

<b>Strategy Boards &amp; Committees:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
Safer City Partnership Strategy Board	27/09/2021
<b>Subject:</b> Strategic Assessment 2021	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Andrew Carter, Director of Community and Children's Services, City of London Corporation	<b>For Decision</b>
<b>Author:</b> Valeria Cadena, Community Safety Manager, City of London Corporation	
<b>Summary</b>	
<p>The Strategic Assessment 2021 is a document that analyses crime and community safety issues across the City of London. This is a statutory document that must be produced annually. It is used to inform key documents and strategies, including the Safer City Partnership (SCP) Strategic Plan and priorities.</p>	
<b>Recommendations</b>	
<p>Members are asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Note the report</li> <li>• Approve the report.</li> </ul> <p>Responsible Authorities are asked to provide details of what priorities they would like to see in the next SCP plan within three weeks of this SCP Strategy Board meeting.</p>	

## Main Report

### **Background**

1. The Strategic Assessment is a vital document for the SCP. It is a statutory requirement that should be produced annually. Through analysing data from partner agencies, as well as bodies such as the Greater London Authority, the Strategic Assessment is able to provide insight into crime and community safety issues across the City of London.

### **Current Position**

2. The Strategic Assessment has now been completed. A consultative process with partner agencies – including an Analysts' Meeting – to interrogate the data, has been undertaken.

3. The Strategic Assessment is now complete, subject to the SCP Strategy Board's approval.
4. Some of the key findings of the Strategic Assessment are:
  - Crime in the Square Mile has increased steadily over the last few years, COVID-19 aside, from just under 2,000 per quarter in 2016 to just over 3,000 per quarter in 2019.
  - The most prevalent crimes appear to be:
    - Theft – seems to be driving the steady increase in crime in the City of London up to the COVID-19 lockdowns, representing around 30% of all recorded crimes in the City in 2016 and around 40% of all recorded crimes in 2019
    - Violence/assaults – with the largest proportion of the 1,316 such recorded crimes in 2019 occurring in Bishopsgate
    - Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) – Bishopsgate had the highest numbers of ASB incidents in the City in 2019, with 196 of the 1101 (18%) incidents recorded there
    - Shoplifting – concentrated in Langbourn ward, which includes Leadenhall Market (there were 215 incidents in Langbourn in 2019).
  - Two types of recorded crimes are increasing over time, albeit from small initial bases: drugs and bicycle theft.
  - The City of London Police detection rate compares well to other Police forces.
  - Residents' spontaneous community safety concerns focus on transport and traffic.
  - When prompted with a list of potential community safety related concerns in a survey in November 2018, people in the City (residents, visitors, workers and learners) said terrorism was their biggest concern.
  - Vulnerable people and communities:
    - Post-pandemic 'return to normal levels': after a fall during lockdown, numbers of adults and children at risk and incidents of recorded domestic violence, stalking and harassment and those involving people with mental health qualifiers appear to be returning to pre-lockdown levels
    - Hate Crime is decreasing (although there are concerns about how the issue is being recorded/categorised)
    - Levels of suicide and attempted suicide remain high, and constant
    - Ambulance callouts for overdose/poisoning show a steady increase until the COVID-19 lockdowns
    - Homelessness numbers remain stable in the City, and homeless people have high levels of multiple need.

- Since 2005, there have been 25 fatal highway casualties on roads within the City of London. There have also been 793 serious and 4,781 slight highway casualties within this time.
- The City's night-time economy is relatively safe compared to local comparator areas, though consumption of alcohol and consequent intoxication appears to be relatively high.
- Extensive air quality monitoring across the Square Mile demonstrates that air quality is improving.
- The recording and categorisation of crimes across different agencies could be more effectively harmonised. Consistent use of terminology and therefore logging of crimes could help to improve our ability to build datasets for future strategic assessments and strategic plans. Recording of additional aspects of crime, such as time and location, consistently across all agencies could also be beneficial.

### **Strategic Implications**

5. The Strategic Assessment is a fundamental document that provides insights into crime and community safety issues across the City of London. The document serves as a vital basis for the development of SCP strategies and priorities, including the next SCP Strategic Plan.

### **Implications**

6. The completion of an annual Strategic Assessment is a statutory requirement and helps to fulfil the obligations of the SCP as a community safety partnership under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (and associated regulations).

### **Conclusion**

7. The Strategic Assessment is now complete and will serve as a central document for the SCP's next Strategic Plan and its priorities.

### **Appendices**

- Appendix 1 – *Crime, Disorder and Community Safety: Strategic Assessment – City of London Safer City Partnership, September 2021*

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**Appendix 1**