

CITY OF LONDON POLICE AUTHORITY BOARD
Thursday, 7 January 2021

Minutes of the virtual meeting of the City of London Police Authority Board held via
Microsoft Teams on Thursday, 7 January 2021 at 10.00 am

Present

Members:

Deputy James Thomson (Chairman)
Douglas Barrow (Deputy Chairman)
Caroline Addy
Nicholas Bensted-Smith
Deputy Keith Bottomley
Tijs Broeke
Alderman Emma Edhem
Alderman Alison Gowman
Alderman Timothy Hailes
Dawn Wright
Deborah Oliver (External Member)

City of London Police Authority:

Simon Latham	- Deputy Chief Executive
Alex Orme	- Head of Police Authority Team
Rachael Waldron	- Compliance Lead
Alistair Cook	- Head of Police Authority Finance
Polly Dunn	- Town Clerk's Department
Kerry Nicholls	- Town Clerk's Department
Matthew Pitt	- Town Clerk's Department
Chandni Tanna	- Town Clerk's Department
James Gibson	- Chamberlain's Department
Paul Chadha	- Comptroller & City Solicitor's Department

City of London Police:

Angela McLaren	- Assistant Commissioner Economic and Cyber Crime
Clinton Blackburn	- Commander (Economic Crime)
David Evans	- Commander (Operations and Security)
Cecilie Booth	- Chief Operating Officer and Chief Financial Officer
Christopher Bell	- City of London Police
James Morgan	- City of London Police
Fiona Murphy	- City of London Police
Martin O'Regan	- City of London Police
Oliver Shaw	- City of London Police
Hayley Williams	- City of London Police

Observing:

Helen Fentimen - Common Councillor
Graham Packham - Common Councillor

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for lateness were received from Tijs Broeke.

The Chairman welcomed Assistant Commissioner Angela McLaren who was attending in place of the Commissioner.

The Chairman led the Board in congratulating the Deputy Chairman who had been awarded a MBE for services to the maritime sector and the City of London as part of the Queen's New Year's Honours.

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

In relation to Item 22: City of London Police – Future Police Estate update, Alderman Emma Edhem declared that she worked for a company based in the vicinity of Salisbury Square and was a member of the Planning and Transportation Committee.

3. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED, that the public minutes and non-public summary of the meeting held on 16 December 2020 be approved as a correct record.

4. **COMMITTEE MINUTES**

a) **Professional Standards and Integrity Committee**

This item was withdrawn.

5. **OUTSTANDING REFERENCES**

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

- Works on the exercise yard at Bishopsgate Police Station (Action 37/2019/P) had commenced on 4 January 2021 and were on track for completion by 5 February 2021. Regular updates on progress would be provided to the SIA Member for Safeguarding and Public Protection.
- With regard to Action 52/2020/P, the Commander (Operations and Security) confirmed that the City of London Police was engaging in a review of temporary changes made to the built environment of the City during 2020. An update on the findings of the review would be reported to the next meeting of the Police Authority Board on 17 February 2021.

RESOLVED, that the update on outstanding references be noted.

6. **CHAIRMAN'S PUBLIC UPDATE**

Members heard a public update from the Chairman and the following points were made:

- The recruitment process for an external Member of the Professional Standards and Integrity (Police) Committee was being progressed. Candidates were not required to live or work in the City of London and once the final documentation had been agreed, Board Members were requested to share details of this opportunity across their networks. Consideration was being given to paid channels to advertise the role.
- The Government spending review had resulted in a better than expected police settlement which provided for an increase of up to £4.2M, some of which was ringfenced for the recruitment of new Police officers. Funding for the second year of the national uplift of 20,000 officers had been confirmed which would enable an additional 41 probationary officers to be recruited by the City of London Police during the 2021/22 financial year. Serious Organised Crime continued to be an area of priority and approximately 300 additional officers tackling fraud would be recruited across the country.
- A Member workshop on the draft Policing Plan would be held on 19 January 2021, which all Board Members were encouraged to attend. The draft Policing Plan would be considered by all Members at a Court Briefing session on 8 March 2021.

RESOLVED, that the update be noted.

7. **COMMISSIONER'S PUBLIC UPDATE**

Members heard a public update from the Commissioner and the following points were made:

- The COVID-19 period continued to present challenging operational conditions for the Police. The Police continued to work with the Metropolitan Police in taking the 4E's approach to COVID-19 and it was planned to increase the pace at which engagement escalated to enforcement. This was not anticipated to cause a spike in the issuing of Fixed Penalty Notices as footfall in the City remained very low.
- As of the last confirmed month end date, crime had reduced 42% over the rolling 12-month period and it was projected that crime would be down by 43-50% by the end of the 2020/21 financial year. There had been good overall compliance with COVID-19 restrictions in the City of London over the Christmas period and the announcement of a further national lockdown on 4 January 2021 would support Police enforcement going forward through greater clarity of public messaging. Sickness absenteeism across the City of London Police was currently running at 6.5%, and Police staff were working at home where possible.
- Brexit had come into force on 1 January 2021 and had not caused any issues as yet. The Police were working with colleagues in Kent under arrangements for national mutual aid resources and this would continue throughout January 2021 in case of arising issues.

- The Commander (Operations and Security) confirmed that there had been a small increase in domestic-violence related incidents in October 2020 but the City had not seen the levels of increase experienced in other parts of the UK. A Member asked about the backlog in cases within the criminal justice system and the Commander (Operations and Security) advised that there continued to be significant pressure as courts were not running at full capacity. The reduction in crime since March 2019 had helped to mitigate this pressure; however, trial fixtures were now being booked as far in advance as late 2022 which would have impact in terms of witness and victim attrition. Additional courts were being convened across London but this would not necessarily benefit the City of London.

RESOLVED, that the update be noted.

8. **NATIONAL LEAD FORCE**

Members heard an update from the Commissioner on National Lead Force and the following points were made:

- During the last reporting year there had been approximately 822k reported incidents of fraud. The three most common frauds related to the areas of dating, advance fees and investments, and there had been an additional 1500 offenses of investment fraud compared to 2019, which was likely linked to the increased time that people spent in their homes and online. There had been an 8% reduction in Action Fraud cases during December 2020, with all Key Performance Indicators being met. Action Fraud had also been represented at a recent meeting of the Home Affairs Select Committee Work and Pensions Committee which was considering ways to address an increase in pension-related investment fraud. A programme of events exploring issues around fraud had been undertaken with regional crime units and police forces and Police and Crime Commissioners across the UK.

- The Economic Crime Victim Care (ECVCU) Unit now operated across 20 forces and had supported 82,000 victims of fraud since its inception in 2014, of which only 17 individuals had reported becoming a repeat victim. In response to a question from a Member, the Commander (Economic Crime) confirmed that the National Economic Crime Victim Care Unit had been set up to provide support to victims of fraud whose cases could not be pursued. Local forces had responsibility to support victims whose cases were being progressed within the criminal justice system. The Chairman highlighted the need to promote the excellent work of the National Economic Crime Victim Care Unit and requested this be included within the Strategic Communications and Engagement Plan with an update provided to the next meeting of the Board on 17 February 2021 (Action 1/2021/P).

RESOLVED, that the update be noted.

9. POLICE AUTHORITY GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

Members considered a report of the Town Clerk on Police Authority Governance arrangements and the following point was made:

- There were a number of workstreams being progressed as part of the Phase 2 workplan, including a business plan for the Police Authority and consideration of how the Board and its sub-committees could work more effectively. The results of this work would be presented to the next meeting of the Board on 17 February 2021 (Action 2/2021/P).

RESOLVED, that the update be noted.

10. DRAFT PA FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK

Members considered a report of the Chamberlain presenting the draft Police Authority Financial Framework and the following points were made:

- The draft Police Authority Financial Framework had been developed to outline how the Police Authority would oversee the finances of the City of London Police moving forward. It aimed to provide a strategic and proportional approach that balances operational independence with the requirements of the Police Authority to deliver an efficient and effective and force which held the Police Commissioner to account. In response to a question from a Member, the Head of Police Authority Finance confirmed that CIPFA guidance clearly delineated the financial roles and functions of the Force and Police Authority, and also outlined where responsibilities overlapped. Moving forward, strong partnership working would be critical and clarity was needed on roles and responsibilities.
- The Assistant Commissioner underlined the need for strong advocacy procedures to be put in place to ensure that future funding settlements met growth and development needs. The Chairman suggested that work be undertaken to develop support and advocacy processes, particularly in relation to funding discussions with the Home Office. A Member emphasised that credibility would be crucial to this process and

would require explanations of key variances. The Head of Police Authority Finance confirmed that these proposals were part of a wider framework that would incorporate a full range of factors including advocacy. The Deputy Chief Executive observed that a more integrated approach had been taken to recent funding discussions on the next generation Action Fraud system and this would provide a template for future partnership working

RESOLVED, that the draft Police Authority Financial Framework be approved.

11. QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE BOARD

There were no questions.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

There were no items of urgent business.

13. 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.

14. NON-PUBLIC MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the non-public minutes of the meeting held on 16 December 2020 be approved as a correct record.

15. NON-PUBLIC COMMITTEE MINUTES

a) Professional Standards and Integrity Committee

This item was withdrawn.

16. NON-PUBLIC OUTSTANDING REFERENCES

Members considered a joint report of the Town Clerk and the Commissioner regarding non-public outstanding references.

17. CHAIRMAN'S NON-PUBLIC UPDATE

Members heard a non-public update from the Chairman.

18. COMMISSIONER'S NON-PUBLIC UPDATE

Members heard a non-public update from the Commissioner.

19. NATIONAL LEAD FORCE

Members heard a non-public update from the Commissioner on National Lead Force.

20. RISK REGISTER UPDATE

Members considered a report of the Commissioner presenting an update on the Risk Register.

21. HEALTH AND SAFETY ANNUAL UPDATE

Members considered a report of the Commissioner presenting the Health and Safety annual update.

22. CITY OF LONDON POLICE - FUTURE POLICE ESTATE UPDATE

Members considered a joint report of the City Surveyor and the Commissioner presenting an update on the future Police estate.

23. POLICE ACCOMMODATION STRATEGY: CITY OF LONDON POLICE RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS - FUTURE POLICE ESTATE

Members considered a report of the Commissioner on the resource requirements of the future Police estate.

24. POLICE ACCOMMODATION STRATEGY: DECANT - CITY OF LONDON POLICE DECANT LOGISTICS / MOVE PARTNER

Members considered a report of the Commissioner providing an update on the Police Accommodation Strategy decant programme.

25. CITY OF LONDON POLICE FLEET STRATEGY

Members considered a report of the Commissioner outlining the City of London Police fleet strategy.

26. TRANSFORM PROGRAMME: PROGRESS UPDATE

Members considered a report of the Commissioner providing a progress update on the Transform Programme.

27. NON-PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE BOARD

There were no questions.

28. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE BOARD AGREES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED

There were no items of urgent business.

29. CONFIDENTIAL COMMITTEE MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the non-public minutes of the meeting held on 16 December 2020 be approved as a correct record.

30. STAFFING REPORT

This item was withdrawn.

The meeting ended at 12.30 pm

Chairman

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