

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

## City of London Policing Plan

Subject to final approval from the Police Authority Board (PAB) **we will publish, on 31 March, the refresh of the City of London Policing Plan 2022–2025 for the coming financial year (2023/24).** The Plan sets out the values, operational and organisational priorities for the coming year to deliver the City of London Police's mission: a local service with a national role, trusted by our communities to deliver policing with professionalism, integrity and compassion. It will be important to maintain a clear line of sight between the priorities set out in the Plan, and reports coming to PAB and its Committees on delivery against it. The Plan will be presented to the Court of Common Council in May.

## Legislation and Policy

The Home Secretary published her revised **Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR)** on 20 February. Violence against women and girls is elevated to the status of a national threat in the new SPR. There is also much more prominence given to fraud in the document which the Police Authority and City Police have been seeking together with the support of others. It recognises and reinforces in a number of places the role of the City of London Police as National Lead Force for fraud in policing, references the procurement for the replacement of Action Fraud which the City is leading with the Home Office, and the investment in capacity in the system, especially regionally, led by City Police. City Police specialist units also get specifically referenced as does the work the City does on cyber. We, and the City Police, will consider the implications of the new SPR requirements as we look to deliver the priorities set out in our refreshed Policing Plan. The inclusion in the SPR is a significant step in the recognition by government of the seriousness of fraud as a crime type and will help ensure that local PCCs and Chiefs prioritise tackling fraud.

We continue to await a date for publication of the Government's new **Fraud Strategy and the second iteration of the Economic Crime Plan.** Both will be important in terms of the direction being set nationally on tackling fraud and broader economic crime, and the expectations on those with responsibilities to take action to better protect the public (beyond those articulated in the SPR in relation to police forces).

The Economic Crime and Corporate Responsibility Bill continues its Parliamentary passage through the House of Lords. We await, with interest, the detail of the Government's commitment to introduce an amendment to the Bill to establish a new **'failure to prevent' offence in relation to economic crime.** It must have teeth.

As previously reported, the Police Authority Team is working closely with the Serious Fraud Office and other law enforcement and criminal justice partners to coordinate a position about short term and more fundamental longer term changes to the current

**disclosure** regime. I am hosting a roundtable of senior figures on 31 March to assess common barriers and identify solutions. We need a disclosure regime fit for the digital age, not the analogue one.

The Home Secretary has provided more detail on the timeline for measures to be introduced following the conclusions of the inquiry into the Manchester Arena bombings in 2017. Draft legislation for the **Protect Duty (Martyn's law)** will be published "in the spring", with a Bill introduced after that "as soon as Parliamentary time allows." She also confirmed that there will be a lead time before the provisions are brought into force to allow for organisations covered by the Bill to prepare.

## **Funding**

The Commissioner, senior City Police colleagues and the Police Authority Director have had a constructive meeting with the Home Office officials responsible for developing the consultation on the forthcoming **Policing Funding Formula Review**. The stated Governmental intention remains to consult in "early 2023". It is likely to set out some broad principles, and consult on the purpose, structure and components of a new formula. We have provided the Home Office with a good deal of information, and an explanation, of the City's current complex funding arrangements, to inform the development of the consultation exercise.

## **Police Authority Board Dinner**

The annual Police Authority Board Dinner took place on 1 March. It was well attended by City of London members and officers, and by senior figures from across the public and private sectors. We heard an insightful speech from Graeme Biggar, the Director General of the National Crime Agency, who spoke about the challenges facing law enforcement – but painted a positive and hopeful picture about our collective ability to meet those challenges. And the evening facilitated helpful discussions – and generated ideas - on policing and community safety more generally. My thanks go to all those involved in arranging and hosting this successful event.

## **2023/24 Committee Membership**

As previously, 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.