

Committee(s): City of London Police Authority Board	Dated: 20 September 2023
Subject: Chair's Update	Public
Report of: Deputy James Thomson	For Information

Anti-social behaviour (ASB)

There are several developments on ASB across the Corporation and City Police. The Corporation is finalising its ASB Policy and Standard Operating procedures, which set out what constitutes ASB and how it will be tackled. The City Police have launched 'Operation Lewis' cycle teams to on-street crime and disorder including that involving cycles, scooters, and e-bikes, with 690 positive outcomes in its first 7 weeks. The September Police Authority Board has a paper seeking approval to delegate Community Safety Accreditation Scheme powers to the neighbourhood patrol service Parkguard, enhancing their powers to tackle ASB. A full report on ASB work underway across the City is being finalised and can be shared with Members on request.

The Cycle Squad has attracted many unsolicited positive comments from Members, the public and social media and we await the decision of the City Police around making it permanent but early indicators have shown very positive results tackling ASB, cyclists and e-scooters.

Safer Streets Fund bid

The City submitted a bid to the Home Office Safer Streets fund in partnership with Lambeth, Westminster, Southwark and the Safer Business Network. It contains several initiatives, including an expanded Parkguard service, more CCTV, and expanded business engagement, to tackle crime and disorder on and around central London bridges. We expect to know the outcome of this during September, with funding stretching to March 2025, if successful.

Serious Violence Duty Strategy

In late August the Police Authority Team helped produce a quantitative assessment of serious violence in the City, which will form the basis of our local strategic needs assessment. This, in turn, will form the evidence base for our Serious Violence Duty Strategy to be published by January 2024. The Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee will receive and discuss this quantitative profile.

Economic and cyber crime

The forthcoming period provides opportunities for increased political and partner engagement, by the Police Authority and the City Police, on economic and cyber crime issues. The City Police, the Deputy Chair, and I are scheduled to host a visit to the City by Dan Jarvis MP, the new Shadow Security Minister on 19 September.

The Deputy Chair and I will also be attending the forthcoming Party conferences. Throughout, we will be reinforcing the value of City Police's national role on economic and cyber crime; outlining the progress made on the programme to replace Action Fraud; and reiterating the link between the City and the UK's prosperity and security. The Police Authority Team are working with City Police to develop the narrative around fraud, the role as National Lead Force and case studies to demonstrate its impact.

There is an upcoming Fraud Forum on 19 October and Police and Crime Commissioners are being invited alongside police attendees to raise awareness of the work of the City Police and others in tackling fraud.

Vision for Economic Growth

The City Corporation published *Vision for Economic Growth – a Roadmap to Prosperity* on 8 September. It sets out a long term plan for the UK's financial and professional services to drive sustainable investment, innovation, growth and prosperity. The report outlines the strengths that underpin the UK as a global financial centre and references the "independent police force in the financial district that can help to fight financial crime, world-class legal services and a courts system that can deal with highly complex economic cases effectively." This illustrates the point that the City and the UK's prosperity and security are mutually reinforcing. In the same vein, the Lord Mayor spoke at the Cambridge International Symposium on Economic Crime earlier this month and stressed that tackling economic crime must be seen as a foundation for a prosperous economy.

I welcome references in tackling to fraud, economic crime and cyber in policy and mayoral speeches but we need to ensure that this becomes embedded.

Corporation Suicide Prevention Strategy

The Corporation work around suicide prevention continues to make progress and a conference for City of London institutions and partners is planned for 26 October. I continue to be very engaged in its development and the City Police are engaged with this also.

PAB Annual Dinner

I am looking forward to the Police Authority Board dinner on 20 September. This will be my final dinner as Chair. I very much see the value in creating opportunities, and spaces, for senior colleagues to build and maintain trusted relationships, and spark fruitful discussions. I think the current context, including with questions around public trust and confidence in policing, and ongoing threats to our national and economic security, make opportunities like this more valuable than ever before. Long may the PAB Dinner provide them.

Commendation and Long Service Awards

On 8 September, I attended the City Police Commendation and Long Service Awards at Mansion House. This is an important occasion to recognise excellence, promotions, long service and retirements with friends and families of officers and staff.

Passing Out Parade – 30 September

A reminder to Members that the next Passing Out Parade for City student officers is taking place on 30 September at the Guildhall. It marks an important milestone in the careers of all police officers and one to be celebrated with their families and friends. It would be really positive to see more Members attend to provide added recognition of the achievements of this latest cohort of 20 students, and to encourage them in their future careers.