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| Committee(s): Police Authority Board | Dated: 25 January 2023 |
| Subject: City of London Police Museum | Public |
| Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly? | 1 |
| Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending? | Yes- if we are to continue operating the museum |
| If so, how much? | £ TBC |
| What is the source of Funding? | £ TBC |
| Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department? | TBC |
| Report of: Commissioner of Police Pol 02-23 | For Information |
| Report author: Gary Brailsford-Hart, Information Management Services Director | |

Summary

This Report provides an overview of the current situation following the closure of the City of London Police Museum during the Covid -19 pandemic and the options being considered for its future state.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.

Main Report

Background

1. Due to the closure of Wood Street Police Station as a Police building and its subsequent sale, the City of London Police Museum needed a new location or to be placed into long term storage.
2. A Heritage Lottery Grant was applied for and awarded in 2015 which funded the move and redesign of the Museum to the Guildhall Complex, into the space previously occupied by the Horology Museum. The Museum enjoyed significant success at the new location with regular footfall and healthy and productive engagement with several schools regularly attending as part of the key stage programme.
3. During the Covid-19 pandemic a decision was taken to place the Museum into storage so that the space could be utilised as a Covid Testing Centre. This was arranged and managed as part of the Covid Response fund with an assurance that the Museum would be restored once the immediate emergency had passed and the space had served its purpose.

Current Position

4. In 2022 the Culture and Heritage Department ceded the Museum space back to the City Surveyor stating that it was now surplus to their requirements.
5. Discussions with the City Surveyor has established that the City of London Police Museum can be restored to the space. However, the funding of this is still being considered, as there appears to be no available funding from the original agreement to restore the Museum from storage due to the closure of the Covid fund.
6. There is currently no allocated Police budget for the Museum. Any previous costs have been met from the operating budget of CoLP Information Management Services department and had to date been relatively low and easily absorbed.

Options

7. The following options for the future of the Museum are currently being considered by the CoLP Chief Officer Team:
 - a. Remove the collection from the Guildhall storage location to a secure room at Bishopsgate Police Station which can be accommodated at limited cost.
 - b. Remove the collection from the Guildhall storage location to an offsite facility – this would attract transfer costs and ongoing monthly costs for storage.
 - c. Restore the collection to the previous Museum space, IMS Director is awaiting full operating costs from Culture and Heritage Team at the time of submission of this report.

- d. Distribute the collection across the current estate in appropriate Museum grade cabinets – this would involve non-operational areas including training rooms, waiting areas, meeting rooms, etc. This approach would also be expanded across the new estate. The approximate cost per cabinet would be £1,500 plus fitting cost. It is estimated currently that 10 cabinets may be required, but this would need to be explored further.
- e. Seek a private sponsor in the City to host and display the collection. This has been socialised through established channels but there has been limited engagement so far.
- f. Transfer the collection to the City of London Museum. Whilst the CoLM would accept the collection they have made it clear that the collection would be disbanded and only elements of it used to embellish/support existing displays.

Conclusion

- 8. The Force is considering the best option and awaits the detail of the full operating costs from the Culture and Heritage Team, but welcomes Member's views on the options listed. A further update will follow.

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