

Committee(s): Police Authority Board	Dated: May 2023
Subject: Chair's Update	Public
Report of: James Thomson	For Information

Serious violence duty

In line with recommendations from our 'readiness assessment' conducted by Home-Office-funded consultants, we have now established a multi-organisation working group in the Safer City Partnership (SCP) to develop the City's serious violence reduction strategy by January 2024. The group will meet monthly and report to the SCP Strategy Board. Members should also note that the Member-led Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee has now been reconstituted and will provisionally have its first meeting on 13 June. This Committee will scrutinise the work of the Safer City Partnership in reducing crime and disorder.

Victims' strategy

In line with the Police Authority's ambition to produce a victims strategy, the team has established a fortnightly working group with the City Police to develop proposals. Members will be updated on the emerging strategy when more developed.

Economic Crime

Following the publication of the revised **Strategic Policing Requirement** which now includes a specific section on fraud, the Government subsequently published a **second Economic Crime Plan**, building on that published in 2019. This new Economic Crime Plan has three outcomes that it aims to achieve:

- Reduce money laundering and recover more criminal assets;
- Combat Kleptocracy and drive down sanctions evasion; and
- Cut Fraud.

The last of these is further supported by the **Fraud Strategy**, launched after much anticipation on 3rd May. This strategy sets out three key actions:

- Pursue Fraudsters;
- Block Fraudsters; and
- Empower the public.

A key element of the strategy is the delivery of the new Fraud and Cyber Crime Reporting and Analysis Service – the replacement for Action Fraud. It is further supported by over 400 new specialist investigators across policing and other agencies. The City Police is currently developing a new Economic and Cyber Police HQ function to coordinate this growth in activity.

Members are encouraged to read the Fraud Strategy:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/fraud-strategy

and the second Economic Crime Plan:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/economic-crime-plan-2023-to-2026

The Authority continues to work closely with the Serious Fraud Office and other criminal justice partners to consider changes to the **disclosure regime** to ensure fraud cases are handled more effectively and efficiently. The Government has signalled, in the Fraud Strategy, a willingness to examine this. I hosted a roundtable of senior figures on 31 March to examine possible short term improvements, and more fundamental longer terms changes. Our discussions with partners continue.

In terms of legislation, whilst we welcome the Government's amendment to the Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Bill, adding an **offence of failure to prevent fraud**, we do support calls to widen this offence. Currently, it is limited to large organisations and we believe it should mirror money laundering and anti-corruption legislation in applying to businesses of all sizes.

We have an all Member deep-dive on Economic and Cyber Crime planned for 28 June.

Inclusivity Programme and Active Bystander Training

I am delighted that the City Police is running a further round of launch meetings for the Inclusivity Programme.

The City Police has also started rolling out the first modules of this programme including Active Bystander Training. I attended one of these sessions. 8 members and 6 members of the Police Authority Team also participated in this. There are further opportunities to do so. Interested persons should contact Detective Superintendent Kate MacLeod.

City of London Crime Prevention Association (CoLCPA)

As Chair of the City of London Police Authority, I am also Patron of the CoLCPA and attended and spoke at the AGM and lunch with Richard Riley – representing the Town Clerk – and the Commissioner. In the forthcoming year, there will be renewed focus around Safer City Partnership and the work with CoLCPA and Richard Riley will be meeting with Don Randall, Chair of CoLCPA in the near future to explore this including the work around Safe Havens.

Suicide Prevention – Corporation Wide Strategy

Following the Police Authority Board deferring its decision on the physical barriers on the London Bridges and Policy & Resources following likewise – there was a meeting of the Suicide prevention Working Group on 10 May. At that meeting it was agreed that a Corporation wide strategy would be developed that builds on the one developed by the public-Health Team – one that brings together work by CoLP, Bridge House Estates, the City family of schools amongst others. There is likely to be a role for the Safer City Partnership in the development and governance of this work.

Stephen Lawrence Day event in the City

We hosted an event at the Guildhall on 29 April to mark the 30th anniversary of the death of Stephen Lawrence. The event attracted some 120 attendees, including circa 70 young people - most being students and cadets from London. They took part in panel discussions with Her Honour Judge Anuja Dhir KC from the Old Bailey, Amos Simbo from the Black Professionals in Constriction Network, Commissioner of City of London Police Angela McClaren, Chief Superintendent Hampshire Police Raj Kohli, and Dr Christina Dale, President, Faculty of Conflict and Catastrophe Medicine, Society of Apothecaries. Michael Mitchell from the Authority Board played an important facilitation role on the day.

I was inspired to see this generation of young people wanting to make a difference in society and discuss difficult issues like racial inequality, racism and misogyny. My thanks go to all those in the Police Authority Team, Corporation and the City Police who arranged and supported this event, which marked a significant anniversary. We must, though, see it as one part of an ongoing conversation with young people. So we will be following up, including asking about the pledges we asked attendees to make on the day. I am hoping that a number of young people attending – and who expressed interest on the day – will help form a Youth IASG for the City Police.

Coronation

Like many, I watched the Coronation on 6 May. I have thanked the Commissioner and her team – officers and staff – that supported the event on what was a very successful operation. The Operation – Golden Orb – was led by the Metropolitan Police but involved some 88 City Police.

A small number of Members contacted me in relation to arrests made by the Metropolitan Police on the day. I have asked that Members be updated at the meeting of 24 May in relation to the Operation Golden Orb and the recent legislative changes with regards to policing public order.

Vision Zero – Road Danger Reduction

Following intervention by myself and the Chairman of Planning and Transport, the City Police has now reviewed the Vision Zero Plan being developed by officers in Planning and Transport to ensure that the partnership work is appropriately embedded and commitments made to this important programme are realistic.

Provisional CoLP financial outturn, 22/23

Resource, Risk & Estates Committee will, on 22 May, be considering a report on the Force's provisional outturn for 22/23 in advance of final outturn being reported to PAB on 28 June. In particular, the welcome receipt of £4.5m in rates rebate at the year-end, following a lengthy appeal process, has materially impacted on the financial outturn position. This may provide opportunities such as to increase the General Reserve to target level per the Reserves Strategy approved by PAB in November 2022.