

**CITY OF LONDON POLICE AUTHORITY BOARD**  
**Thursday, 3 September 2020**

Minutes of the meeting of the City of London Police Authority Board held at Microsoft Teams on Thursday, 3 September 2020 at 11.00 am

**Present**

**Members:**

Deputy James Thomson (Chairman)  
Douglas Barrow (Deputy Chairman)  
Caroline Addy  
Munsur Ali  
Deputy Keith Bottomley  
Tijs Broeke  
Alderman Emma Edhem  
Alderman Alison Gowman  
Alderman Timothy Hailes  
Dawn Wright  
Andrew Lentin (External Member)  
Deborah Oliver (External Member)

**Observing:**

Helen Fentimen

**City of London Police Authority:**

John Barradell	- Chief Executive
Simon Latham	- Deputy Chief Executive
Alex Orme	- Head of Police Authority Team
Oliver Bolton	- Deputy Head of Police Authority Team
Alistair MacLellan	- Town Clerk's Department
Joe Anstee	- Town Clerk's Department
Leanne Murphy	- Town Clerk's Department
Chandni Tanna	- Town Clerk's Department
Dr Peter Kane	- Treasurer
Alistair Cook	- Head of Police Authority Finance
Ellen Wentworth	- Chamberlain's Department
Bruce Hunt	- Remembrancer's Office
Paul Chadha	- Comptroller and City Solicitor's Department

**City of London Police Force:**

Ian Dyson	- Commissioner
Alistair Sutherland	- Assistant Commissioner
David Evans	- T/Commander (Operations and Security)
Clinton Blackburn	- T/Commander (Economic Crime)
Cecilie Booth	- Chief Operating and Chief Financial Officer
Hayley Williams	- City of London Police

1. **APOLOGIES**

The Town Clerk noted that Tijs Broeke would join the meeting late.

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

There were no declarations.

3. **MINUTES**

**RESOLVED**, that the public minutes and non-public summary of the meeting held on 29 July 2020 be approved subject to an amendment being made to the reference to Cyber Griffin.

**Matters Arising**

**Appointment to Committees**

The Town Clerk noted that subsequent to the 29 July 2020 meeting, Alderman Emma Edhem had expressed an interest in being appointed to the Economic Crime Committee **(35/2020/P)**.

**RESOLVED**, that Alderman Emma Edhem be appointed to the Economic Crime Committee for 2020/21.

**Special Interest Areas**

The Town Clerk noted that Munsur Ali had expressed an interest in deputising for Deborah Oliver in the Neighbourhood Policing portfolio **(35/2020/P)**.

**RESOLVED**, that Munsur Ali be appointed deputy Special Interest Area lead for Neighbourhood Policing for 2020/21.

4. **OUTSTANDING REFERENCES**

Members considered a joint report of the Town Clerk and Commissioner regarding outstanding references and the following points were made.

**30/2019/P – Cyber Griffin Evaluation**

- The Deputy Chief Executive noted that since the July 2020 meeting of the Board, the original unsuccessful funding bid had been reviewed and updated in light of work conducted in-house, and the refreshed bid would be submitted to the City's Cyber Security Steering Group that week where, subject to endorsement, local funding would be used to carry out the proposed evaluation. There would be no need to approach the City's Resource Allocation Sub-Committee. An update would be provided at the October 2020 meeting.

**37/2019/P – Bishopsgate Exercise Yard**

- The Commissioner noted that an original assessment of required works of £100,000 had been reduced to £70,000 by the Capital Buildings Committee. Further work had demonstrated that the original assessment of £100,000 was definitely required. Once approval was secured to

spend the additional £30,000, and provided that approval was provided imminently, it would be possible to deliver the works before Christmas.

- The Lead Member for Safeguarding and Public Protection noted that this reference had been outstanding for some time and had arisen due to a red risk identified by an external inspection. The Member called for assurance that the £30,000 could be provided from the Force's capital programme rather than reverting back to Capital Buildings Committee.
- The Chairman invited the Deputy Chief Executive and Treasurer to resolve any extant governance issues that were delaying the project as soon as possible.
- In response to a question, the Town Clerk and Chief Operating and Chief Financial Officer noted that the exercise yard project was subject to Capital Buildings Committee as it fell within the overall Police Accommodation Programme. The additional £30,000 funding could be met from the programme's decant budget.

#### **41/2019//P - Ethical Economic Partnerships**

- The Chairman noted that this report had been scheduled for the agenda that day, but he had agreed that it should instead be deferred until the October 2020 meeting. this deferral would allow more time to provide a more substantive paper that listed all partnerships, summarised their purpose, and what income they generated if relevant to that partnership.
- The Town Clerk agreed to ensure that the report was also submitted to the Board's Professional Standards and Integrity Committee for consideration.

#### **30/2020/P Special Interest Area Scheme**

- The Chairman noted that introductory meetings for SIA Members were being convened by the Authority and Force.

#### **31/2020/P – City of London Police Authority Member Briefing - Protective Security**

- The Chairman noted that the invitation would be issued to the Court of Common Council that week and requested Board Members to encourage their Court colleagues to attend.

#### **33/2020/P – City of London Police Reserve – Strength and Composition Specials**

- The Chairman noted that the report had been deferred to the October 2020 meeting due to staff annual leave.

### **34/2020/P – Road Danger Reduction and Active Travel Plan**

- The Town Clerk agreed to ensure that the Lead Member for Road Safety was invited to the Performance and Resource Management Committee meeting at which the update on implementation of HMICFRS recommendations was considered.

### **PRM 2/2020/P – Reserves Policy**

- The Chairman briefed Members that a paper would come to the October 2020 Board that would consider Force finances and in-year spend, and provide an understanding of the Force's position on its underspend and how that related to its recruitment and headcount. The paper would also provide proposals on how underspends were managed, and a potential acceleration of the Action Know Fraud loan.

**RESOLVED**, that the report be received.

### **5. CHAIRMAN'S PUBLIC UPDATE**

The Chairman was heard in public session and the following points were made.

#### **Future Meetings**

- The Chairman noted that the Board had, at its 29 July 2020 meeting, decided to adopt an increased frequency of meetings going forward to allow more time to discuss substantive issues. Officers at the City were working towards putting in place arrangements for hybrid meetings where some Members and Officers could be physically present. Members would be contacted in due course to establish their preference to attend meetings in-person or continue to attend via virtual means **(36/2020/P)**.

#### **City of London Policing Plan**

- The Chairman noted that he was presenting the City of London Policing Plan at the Court of Common Council on 10 September 2020. The plan was a statutory requirement for the Force's local function but there was also a need to articulate the Force's National Lead Force function too. Members should note that the Plan had been developed prior to the onset of COVID-19, and engagement would take place with Members in developing the refreshed Plan for 2021-2022 shortly. Historically, engagement had taken place with Members of the City of London Police Authority Board, and officers from the Force, whereas the forthcoming process would be available to all Members of the Court of Common Council.
- The Chairman added that the City of London Corporation was also putting thought into the changing face of the City, and how office space would be used going forward in light of increased working from home

patterns. The Force would need to be mindful of this as it went about setting targets and its future Target Operating Model.

### **Force Finances / Headcount**

- In response to a question from a Member regarding the Force underspend due to vacancy rate, the Commissioner replied that the original Force budget had been set based on confirmation of both local and national funding, and since that time recruitment had been done at pace, with two intakes so far this financial year and more intakes planned. The Force was working to identify an up to date headcount in light of those intakes, transfers from outside the Force, and leavers and retirements. The Commissioner was confident in the pace at which recruitment was being conducted but given the original budget had been based on full establishment it was inevitable that there would be an underspend in light of the vacancy rate.
- The Chairman clarified that an analysis of where gaps in the Force existed due to vacancy rate would be dealt with in a report at the October 2020 meeting.

## **6. COMMISSIONER'S UPDATES**

The Commissioner and Chief Officers were heard in public session and the following points were made.

- The Commander (Operations and Security) noted that those Members resident in the City, or attending the City in person, may have seen a small uptick in City attendance by the general public, although numbers were not significant. A further increase was anticipated during week commencing 7 September once pupils had returned to schools.
- The Commander (Operations and Security) continued, noting that crime and anti-social behaviour continued to be at low levels this year compared to last year, with recent increases in shoplifting and pedal cycle theft having plateaued. That said, there was some seasonality to these types of crime and so it remained to be seen whether these crime levels normalised in the coming months. Crime and anti-social behaviour continued to be a key focus for the Force despite low overall attendance in the City by the general public.
- The Commander (Operations and Security) noted that the night-time economy was bouncing back more rapidly than the day-time economy, with significant numbers returning to the City particularly with the recent good weather. This had given rise to some public order issues which had required a police response in co-operation with the City's Licensing Team, particularly on the Broadgate Estate where there had been three weekends of unacceptable activity.
- In respect of COVID-19, staff absence was at 3% which was lower than at this point the previous year. The Force's establishment was sufficient

to meet forecast commitments. The next three days would see planned protests commencing that day with a small Byelorussian protest outside the London Stock Exchange, succeeded by two days of protest by Extinction Rebellion. The Commander (Operations and Security) assured Members that policing plans were in place, including for mutual support between City of London Police and the Metropolitan Police under Op BENBOW.

- The Commander (Operations and Security) concluded by noting that a considerable amount of work was being undertaken to enable sections of the Force to return to the workplace, through making those workplaces COVID-secure. The Commander noted that he had been tasked by the Commissioner to establish new ways of working to enable the Force to meet its responsibilities as a responsible employer in facilitating a safe return to work over the next few months. Planning had commenced for the traditionally busy Christmas period, acknowledging the fact that it was uncertain what impact COVID and new ways of working would have on that time of year.
- In response to a question, the Commander (Operations and Security) noted that at the outset of lockdown the Force had dealt with an increase in burglary of office premises, which had been addressed by an appropriate patrol strategy that was enabled by the fact would-be criminals were not able to hide in plain sight in crowds. The Force had had some successes in arresting suspects on the scene or making off from the scene(s). There had been a reduction in drug related crime due to the closure of licensed premises. The Commander noted that there had been a 15%-19% reduction in crime nationally, but a 54% increase in drug arrests in the Metropolitan Police area which, for the reason outlined above, had not been replicated in the City.

## **7. NATIONAL LEAD FORCE**

The Commissioner and Chief Officers were heard regarding National Lead Force issues and the following points were made.

- The Commissioner introduced T/Commander Blackburn, who was in post following the retirement of Commander Baxter. The Commissioner added that Members would receive a National Lead Force Plan at their October 2020 meeting that set out where the Force sat within the national landscape.
- The T/Commander (Economic Crime) noted the national economic crime picture for 2019/20, with one million contacts to Action Know Fraud which represented an 11% increase on last year. At the beginning of lockdown there had been a 50% decrease in reporting, but pre-lockdown figures had now resumed. 2000 reports of COVID-specific fraud had been reported, of which 1682 had been disseminated to Forces. There had been a 46% increase in online shopping fraud mainly related to fake PPE and testing kits, resulting in 47 arrests and two charged to date.

- In terms of national activity, a spending review bid composed of high, medium and low 'asks' had been submitted with a view to building capacity both within the City and nationally. It was planned to complete 40% of planned recruitment within year one of the planned three-year recruitment timeline.
- Work continued on the fraud reform programme which involved all relevant national agencies. The programme was composed of six strands, namely (1) designing out fraud (2) communications and education (3) fraud and cyber reporting (4) National Cyber Crime Force (5) criminal justice and (6) victim support. The two key strands were the fraud and cyber reporting strand, which the Commissioner was leading on, and the National Cyber Crime Force which has been referenced in the Conservative Party's 2019 manifesto, and aimed to create a whole systems approach to combating fraud. The Force was currently in design stage, with the Force involved in its development. In terms of fraud and cyber reporting, the City was at the stage of procuring a new system and had just undertaken soft market testing.
- The T/Commander (Economic Crime) continued, noting that the Force was investigating 568 offences of which 68 had been deemed complex. National campaigns continued, with Op RADIUM combatting courier fraud resulting on over 100 arrests in the UK. A new Economic Crime Coordination Centre was due to be launched, that would lead on national campaigns going forward.
- The Force had completed five of the fifteen Mackey Review recommendations, with work progressing on the remaining ten.
- Other success stories in the National Lead Force context included an operation against a Romanian organised crime group leading to seizure of £2m and gold bars, and the arrest of a COVID-19 fraudster in the UK within four hours of receiving intelligence from US authorities.
- A Member commented that the Mackey Review had highlighted the need for an end-to-end review of the National Lead Force operating model, including the dissemination of reports and the number of trained investigators across the UK. There was also a risk that an overemphasis on digitalisation would lead to a lack of emphasis on victim care.
- The Chairman added that to tackle fraud effectively it has to be both a government priority, and a priority for PCCs. He had been making this point consistently at the Home Office Fraud Oversight Board and with PCCs. The Commissioner noted that he would, in non-public session, expand more on the Force's work with the Home Office in the spending review and implications for increased capability and capacity.
- The T/Commander (Economic Crime) assured Members that dissemination of reports was embedded within the procurement of the new system, as well as within the fraud reform programme.

- A Member commented that many reviews of complaints were prompted by Action Know Fraud, and the use of algorithms to determine which reports should be disseminated. Whilst the use of algorithms and AI saved time and money, there was a question how far this was appropriate from a victim care perspective. The Member concluded by noting a recent RUSI report into the use of algorithms in policing and the recommendation that a framework be adopted. The Chairman concurred, noting there were issues around GDPR and potential bias within algorithms.
- The T/Commander (Economic Crime) was heard in reply, noting that algorithms were a crucial tool given the volume of reporting and their ability to identify viable cases.
- The Commissioner noted that he was happy to come back to the Board with a comprehensive position from the Force. The use of AI was at the forefront of a lot of thinking in the policing arena and the Force was mindful of its advantages and potential drawbacks. The Commissioner assured Members that decision making remained, ultimately, by human intervention and supported by AI.
- The Chairman welcomed the offer of a report and requested that it include where else algorithms were used within the Force, alongside Action Know Fraud **(37/2020/P)**.

#### 8. **UPDATE ON THE INDEPENDENT ADVISORY AND SCRUTINY GROUP**

Members considered an update report of the Commissioner regarding the Independent Advisory and Scrutiny Group (IASG) and the following points were made.

- The Chairman welcomed the report and noted that the reinvigorated IASG was the result of HMICFRS comments that the previous regime of a Community Scrutiny Group and an Independent Advisory Group was not an effective arrangement that was having a negative impact on Force legitimacy.
- The Assistant Commissioner introduced the report, noting the IASG was made up of 16 Members from a diverse range of backgrounds and ages. 7 Members were BAME and 8 Members were female. There had been good engagement between the IASG and Force GOLD groups on COVID-19 and equality and inclusion. The IASG also offered a lot of potential for improved oversight and perspective in other Force functions such as sensitive investigations, and improved oversight of the use of body work video.
- In response to a question, the Assistant Commissioner confirmed IASG meetings were well attended, and the terms of reference and minutes of the group could be provided outside of the meeting.

- The Chairman noted that he would welcome the opportunity for himself, the Deputy Chairman and Special Interest Area Lead Members to attend meetings of the IASG. Similarly, IASG Members were welcome to attend public sessions of the City of London Police Authority Board **(39/2020/P)**. The Chairman noted he would welcome future reporting to the Board on outcomes from the work of the IASG, so that they could be tracked. Lastly, the Chairman commented that the IASG would be a good forum to test proposed changes within the Force, such as its Target Operating Model.
- The Chairman concluded the item by suggesting that dip sampling of body worn video would be a good topic for review by the Professional Standards and Integrity Committee **(40/2020/P)**.

**RESOLVED**, that the report be received.

- 9. QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE BOARD**  
There were no questions.
- 10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT**  
There was no other business.
- 11. 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.
- 12. NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**  
**RESOLVED**, that the non-public minutes of the meeting held on 29 July 2020 be approved as a correct record.
- 13. NON-PUBLIC OUTSTANDING REFERENCES**  
Members considered a joint report of the Town Clerk and Commissioner regarding non-public outstanding references.
- 14. CHAIRMAN'S NON-PUBLIC UPDATE**  
The Chairman noted he had no non-public update to provide to the Board.
- 15. COMMISSIONER'S UPDATES**  
The Commissioner and Chief Officers provided non-public updates to the Board.
- 16. NATIONAL LEAD FORCE**  
The Commissioner was heard regarding the National Lead Force.
- 17. CITY OF LONDON POLICE TRANSFORM PROGRAMME**  
The Commissioner and Chief Officers were heard regarding the City of London Police Transform Programme.

18. **CITY OF LONDON POLICE ETHICAL PARTNERSHIPS - TO FOLLOW**  
The Town Clerk noted that this report had been deferred to a future meeting.
19. **POLICING THE CITY BRIDGES - FUNDING - UPDATED**  
Members considered an updated report of the Commissioner regarding Policing the City Bridges – Funding.
20. **SAFER CITY PARTNERSHIP UPDATE**  
The Deputy Chairman was heard regarding the Safer City Partnership.
21. **NON-PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE BOARD**  
There was one non-public question.
22. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE BOARD AGREES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED**  
There was no other business.

*At this point of the meeting, two hours having elapsed, Members agreed to extend the meeting until all items of business had been considered, in line with Standing Order 40 of the Court of Common Council.*

23. **CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES**  
**RESOLVED**, that the confidential minutes of the meeting held on 29 July 2020 be approved.
24. **CONFIDENTIAL ITEM(S)**  
The Chairman was heard in confidential session.

**The meeting ended at 1.29 pm**

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Chairman

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