

<b>Committee:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
Safer City Partnership Strategic Board	29/11/2021
<b>Subject:</b> Safer City Partnership Review	<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	

### Summary

This report sets out proposals to undertake a review of the Safer City Partnership to ensure the public authorities that are partner to it continue to fulfil the duties expected of the partnership. In the context of its Governance Review the City Corporation will also review the scrutiny arrangements for the partnership’s work.

### Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- approve the proposed review of the Safer City Partnership.

### Main Report

#### Background

1. The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 imposed a duty on certain key public sector bodies to work as a “partnership” to make places safer. The partnership is the collective term for those public bodies – the “responsible authorities” - required to work together to formulate and implement strategies for the reduction of crime.
2. The responsible authorities under the Crime and Disorder Act s5 are:
  - local authority
  - probation services
  - chief officer of police
  - fire and rescue authority
  - clinical commissioning group

3. Under the relevant regulations a “strategy group” must be established, responsible for preparing strategic assessments and preparing a partnership plan on behalf of the responsible authorities. The partnership plan is required to contain the statutory strategies:
  - for the reduction of crime and disorder in the area (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment);
  - for combatting the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in the area
  - for the reduction of re-offending in the area
4. The strategy group must hold one or more public meetings during each year and such meetings must be attended by persons who hold a senior position within each of the responsible authorities. Otherwise, meetings are a matter for the responsible authorities or the strategy group (depending on the arrangements in place governing meetings).
5. The Police and Justice Act 2006 includes crime and disorder scrutiny as one of the functions the local authority must ensure its scrutiny arrangements cover. Such arrangements include ensuring the local authority has a Crime and Disorder Committee with the power to review and scrutinise and make reports or recommendations regarding the exercise of the responsible authorities’ crime and disorder functions.
6. In the City of London, the Safer City Partnership (SCP) and a Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee were established to meet these duties and expectations.

### **Current Position**

7. The requirements placed upon the responsible authorities have been subject to amendment and addition. Proposals in the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill before parliament seek to further amend the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to require the crime and disorder reduction strategies prepared by responsible authorities to address two further matters: namely preventing people from becoming involved in serious violence in the area; and reducing instances of serious violence in the area.
8. Alongside such changes the City Corporation is undertaking a review of its governance.
9. As such it is timely for the responsible authorities and other parties represented on the Safer City Partnership to participate in a review of the current governance arrangements. The aim will be to ensure the partnership

and its strategy group acts to deliver the duties placed upon it, and governance framework supports the breadth of its functions.

## **Proposals**

10. It is proposed that the City Corporation's Department of Community and Children's Services lead this review – including an audit of activities - in consultation with the responsible authorities, and through engagement with wider partners. This will inform proposed structures and terms of reference for the approval of the responsible authorities with statutory responsibilities in respect of the partnership plan of the Safer City Partnership.
11. The City Corporation - as local authority - has sole responsibility for the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee, and therefore any review or recommendations in relation to its functioning or membership will be for the decision of the Court of Common Council.
12. Changes to the functioning of the Safer City Partnership that may arise from this review are for the responsible authorities to decide. Proposals setting out any such changes will be set out in a report to those authorities in the January 2022.

## **Conclusion**

13. Through the work of its partners, the Safer City Partnership helps ensure that the Square Mile is a safe place for people to live, learn, work and visit. Its review will ensure it continues to deliver its work in an effective and efficient manner, securing the duties placed upon it.

## **Valeria Cadena**

Community Safety Manager, Community Safety Team, City of London Corporation

E: [Valeria.Cadena@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:Valeria.Cadena@cityoflondon.gov.uk)

T: 020 7332 1272