

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

City of London Policing Plan

I introduced the refreshed City of London Policing Plan for 2022/25 to the Court of Common Council on 25 May. I talked about our desire for the City of London Police to be the most inclusive police service in the country, and for the City to be the safest business district in the world.

I said that, as a Police Authority, we would be focusing on enhancing trust and confidence in policing at a time when the spotlight on this, especially in London, had never been stronger. I stressed the importance of ensuring that communities were genuinely at the heart of everything we do. And I reassured the Council that protective security – counter terrorism - would continue to be a top priority.

I highlighted that the City Police will be producing a new victims strategy, and that we will be revitalising the Safer City Partnership, helping build the new Action Fraud service, continuing to roll out the National Economic Crime Victims Care Unit, and keep pushing Government and Police and Crime Commissioners to prioritise tackling fraud.

I stressed that the Police Authority would continue to challenge and support the City of London Police to deliver these priorities – for all those that live, work or visit the City and in tackling fraud and cyber for the nation.

Economic Crime

On 13 June, it was announced formally that two new suppliers have been appointed to provide **the fraud and cybercrime reporting and analysis service which will replace Action Fraud.**

The contact centre will be operated by Capita PLC, who will also provide the technology to enable more efficient and effective reporting. PwC UK will support the City Police to integrate and manage the new service, as well as new technology services for the crime and intelligence management that underpins the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB). The new service with both suppliers will become operational in Q2 2024.

The imperative to introduce the new service is clear: fraud makes up 40 per cent of all crime and costs the economy £4.3 billion a year. I'm grateful for Government's support for the new service. And I applaud the work by this Committee, the wider Corporation, and the City Police to get us to this stage.

Ultimately, the new system will boost the UK's ability to tackle economic crime by delivering a first-class service with better intelligence and victim care. The existing

Action Fraud service and systems behind the service will remain in place until the new service is fully operational, meaning there will be no gap in service for victims of fraud and cybercrime.

The Police Authority Deputy Chair, Tijs Brooke, recently attended a **Wilton Park Conference**, focusing on tackling Illicit Finance in the UK Economy and implementing the recently published second chapter of the Government's Economic Crime Plan. This covered a lot of important ground, with representation across government and key stakeholders. Attendees discussed some critical issues, including how best to balance the country's security and prosperity ambitions: ensuring that the UK is an attractive place for companies to raise capital and invest whilst ensuring it is not a safe haven for kleptocrats and serious criminals looking to move, use or hide their illicit finances, and launder their reputations.

Work on **disclosure** continues. We are near to finalising a letter from key law enforcement partners to ministers to help focus upcoming reviews on areas that will see more immediate benefits – identifying where there is common ground and importantly where there are also legitimate differences between stakeholders.

The letter will be an important input into the disclosure review announced as part of the Fraud Strategy and has support from the Attorney General's Office.

Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee

The first meeting of the reconstituted Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee took place on 13 June. Tijs Brooke and Ruby Sayed were elected as, respectively, Chair and Deputy Chair of the Committee. Its primary function is to scrutinise the work and decisions of the Safer City Partnership (SCP), which functions as the Community Safety Partnership for the City of London.

The Committee recognised the importance of genuine partnership working in order to make sustainable progress in tackling crime and improving community safety in the City. Members were keen to ensure that the focus and remit of the Committee was clear; and were open to receiving training and advice to ensure the Committee performs an effective scrutiny role. The Committee noted the SCP's decision to focus its primary attention, during 2023/24, on three specific areas: a) tackling serious violence, incorporating violence against women and girls, by implementing the Serious Violence duty, b) reducing anti-social behaviour, by establishing an effective 'task and finish' group and c) reducing reoffending, by implementing the new out-of-court disposals framework and refreshing the Integrated Offender Management framework.

Volunteer's week

1st - 7th June marked the 39th year of Volunteers' week, where the City of London Corporation and Police Authority Team joined thousands of charities and voluntary organisations in recognising the fantastic contribution volunteers make to our local communities and wider voluntary sector.

City of London volunteers were honoured at an evening reception held in the Great Hall, presided over by the past Lord Mayor during volunteers' week; while

Independent Custody Visitor (ICV) Scheme Member Sponsor Deborah Oliver and I hosted the first 'thank you lunch' for City Independent Custody Visitors.

On behalf of the Police Authority Board, I'd like to extend my appreciation for the excellent work our City Independent Custody Visitors undertake. Their diligence, self-motivation and dedication have contributed significantly towards an improved standard of care for all City detainees.