget envelope.

Members felt it was important to set the context of deleted posts against the broader uplift programme. It was noted that the additional posts provided by the Home Office were based on a calculation of the Force's current officer baseline, the Force engaged in a weekly dialogue with the Home Office but if there was to be any change to the officer baseline the Force would need to notify the Home Office, thereby impacting any future allocation.

Following a question, the Commissioner explained that no costs had been quantified in response to the McCloud Judgement, no Force nationally had been able to do so yet. The Home Office may pick up costs, but this was not confirmed. All 43 Forces were looking collectively at pensions issues and were looking to get an expert appointed to provide advice.

A point was made regarding recharges from the City of London Corporation and how the Transform programme would be used to ensure the Force achieves the best balance between utilising shared services with the Corporation and where it might take its own approach and resource alternative services. There was concern that the 12% budget cuts requested of all being passed on between departments through recharges.

It was clarified that there were 40 posts held due to attrition (timing of when people leave and are replaced) and 40 posts were being deleted. Concern was expressed over the need for the Force to delete posts as a consequence of a Corporation-led budget cuts.

15.00 – Tijs Broeke left the meeting.

It was noted by the Assistant Commissioner that a further 20 posts will be lost following the efficiency spending resource review, but this will be a gradual reduction over the coming four years and could be managed accordingly.

The Chair requested that the unallocated savings as articulated in the report be added to the correct budget lines and that the procurement cost of Action Fraud be included. **(5/2021/P)**

RESOLVED, that the budget report be updated and brought to the Board for consideration in March 2021,

12. NEW POLICE CAPITAL BIDS 2021-2025

Members considered a report of the Commissioner regarding the New Police Capital Bids 2021-25.

RESOLVED, that Members

- Note this report;
- Agree that the case for prioritisation as set out in Appendix 1 meet the required criteria to qualify for the 2020/21 'in principle' internal loan agreement from the City Fund; and
- Formally approve the new CoLP Capital Bids

13. THE NATIONAL ENABLING PROGRAMME (NEP) UPDATE SUMMARY REPORT

Members received a report of the Commissioner regarding the National Enabling (NEP) update summary report.

Members recognised the role of the City of London Corporation in taking responsibility for this programme as the Accountable Body. All 43 forces had signed up and migrated to a cloud-based platform, which was a massive accomplishment and showing benefits already.

The various awards received by the programme were commended.

RESOLVED, that the report be noted.

14. DELEGATED AUTHORITY FOR COURT SUBMISSION ON NEXT GENERATION FRAUD AND CYBER CRIME REPORTING AND ANALYSIS SERVICE PROJECT

Members considered a report of the Town Clerk regarding a delegated authority for Court submission on Next Generation Fraud and Cyber Crime Reporting and Analysis Service Project.

RESOLVED, that Members delegate authority to the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Police Authority Board, to develop a proposal for consideration by the Court of Common Council to establish a dedicated Committee to oversee the work of the Next Generation

Fraud and Cyber Crime Reporting and Analysis Service. Submission of the proposal to the Court of Common Council will be subject to consultation with, and approval from, the relevant committees referenced in paragraph 12.

15. **ANTI-TERRORISM TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER**

Members received a report of the Director for Build Environment regarding the Anti-Terrorism Traffic Regulation Order.

It was noted that there had been no events in the past year that had justified using the ATTRO, nevertheless, it remained an important tool in regard to protective security for the Police to use.

RESOLVED, that the report be noted.

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

There were no questions.

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

There was one item of urgent business.

a) **Tackling Racism Taskforce - Police Workstream**

Members received a report of the Town Clerk regarding the Tackling Racism Taskforce recommendations.

The Chairman asked the Force to bring a report to the March meeting on how the recommendations will be implemented. The Commissioner responded to say that the Force needed to consider and assess the recommendations first, prior to reporting back to the Board. Matters of diversity and inclusivity will be routinely reported to the Professional Standards & Integrity Committee going forward. **(6/2021/P)**

The Commissioner noted that a 40% BAME recruitment target was being considered in line with the Metropolitan Police. However, he felt that there was a very different recruitment profile within the City of London Police as, unlike the Met, there was a significantly reduced pool of local residents who might apply. COLP also had to make a number of appointments to posts such as fraud detectives, which came from a limited existing skills pool.

RESOLVED, that the report be noted.

18. **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.

19. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**

RESOLVED, that the non-public minutes of the meeting held on 7 January 2021, be approved as an accurate record.

20. **COMMITTEE MINUTES**

a) **Professional Standards & Integrity**

RESOLVED, that the non-public minutes of the meeting held on 26 November 2020, be noted.

b) **Performance & Resource Management Committee**

RESOLVED, that the draft non-public minutes of the meeting held on 2 February 2021, be noted.

21. **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.

22. **CHAIR'S NON-PUBLIC UPDATE**

The Chairman had no further update to make in non-public session.

23. **COMMISSIONER'S UPDATES**

Members heard a non-public update from the Commissioner.

24. **NATIONAL LEAD FORCE**

The Commissioner provided an update on National Lead Force at item 25.

25. **NATIONAL LEAD FORCE (NLF) PLAN UPDATE**

Members received a report of the Commissioner regarding an update on the National Lead Force (NLF) Plan.

26. **UPDATED MEDIUM-TERM FINANCIAL PLAN (MTFP)**

Members considered a report of the Chamberlain regarding the updated Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP).

27. **NON-PUBLIC APPENDIX: NEW POLICE CAPITAL BIDS 2021-2025**

Members received the non-public appendix to item 12 of the agenda.

28. **DRAFT GOVERNANCE MATERIAL**

Governors received two reports of the Town Clerk regarding draft governance documents for the Police Authority.

29. **OUTLINE BUSINESS CASE - NEXT GENERATION FRAUD AND CYBER CRIME REPORTING AND ANALYSIS SERVICE**

Members considered a report of the Commissioner regarding the Outline Business Case for the Next Generation Fraud and Cyber Reporting and Analysis Service.

30. **NEXT GENERATION FRAUD AND CYBER CRIME REPORTING AND ANALYSIS SERVICE PROJECT - INFRASTRUCTURE AND PROJECTS AUTHORITY GATEWAY 2 OUTCOME REPORT**

Members received a report of the Commissioner regarding the Next Generation Fraud and Cyber Crime reporting and analysis service project – infrastructure and projects authority Gateway 2 outcome.

It was noted that this report was for information, not for decision.

31. **CITY OF LONDON POLICE SPECIAL CONSTABULARY- UTILISATION AND DEPLOYMENT - ACTIVITY DASHBOARD**

Members received a report of the Commissioner regarding the City of London Police Special Constabulary – utilisation and deployment activity dashboard.

32. **OP BENBOW DEPLOYMENTS & CROSS BORDER ACTIVITY**

Members received a report of the Commissioner regarding operation Benbow deployments & cross border activity.

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

There were no questions.

34. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE BOARD AGREES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED**

There were no items of urgent business.

35. **CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES**

RESOLVED, that the confidential minutes of the meeting held on 7 January 2021, be approved.

36. **STAFFING UPDATE**

Member considered a report of the Town Clerk regarding a staffing update.

The meeting ended at 4.13 pm

Chairman

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