

Committee(s): Police	Date(s): 26 th February 2015
Subject: Policing Plan 2015-2018	Public
Report of: Commissioner of Police Pol 06/15	For Decision

Summary

This report presents the draft revised Policing Plan 2015-18 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 expectation that police forces continue to reduce crime. The national requirement to support the national Strategic Policing Requirement remains, and has been retained 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; Victim based crime; Antisocial behaviour; Tackling fraud; National Lead Force; and Strategic Policing Requirement.

Members discussed and endorsed a draft of the plan, subject to amendments, at a workshop on the 8th December 2014. A second workshop was held on 16th January 2015 where draft measures were considered and supported by Members.

High level financial information is included within the plan based on the current medium term financial plan, which has been reported to your Committee separately.

Recommendation

It is recommended that:

- i) Your Committee adopts the Draft Policing Plan 2015-18 appended to this report as the Policing Plan for the City of London, subject to any further amendments agreed by your Committee and the Commissioner.
- ii) Following approval the plan is published on the internet by 31st March 2015; and
- iii) Performance against the plan is reported quarterly to your Police Performance and Resource Management Sub Committee.

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 Committee continues to be governed by the relevant 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 is clear that the police authority must approve and subsequently own 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 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.⁴ Such priorities are currently articulated by the Strategic Policing Requirement, which the Force has proposed is retained 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 8th December 2014, where a substantively complete draft of the plan was considered. At that workshop a number of minor drafting amendments were requested, all of which have been incorporated into the plan being considered by your

¹ Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011

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

Committee. Members attending the workshop also endorsed the proposal made by the Force not to include targets in the plan.

7. A second workshop meeting with Members was held on 16th January 2015 specifically to consider policing plan measures. The measures were endorsed subject to further amendments, all of which have been incorporated into the plan presented with this report to your Committee for formal approval.

Policing Priorities for 2015-16

8. The policing priorities for 2015-16 presented in the plan are:
 - Counter terrorism;
 - Safer roads;
 - Public order;
 - Victim based crime;
 - 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. As last year, a distinction between Fraud that relates specifically to City of London Economic Crime, and the National Lead Force function, has been retained. Finally, supporting the Strategic Policing Requirement has also been retained as a distinct priority in view of its importance as a key area of Force business. The priorities and the order in which they appear were endorsed by Members at the workshop on 8th December 2014.

Measures

10. Members will be aware from workshop briefings that very few forces and police and crime commissioners are continuing to set performance targets in their plans. The principal reason for this a move nationally away from targets because of the unintended impact they can have on officer behaviour, crime recording and resource allocation and which is considered contrary to the Police Code of Ethics.
11. Targets are not essential to managing performance. The Force will continue to measure and manage performance across a broad spectrum of activities. The main difference between what is proposed and using targets is that,

whereas currently something might be recorded as 'red' because it is above or below a specified level, in future it will simply be reported as a level with trend information in terms of whether it is improving or deteriorating performance.

12. The measures included in the plan are, where possible, based on existing policing plan measures and targets. This will allow performance to be assessed over a longer period of time which makes trend information more meaningful. The measures are a combination of statistical levels indicating an outcome (such as levels of satisfaction or level of crime) and qualitative measures around work the Force must do to support a particular objective. An example of the latter is the work done by the Force to support safer roads in the City of London.
13. The measures proposed to support delivery of the plan were shared with Members at the second workshop meeting on 16th January 2015 and were endorsed for inclusion in the policing plan subject to some minor amendments, which have been completed. Performance against the measures will be reported to your Police Performance and Resources Sub Committee quarterly.

Finance

14. 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 Plan⁵. 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.
15. The plan additionally includes details of how the Force intends to address its continuing budgetary challenges.

Publishing the plan

16. 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 six years. However, as last year, 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.
17. It is proposed to include end of 3rd quarter performance data to publish the plan on the internet by 31st March 2015. This can be easily updated during April/May 2015 with end of financial year performance data once available, and thereafter an amended version of the plan published on the intranet.

⁵ Police Committee January 16th 2015

Proposals

18. This Report proposes:

- i) Your Committee adopts the Draft Policing Plan 2015-18 appended to this report as the Policing Plan for the City of London, subject to any additional amendments agreed by your Committee and Commissioner; and
- ii) Following approval the Plan is published on the internet by 31st March 2015; and
- iii) Performance against the Plan is reported quarterly to your Police Performance and Resource Management Sub Committee.

Strategic Implications

19. 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.
20. The Policing Plan also has regard to the priorities of the Safer City Partnership.

Conclusion

21. 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 2015-18.

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