

Appendix 5 - Special Interest Area Scheme

1. The Police Authority Board has operated a Specialist Interest Area (SIA) Scheme since 2007. The purpose of the SIA Scheme is for Members of the Board to have oversight of specific areas of City of London Police work, to provide focused scrutiny on key areas of Force business and gain specialist knowledge and expertise, thus enhancing the Committee's scrutiny and performance management role (see appendix 3a for further background).
2. At Police Authority Board on 25 March, 2021, it was agreed that the SIA Scheme should be further revised in advance of the new municipal year (see appendix 3b for 20/21 SIA roles). In particular, Members agreed that a number of the SIA roles should be integrated into the role profiles of the Chairs (or where appointed Deputy Chairs) of the various Police Authority Board Committees, as well as the roles of Police Authority Board Chair and Deputy Chair, given the extent to which the SIAs now overlap with the responsibilities of these roles.
3. To this end, for the start of the municipal year 2022/23, it is proposed that the Board continue with one SIA role remain in place: that of Safeguarding and Public Protection (Vulnerability and ICV Scheme), which is currently undertaken by Deputy Keith Bottomley.
4. The SIA Scheme will be reviewed in July 2022.

SIA	PAB Lead Member
Safeguarding and Public Protection (Vulnerability and ICV Scheme)	A nominated Police Authority Board Member (currently Deputy Keith Bottomley)
Counter Terrorism	<i>Chair of the Police Authority Board</i>
Neighbourhood Policing	<i>Chair or Deputy Chair of the Strategic Planning & Performance Committee</i>
Road Safety (and Casualty Reduction)	<i>Deputy Chair of the Police Authority Board</i>
Human Resources, Equality and Inclusion	<i>Chair or Deputy Chair of the Professional Standards and Integrity Committee</i>
Transform	<i>Chair or Deputy Chair of the Resource, Risk & Estates Committee</i>

SIA Scheme Objectives

The SIA Scheme operates through a direct liaison between lead officers at Force and Members. A contact in the relevant area of business is tasked to make regular contact with their respective SIA Lead Members, keeping them informed of developments or issues which may arise throughout the year. Lead Members are also expected to oversee the work that takes place, challenging and following up issues where necessary. Lead Members are encouraged to raise issues at the Police Authority Board where necessary to ensure that appropriate action is taken, as well as reporting back on their work on a regular basis.

The objective of the SIA Scheme is not to give an 'operational' role to Members; instead, it is intended to boost the level of scrutiny and challenge which the Police Authority Board provides to the Force, something which has previously been recognised as a notable practice within the sector.

City Corporation 'link officers' provide professional advice and guidance to SIA Lead Members where required, in addition to support from the Police Authority Team.

The objectives of the SIA Scheme are as follows:

- to fill any potential gaps in oversight by a given Police Authority Board Committee, i.e. any important areas of policing that are not fully covered by Committee business;
- to provide more informed oversight and scrutiny of the Force (particularly when PAB is making decisions on complex issues);
- to enable Members to share their professional knowledge, skills and expertise with the Force, acting as a 'critical friend' to suggest potential areas for improvement where appropriate;
- to broaden the engagement of Board Members in the work of the Police, alongside their work on behalf of Police Authority Board Committees;
- to improve the knowledge of members (particularly newer Members to the Board) about key areas of national and local policing undertaken by the City Police;
- to ensure Members develop a deep understanding of the Force's activities on a day-to-day basis.