

Committee: Police	Date: 17 January 2014
Subject: Policing Plan 2014-2017	Public
Report of: Commissioner of Police POL 01/14	For Decision

Summary

This report presents the draft Policing Plan for the City of London, informing the community 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.

There remains a national policing priority for police forces to continue to reduce crime. Additionally there is a requirement to support the national strategic policing requirement, which this year appears in the plan as a separate priority area. The priorities proposed in the plan, detailed immediately below, support both national requirements. The priorities are:

- Counter Terrorism;
- Safer Roads;
- Public Order;
- Crime Reduction;
- Tackling Antisocial Behaviour;
- Tackling Fraud;
- National Lead Force;
- Strategic Policing Requirement.

Members endorsed the revised priorities and their order of presentation at two workshop meetings on the 30th October and 6th December 2013. A draft plan together with supporting measures was considered by Members at the second workshop meeting on 6th December 2013, and was agreed subject to some minor amendments, which have been incorporated within the plan. A separate report detailing all the measures will be presented to your Performance and Resource Management Sub Committee's February meeting.

High level financial information is included within the plan based on the current medium term financial plan.

It is recommended:

- Your Committee adopts the Draft Policing Plan 2014-17 appended to this report as the Policing Plan for the City of London, subject to any further amendments agreed by your Committee and Commissioner, and subject to final sign off of measures by the Performance and Resource Management Sub Committee in February; and
- Following approval the plan is published on the internet by 31st March 2014; and
- Performance against the plan is reported quarterly to your Police Performance and Resource Management Sub Committee.

Main Report

Background

1. The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 requires that Police and Crime Commissioners to publish police and crime plans in place of traditional policing plans. 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 Committee continues to be governed by the relevant sections of the Police Act 1996 with respect to the publication of policing plans.¹ 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 is clear that the police authority must approve and subsequently own the published plan.

¹ S. 6ZB Police Act 1996 (as amended by the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011)

Current Position

3. The Police Act 1996² requires the police authority to issue, before the beginning of each financial year, a policing plan setting out:
 - (a) the proposed arrangements for the policing of that area for the period of three years beginning with that year; and
 - (b) its policing objectives for the policing of its area during that year.
4. Although the plan covers a period of three years, there is a requirement to review and republish the plan annually.
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.³ Such priorities are currently articulated by the Strategic Policing Requirement, which this year has been adopted as a priority area for the Force. Additionally, the plan takes account of Government policy statements regarding reducing crime, accountability and value for money.

Developing the plan

6. Members of your Committee have been instrumental in shaping this year's plan through participation at two workshop sessions hosted jointly by the Commissioner and Chairman. The first event was held on 30th October 2013, where the core priorities were endorsed following a review of factors influencing the next iteration of the policing plan. Those factors included consideration of emerging issues raised by the Force's Strategic Assessment, the results of engagement activities, legislative requirements, risk and benchmarking with other forces.
7. At the second workshop meeting with Members, held on 6th December 2013, a substantively completed draft plan was presented together that included a series of measures developed to support delivery of the priorities. The plan and measures were endorsed subject to further amendments, all of which have been incorporated into the plan presented by this report to your Committee for formal approval, subject to final approval of the measures by your Performance and Resources Sub Committee.

² S.6ZB as above

³ As determined under s.37A of the 1996 Act

Policing Priorities for 2014-15

8. The policing priorities for 2014-15 presented in the plan are:

- Counter terrorism;
- Safer roads;
- Public order;
- Crime reduction;
- Antisocial behaviour;
- Fraud;
- National lead force; and
- The Strategic Policing Requirement.

Setting the priorities

9. Members will be aware from participation in the policing plan workshop meetings that the priorities were only set following a robust review of intelligence, threat, national drivers and results of engagement activities. The range of the priorities naturally 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, road safety and antisocial behaviour associated with the night time economy. The ordering of the priorities reflects the Force's core role around the protection of life. This year a distinction has been drawn between Fraud, which relates specifically to City of London economic crime, and the National Lead Force function. Finally, supporting the Strategic Policing Requirement is an important area of business for the Force to the extent it has been included as a distinct priority. The priorities and the order in which they appear were endorsed by Members at the workshop on 6th December 2013.

Targets and measures

10. The targets and measures proposed to support delivery of the plan were shared with Members at the second workshop meeting on 6th December 2013. Members endorsed the general approach to reduce the overall number of measures contained within the plan having been reassured that the Force would continue to report against targets that have moved from the policing plan to directorate plans. Of the measures that remain in the plan, the majority are carried forward from the current plan; this allows for meaningful comparisons to be made over the medium term to indicate improvements to performance or otherwise. Members also agreed that the

measures could be removed from the pages detailing the priorities and should only appear on a summary page at the end of the priorities section.

11. There are a few new measures where additional work needs to be completed before the wording can be finalised. For that reason, your Committee is asked to approve the draft plan subject to the measures being formally signed off by the Performance and Resource Management Sub Committee at their meeting in February 2014.

Finance

12. The plan contains high-level details only of the Force's anticipated income and expenditure over the term covered by the plan. The charts included are based on the latest approved Medium Term Financial Plan. The Force's funding situation is extremely fluid compared to other forces and this makes accurate forecasting over the entire term of the plan very difficult. It is likely that the figures contained in the plan, even though they cover a three year period, will change in the next iteration.

Publishing the plan

13. It is very rare now for forces to produce hard copies of policing plans with the norm being for plans to be published on force and Policing and Crime Commissioner's websites. Hard copies can be made available upon 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 five years. However, the Force intends to commission a professionally designed plan for internet publication based on the attached draft. The cost is likely to be in the region of £1000.
14. It is proposed to include end of 3rd quarter performance data to publish the plan on the internet by 31st March 2014. This can be easily updated during April/May 2014 with end of financial year performance data once available, and thereafter an amended version of the plan published on the intranet.

Proposals

15. This Report proposes:
 - Your Committee adopts the Draft Policing Plan 2014-17 appended to this report as the Policing Plan for the City of London, subject to any amendments agreed by your Committee and Commissioner and subject to final approval of the measures by the Performance and Resource Management Sub Committee; and
 - Following approval the Plan is published on the internet by 31st March 2014; and

- Performance against the Plan is reported quarterly to your Police Performance and Resource Management Sub Committee.

Strategic Implications

16. The Policing Plan directly supports the City of London Corporation's Vision to support and promote the City of London as the world leader in international finance and business services, maintaining high quality, accessible and responsive services benefiting its communities, neighbours, London and the nation.
17. The Policing Plan also has regard to the priorities of the Safer City Partnership and the City Together strategy.

Conclusion

18. 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 Committee are invited to adopt the proposed Plan as the Policing Plan for the City of London.

Attached Papers:

Draft City of London Police Policing Plan 2014-17.

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