

<b>Committee(s):</b> Police Authority Board	<b>Dated:</b> January 2023
<b>Subject:</b> Chair's Update	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> James Thomson	<b>For Information</b>

## **Budget for 2023/24**

I submitted to the Home Office, on 13 January, a formal response on behalf of the Police Authority to the Department's consultation on the provisional police grant settlement for 2023/24. There is a separate agenda item on progress on setting the Revenue and Capital budget for next year, which will come to the Police Authority Board for approval in February. The position is challenging – including the fact that the settlement has increased the level of ringfencing that is subject to performance in maintaining officer uplift targets (from £1m to £2m for CoLP).

## **Police Private Partnerships Dinner**

On Wednesday 18 January the Authority hosted a dinner to celebrate the anniversaries of the Dedicated Card and Payment Crime Unit (DCPCU - 20 years) and Insurance Fraud Enforcement Department (IFED - 10 years). With attendees from those units, sponsor organisations and the wider public sector, we marked the occasion well, recognising their many successes and using the event to highlight the real value that partnership working with the private sector can have to tackle economic crime, as part of a whole system approach.

## **APCC General Meeting**

Today (25 January) and tomorrow the Corporation is hosting the quarterly General Meeting of the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners. This has provided a useful opportunity to run a workshop session with PCCs on what they can do to tackle fraud locally, as well as update them on national and regional developments. This continues into this evening when we are hosting a reception where we hope the discussions will continue.

## **Serious Violence Duty**

Legislation passed last year has introduced a new duty for local areas, including the City, to develop and implement a strategy to reduce serious violence. Work is at an early stage – consultants funded by the Home Office will be assessing our readiness to implement the duty over February, and may then provide additional support up to January 2024 when strategies are supposed to be in place. This month, we have applied for Home Office grant funding for the duty (about £100k a year to 2025), are meeting with the consultants to discuss application of the duty to the City, and have reached out to London's Violence Reduction Unit to discuss plans with them. We will be working closely with the Safer City Partnership team, whose statutory members (police, fire and rescue, health) are very similar to those who the new legislation requires to contribute to our serious violence strategy. We will keep Members

updated on this work, and suggest that the nascent Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee will be a good vehicle for this.

### **Parliamentary legislation**

There are a number of Bills of interest to the City of London Police and Authority which will resume their Parliamentary passage over the coming weeks. They include the Online Safety Bill (which still contains important fraud provisions), the National Security Bill, the Public Order Bill, the Financial Services and Markets Bill, and the Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Bill. In terms of the latter, there is, I believe, a strong argument in favour of pushing for the creation of a new 'failure to prevent' economic crime offence.

### **Parliamentary engagement**

I recently met Sarah Olney MP, Liberal Democrat Treasury Spokesperson, to discuss the future of Action Fraud and the City Police's role in tackling fraud. As a member of the Public Accounts Committee, she had questioned Assistant Commissioner Pete O'Doherty about these issues at the Committee's hearing on economic crime on 1 December 2022. I found it a productive meeting, and it reinforced the value of making connections with our Parliamentary colleagues. It is vital that Westminster politicians stay informed of the fraud and cyber crime threat and environment, and that we continue to convey the leading role we play in tackling these crimes.

### **Police Authority Team**

Three new members will have joined the Police Authority Team in the Corporation since the start of the year – Richard Riley, the new Director; Charles Smart (who will focus on standards and integrity, and victims issues); and Rachel Smith (as Police Authority and community safety analyst). Which means there is increased capacity and capability in the team to deliver the Police Authority Business plan, support members, and implement the findings of the Police Authority Review approved by the Police Authority Board in October 2022.

Alix Newbold has returned to the City Police following her term as interim Police Authority Board Director and I wish to record my personal thanks to her as well as the thanks of the Police Authority Board,

### **Stephen Lawrence Day Foundation**

22 April is the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the murder of Stephen Lawrence. The City of London Corporation, Police Authority and City Police are working with partners to look at how this might be marked.