

<b>Committee(s):</b> Police Authority Board	<b>Dated:</b> 15 February 2023
<b>Subject:</b> Chair's Update	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> James Thomson	<b>For Information</b>

## Legislation and Policy

A number of Bills of interest to the City of London Police and Authority are continuing their Parliamentary passage. The Economic Crime and Corporate Responsibility Bill had its Second Reading in the House of Lords on 8 February. The Government has undertaken to introduce an amendment to the Bill to establish a new '**failure to prevent' offence in relation to economic crime**. I have broadly welcomed this (it is a measure that we, and others, have supported) but we await the detail of the provision.

We continue to await a date for publication of the Government's new **Fraud Strategy**. During the recent Lords Committee Stage of the Financial Services and Markets Bill, Treasury Minister Baroness Penn told Peers the strategy would be published "soon". We also await publication by the Home Office of the new **Strategic Policing Requirement**, particularly in terms of the emphasis the Home Secretary will place on all police forces tackling fraud.

On 7 February, the Security Minister launched a **formal consultation on proposed changes to the Computer Misuse Act 1990**, including the provision of new law enforcement powers, to enhance the cyber security of the UK. We will want to respond to the consultation.

The Police Authority Team is working closely with the Serious Fraud Office to coordinate a position across law enforcement and criminal justice system partners about changes to the current **disclosure** regime, from an economic crime perspective. The aim is to engage a number of interested parties such as HMRC, FCA, CPS and the Public Sector Fraud Authority and to develop a clear ask of government. We will aim to identify common issues with the current disclosure regime, and agree an approach on how these may be addressed, both in the short and longer term.

The Police Authority responded to a Home Office **questionnaire on anti-social behaviour (ASB) and reform of the Vagrancy Act** with input from City of London Police and the Corporation's licensing, community safety, and rough sleeping teams. Our response set out measures that have worked in the City (such as Operation Luscombe), pointed to the local tension between the night-time economy and ASB, and argued that reform of the Vagrancy Act should not seek to criminalise homelessness and should instead focus on diversion and rehabilitation.

## Funding

Home Office Ministers have confirmed a commitment to continuing with the **Policing Funding Formula Review** and officials are preparing for a first public consultation in

“early 2023”. The consultation will set out the “broad principles” of the Review and will consult on the purpose, structure and components of the new formula. In advance of it the review team has arranged to meet with City of London Police and the Police Authority Team to undertake a deep dive on the City’s funding, demands and pressures. This is likely to significantly inform the review team’s proposal on whether the City should be inside or outside the formula.

### **Special Constabulary**

I Will be attending a re-launch of the Special Constabulary on 16 February together with the Commissioner.

### **Events**

The City of London Corporation and City of London Police are supporting an important upcoming collaboration event between the City of London Crime Prevention Association and wider partners on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February to discuss and support initiatives to prevent violence against women and girls, domestic abuse and encourage greater partnership working with the private sector.

### **2023/24 Committee Membership**

If I am re-elected as Chair in April, I will be looking at the Committee Membership and I am asking that Police Authority Board Members indicate their interest in which Committees they would like to serve.

All Board Members are expected to serve on at least one Committee of the Board but it is asked that Board Members consider serving on at least two. Board Members are also asked to indicate whether they would be prepared to act as Chair or Deputy Chair of any Committee.