

Committee(s): Police Authority Board	Dated: 25 May 2022
Subject: Chair's Update	Public
Report of: James Thomson	For Information

Police Authority Team

Richard Holt, representing the Town Clerk, has taken over from Polly Dunn as Clerk for the Police Authority Board.

On behalf of the Police Authority Board I would like to put on record our thanks for the support Polly Dunn has provided to the board and its committees at a time when the Town Clerk's department has been going through significant change and resourcing pressures.

I would also like to put on record my personal thanks to Polly who also was Clerk whilst I was Chairman of the City of London School so I have enjoyed her support for the last 4 years.

Committee appointments

We will shortly be launching the recruitment of:

- One external member of the Police Authority Board who must be a resident or worker within the City
- One external member where there is no requirement to work or live in the City and where we will be encouraging co-opted members on the committees of the Police Authority Board to apply.

The names of elected members who have put themselves forward for co-option from the Court of Common Council onto the committees of the board will be circulated separately.

Association of Police and Crime Commissioners

I attended recently an event for Police and Crime Commissioners at the National Crime Agency. The importance of fraud being included in the Online Safety Bill and the work of the Police Authority, City Police alongside the NCA and others was noted.

The NCA is elevating the risk of cyber as one of its priorities for national security reflecting the increasing importance placed on fraud and cyber by Government and the Home Office.

There is a clear appetite from PCCs for more information around fraud and cyber. The engagement nationally being led by Assistant Commissioner O'Doherty was noted by some PCCs.

Engagement

The City Police has developed an engagement plan and stakeholder mapping and will be working with the Police Authority and Corporation to build on this. Engagement events include:

- Dinner held at Guildhall on 16 May in support of the International Counter Terrorism conference being hosted in London.
- Upcoming private dinner for the Security Minister.
- An event will be planned to mark the 20th Anniversary of DCPCU with UK Finance.

I hosted with the City Police a newly elected members briefing on 11 May which was well attended and well received. Future all member briefings are being planned around protective security, local policing, and fraud and cyber.

There is a clear appetite for information to be available on the City Police website – for example around Sector Policing and upcoming Cluster meetings.

An informal members group is also to be established with members that have experience in fraud and cyber.

Legislative reform

The City will be working closely with government officials to ensure our interests in the Bills announced in the Queen's Speech are appropriately considered – most notably regarding the Financial Services Bill, Online Safety Bill, and Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Bill. We are also expecting the Law Commission to report in the Spring on a failure to prevent economic crime offence as part of its work on corporate criminal liability.

The inclusion of paid-for advertising in the forthcoming Online Safety Bill was a major step forward in the fight to reduce online crime and helps cement the benefits of including fraud as a priority harm.

I welcome the Economic Crime Bill, which will further strengthen powers to tackle illicit finance, reduce economic crime and help businesses grow.

Policing Funding Formula Review

The police authority and force have had further engagement with the Police Funding Formula review policy team. It was reassuring to hear the demand from fraud and cyber crime (which is over 50% of estimated crime) is being factored into the model by the Home Office which makes it clear to forces about the importance of resourcing for this prevalent crime.

It was also noted that the funding formula, often driven by population, does not work for the City given the City's residential demographics or its role nationally.

We expect to see a consultation from the Home Office before parliamentary recess on the proposed principles and indicators. This will be followed by a consultation later in the year which will provide detail on force allocations.

Equalities and Inclusion

The Race Action Plan which aims to improve policing for Black people was published yesterday (24 May). The National Police Chiefs' Council sets out a vision for a police service that is anti-racist and trusted by Black people. With confidence in policing by members of the Black community lower than any other group, delivery against this vision is a critical priority for policing including the City of London Police.

I look forward to hearing how this plan will be delivered in the force and suggest its plan is shared at the next Professional Standards & Integrity Committee, and Police Authority Board after that. There are a range of actions applicable to us, as Police Authority which will also require implementation and the police authority team are working through any key areas of change and support we should be providing.

Economic crime

Following the wider Corporation governance changes, the revised FCCRAS Procurement Committee met on Tuesday (17th), where new attendees were briefed on the critical programme and taken through the down select for suppliers, moving the programme on to its next important stage of delivery.

The police authority team is working with City of London Police and Mansion House on a dinner with the Security Minister hosted by the Lord Mayor, following the successful event last October. Along with recent ministerial visit to the City, this shows a genuine political commitment to the City's agenda on supporting the national response to economic and cyber crime.

Safeguarding

The results of the HMICFRS Child Protection re-inspection were published this month. I was pleased to see City of London Police has made some improvements in the way in which it protects vulnerable children and has made significant progress in addressing the recommendations from the HMICFRS Child Protection Inspection in 2019.

However, there is still more the force can do to help keep them safe and with this in mind, progress on how the force is implementing these recommendations as soon as possible should be a focus at the next Strategic Planning and Performance Committee.