

Committee(s)	Date(s):
Police Authority Board For Decision	25 th March 2021
Subject: Draft Revised Policing Plan 2020-2023	Public
Report of: Commissioner of Police	For Decision
Report author: Head of Strategic Development	

Summary

This report presents the draft revised Policing Plan 2020-23. The Plan informs the community, stakeholders and staff how the City area is to be policed.

The Force and Court of Common Council (in its capacity as a police authority) are required to continue to publish a policing plan by the Police Act 1996 due to being exempt from the legislative requirement to publish a police and crime plan. A revised plan must be published by 31st March 2021.

Earlier iterations of the plan have been shared with Members and Officers on several occasions, which has included dedicated workshops. A draft of the plan was briefed to the Court of Common Council on 5th March 2021.

The final version appended to this report reflects the considerable amount of feedback received and consequently is a significantly amended document compared to the year 1 version of the plan, which was approved by your Board in March 2020.

At the time this draft was developed there are outstanding matters relating to budget and establishment that are being considered by your Board. It might be necessary therefore to slightly amend those elements of the policing plan pending any decision made on budget and establishment.

Recommendation(s):

- Your Board adopts the Draft Policing Plan 2020-23 appended to this report as the Policing Plan for the City of London, subject to any further amendments agreed by your Board and the Commissioner;
- Following approval, the plan is published on the internet by 31st March 2021.

Main Report

Background

1. Legislation requires Police and Crime Commissioners to publish police and crime plans in place of traditional policing plans¹. That requirement does not apply to the Court of Common Council in its capacity as policy authority for the City of London. The Force and your Board continues to be governed by the relevant

¹ Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011

sections of the Police Act 1996 with respect to the publication of policing plans.² However, where possible the Force and Authority has resolved to align the format of its policing plan with the general requirements of policing and crime plans.

2. The responsibility for drafting the policing plan and advising a police authority on its contents remains with the Commissioner of Police. However, guidance and legislation are clear that the police authority must approve, own and issue the published plan.

Current Position

3. The Police Act 1996³ requires the police authority to issue, before the beginning of each financial year, a policing plan setting out:
 - i. the proposed arrangements for the policing of that area for the period of three years beginning with that year; and
 - ii. its policing objectives for the policing of its area and the discharge by the City of London Police of its national or international functions during that year.
4. Although the plan covers a period of three years, there is a requirement to review and republish the plan annually. The current 2020-2023 plan was approved by your Board at its meeting in March 2020.
5. There is a requirement that policing plans (and their policing and crime plan equivalents) must have regard to any national strategic policing priorities stipulated by the Home Secretary.⁴ Such priorities are currently articulated by the Strategic Policing Requirement; the Force's approach to this appears in the draft plan. Additionally, the plan takes account of Government policy statements regarding reducing crime, addressing antisocial behaviour (ASB), supporting the vulnerable, accountability and value for money.

Developing the plan

6. Although the plan covers 3 years, a comprehensive policing plan review process is conducted each year which informs its ongoing development. That process considers any changes to legislation and Government policy, the Force's and City of London Corporation's risk registers, formal partnership obligations and the results of consultation and engagement activities.
7. Members of your Board continue to be instrumental in shaping the plan through participation at workshops and meetings. For this iteration of the plan, that has resulted in some significant changes to the document particularly relating to the prominence of the Force's national role in tackling economic and cyber-related crime, the inclusion of the Force's Equality and Inclusion Strategy, and numerous references to the impact that Covid has had on policing.

² S. 6ZB Police Act 1996 (as amended by the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011)

³ S.6ZB as above

⁴ As determined under s.37A of the 1996 Act

8. Members will be aware that operational priorities are only set following a robust review of intelligence, threat, national drivers, and results of engagement activities. The resulting range of priorities mirrors the range of roles fulfilled by the Force, from pan-London and national responsibilities (counter terrorism, fraud, and public order) to addressing City-specific, community concerns around volume crime and road safety.
9. Community engagement also shapes the plan; with the results of the annual community survey are reflected in the plan.

Finance

10. The plan must contain details of the Force's budget and establishment. At the time the draft plan was developed, there are outstanding matters to be agreed by your Board relating to budget and establishment. It might, therefore, be necessary to slightly amend the draft plan prior to publication to reflect any decision made by your Board.
11. The plan additionally includes details of how the Force intends to address its continuing budgetary challenges, including additional references to the Transform programme.

Publishing the plan

12. It is very rare for forces to produce hard copies of policing plans with the norm being for plans to be published on force and authority websites. Hard copies can be made available on request, although this is usually limited to a simple print of the PDF document on the website. There have not been any external requests for hard copies of any of the policing plans over the past ten years.

Proposals

13. This Report proposes:
 - Your Board adopts the Draft Policing Plan 2020-23 appended to this report as the Policing Plan for the City of London, subject to any additional amendments agreed by your Board and Commissioner; and
 - Following approval, the plan is published on the internet by 31st March 2021.

Strategic Implications

14. The Policing Plan directly supports the City of London Corporation's Corporate Plan for a safe and secure City.
15. The Policing Plan also has regard to the priorities of the Safer City Partnership.

Conclusion

16. Issuing and publishing a Policing Plan remains a statutory obligation on the Force and Court of Common Council in its capacity as police authority. The Policing Plan appended to this report is compliant with current guidance on those matters

policing plans must address. Accordingly, your Board is invited to adopt the proposed Plan as the Policing Plan for the City of London.

Attached Papers:

Draft Revised City of London Police Policing Plan 2020-23

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