

Special Interest Area Scheme – Guidance Note

Background

The Police Authority Board has operated a Specialist Interest Area (SIA) Scheme since 2007. The purpose of the SIA Scheme is for Members of the Board to have oversight of specific areas of City of London Police work, to provide focused scrutiny on key areas of Force business and gain specialist knowledge and expertise, thus enhancing the Committee's scrutiny and performance management role.

The SIA Scheme operates through a direct liaison between lead officers at Force and Members. A contact in the relevant area of business is tasked to make regular contact with their respective SIA Lead Members, keeping them informed of developments or issues which may arise throughout the year. Lead Members are also expected to oversee the work that takes place, challenging and following up issues where necessary. Lead Members are encouraged to raise issues at the Police Authority Board where necessary to ensure that appropriate action is taken, as well as reporting back on their work on a regular basis.

The objective of the SIA Scheme is not to give an 'operational' role to Members; instead, it is intended to boost the level of scrutiny and challenge which the Police Authority Board provides to the Force, something which has previously been recognised as a notable practice within the sector. City Corporation 'link officers' provide professional advice and guidance to SIA Lead Members where required, in addition to support from the Police Authority Team.

Objectives

The objectives of the SIA Scheme are as follows:

- to fill any potential gaps in oversight by a given Police Authority Board Committee, i.e. any important areas of policing that are not fully covered by Committee business;
- to provide more informed oversight and scrutiny of the Force (particularly when PAB is making decisions on complex issues);
- to enable Members to share their professional knowledge, skills and expertise with the Force, acting as a 'critical friend' to suggest potential areas for improvement where appropriate;
- to broaden the engagement of Board Members in the work of the Police, alongside their work on behalf of Police Authority Board Committees;
- to improve the knowledge of members (particularly newer Members to the Board) about key areas of national and local policing undertaken by the City Police;
- to ensure Members develop a deep understanding of the Force's activities on a day-to-day basis.

Appendix 1: 2020/21 SIAs

SIA	PAB Lead Member	COLP Key Contact	COL Link Officers
Human Resources, Equality and Inclusion	Tijs Broeke Deborah Oliver (Deputy)	HR Director (HR) & Head of Strategic Development (E&I)	<i>Assistant Director, Corporate HR</i>
Counter Terrorism	James Thomson	Detective Superintendent, Crime Directorate	<i>Director of Security</i>
Neighbourhood Policing	Deborah Oliver Munsur Ali (Deputy)	Superintendent (s), Uniformed Policing	<i>Head of Community Safety</i>
Road Safety (and Casualty Reduction)	Alison Gowman	Superintendent, Uniformed Policing	<i>Strategic Transportation Officer</i>
Safeguarding and Public Protection (Vulnerability and ICV Scheme)	Keith Bottomley	Detective Chief Inspector, Public Protection Unit	<i>Assistant Director, Social Care Service</i>
Transform	Andrew Lentin	Detective Superintendent, Transform Programme	<i>Head of Police Authority Finance</i>