

Committee(s): Police Authority Board	Dated: 2 nd May 2023
Subject: City of London Police (CoLP) Museum- Update	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	1- People are safe and feel safe
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N/A
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Report of: Commissioner of Police Pol 46-23	For Information
Report author: Gary Brailsford-Hart, Chief Data Officer	

Summary

This paper provides an update to the overview provided to the January Police Authority Board (PAB) concerning the current situation following the closure of the City of London Police Museum during the pandemic.

There is now an opportunity to restore the Museum in August 2023.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.

Main Report

Background

1. Due to the closure of Wood Street Police Station, the City of London Police (CoLP) Museum was required to find a new location or be placed into long term storage. 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.
2. During the Covid -19 pandemic a decision was taken to place the Police 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.
3. 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

Current Position

4. Since the update to your January PAB which outlined the options being explored, continued discussions with the City Surveyor established that the City of London Police Museum can be restored to the previously occupied space. We have established that there is no available funding from the original agreement to restore the Museum from storage due to the closure of the Covid fund and any restoration will have to be met from Police funds.
5. There is no allocated Police budget for the Museum. Any previous running costs have been met from police budgets and have been in the region of £5,000. The restoration costs are still being worked through.
6. The Chief Data Officer (CDO) has established from Guildhall Estates that there will be no ongoing costs for re-occupancy of the Museum space and therefore plans to continue to operate and meet incidental costs from their revenue budget.
7. Since the last report the CDO has met with the Director of New London Architecture (NLA), as they will be occupying the space adjacent to the Museum, the following has been agreed:
 - NLA will utilise the museum space as an office until 31st July 2023.
 - To facilitate an office NLA will need to remove the existing external vinyls and replace this with transparent London centre vinyls until 31st July 2023.
 - NLA will work with the police to replace any new vinyls as and when needed.

- NLA will vacate the premises on or before the 31st July 2023.
 - NLA and Police to work on an agreement for the operation of the space after this date to confirm a working partnership.
8. The CDO has obtained the details of the removal company originally used to place the museum into storage and is currently making the arrangements to restore the Museum in August 2023.
 9. The Culture, Heritage and Libraries Committee moved to have the Police Museum removed from their terms of reference at the March Policy and Resources Committee, but it was agreed that it would remain for the time being with PAB ToRs also to remain the same. If there is a further decision on this, the decision to make any change to ToRs will need to be taken by the Court of Common Council, on the recommendation of Policy & Resources Committee. Clearly, PAB may decide to recommend a change in the future.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

10. Police museums open to the public are not commonplace and there are only 9 remaining across the country. The loss of police heritage has been identified as a risk by the NPCC and they have developed a dedicated heritage portfolio to review and provide guidance to support the continued heritage of UK policing, they have identified a maturity model to ensure *“The ability of a service to identify, preserve, protect and share police heritage for current and future generations.”*
11. The City of London has a proud heritage of Policing which can be traced back to the establishment of the City’s watchmen under the control of the two Sheriffs. Through the Police Museum we have been able to describe the journey from these early times to the modern day and provide a unique insight into the development of UK policing, the policing of nationally impactive events and how we are continuing to engage and police with the consent of the public.
12. With the support of Board we hope to continue telling the story of our history to current and future generations.

Other Implications

13. The costs for restoration will be met from local police budgets and planning is taking place to ensure this is manageable.
14. It is recognised that there will be a requirement to refresh and re-energise the Museum volunteers after this extended period of closure and support from HR colleagues is being sought.

Conclusion

15. The restoration of the Museum to its former location has been agreed, there is an opportunity to mutually support the ambitions of NLA and the Police Museum

through partnership working, the re-engagement and recruitment of volunteers will be advanced.

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