

CITY OF LONDON POLICE AUTHORITY BOARD
Wednesday, 25 October 2023

Minutes of the meeting held at Guildhall at 11.00 am

Present

Members:

Deputy James Thomson (Chair)
Tijs Broeke (Deputy Chair)
Alderman Professor Emma Edhem
Helen Fentimen
Graham Packham
Deborah Oliver
Dawn Wright
Melissa Collett (External Member)
Sir Craig Mackey (External Member)

Officers:

Ian Thomas	- Town Clerk
Polly Dunn	- Town Clerk's Department
Caroline Al-Beyerty	- Chamberlain
Richard Riley	- Director of the City of London Police Authority
Katie Foster	- Remembrancer's Department
Aga Watt	- Chief Operating Officer's Department
Frank Marchione	- Comptroller & City Solicitor's Department
Ola Obadara	- City Surveyor's Department

City of London Police:

Peter O'Doherty	- T/ Commissioner
Paul Betts	- Assistant Commissioner
Umer Khan	- City of London Police
Alix Newbold	- City of London Police
Chris Bell	- City of London Police
Martin O'Regan	- City of London Police
Kate MacLeod	- City of London Police
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Hayley Williams	- City of London Police
Rachel Waldron	- City of London Police

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Jason Groves*, Munsur Ali*, Nicholas Bensted Smith, Alderman Tim Hailes, Andrew Lentin and Michael Mitchell.

**joined remotely*

The Chair thanked Baroness Louise Casey for providing Members with an informal briefing, ahead of this meeting of the Board, on her review of the Metropolitan Police Service and the learnings for the City of London Police (CoLP). Members noted that Sarah Lawson from the Serious Fraud Office and Baroness Casey would be observing this meeting.

2. **MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

Tijs Broeke (Deputy Chair) advised of his recent appointment to the London Policing Board, which had been recorded on his Register of Interests as a standing declaration.

3. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED, that - the minutes of the meeting held on 20th September 2023 be approved, subject to a point of accuracy under the Commissioner's update in respect of shoplifting cases not being investigated; resulting in under-reporting. The Chair agreed to this amendment, also noting the inaccurate data which had been reported about shoplifting in the City of London in a recent publication.

4. **OUTSTANDING REFERENCES**

The Board received a report of the Town Clerk, which set out Outstanding References from previous meetings of the Committee and noted the following:

1. The Police Authority Board Director reported a 3% increase in crime on the Barbican Estate over the past 5 years and a decrease in anti-social behaviour; suggesting that CCTV might not be necessary at this time. However, Members would receive a full report at the December Board meeting.
2. A Member asked for the list to be populated with dates, noting there might be exceptions where these are led by Government; i.e. Martyn's Law.
3. Noting it had previously been agreed to be reported by March 2024, the Chair asked for the post implementation Review of the Special Constabulary to be brought forward to the December Board meeting.
4. A report on Parkguard and CSAS powers would be presented to the December Board, together with the review of relevant Bylaws, and a further item on the non-public outstanding actions list.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

5. **MINUTES FROM RECENT COMMITTEES**

The Board received the draft minutes from the following meetings:

1a. **Strategic Planning and Performance - 5th September 2023**

The Strategic Planning and Performance Committee (SPPC) Chair advised that the last meeting had discussed the renewal of the Parkguard Contract and Byelaws.

The Committee also considered the Victim Strategy, with the emphasis on there being no slippage, together with Neighbourhood Policing, which appears next on this Board agenda, and a deep dive into the recent inspection reports.

2a. Resource Risk and Estates - 6th September 2023

Matters arising from this Committee would be covered in the non-public report on this agenda.

3a. Economic and Cyber Crime - 8th September 2023

Received.

4a. Professional Standards and Integrity Committee - 15th September 2023

Received.

6. APPOINTMENT TO THE PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND INTEGRITY COMMITTEE

The Chair was pleased to advise of three expressions of interest from very high calibre candidates. As there was just one vacancy, the Chair suggested that the Terms of Reference be temporarily amended, until the end of this Civic Year, to accommodate 2 Members. At this point, the Membership could be revisited with a view to making a permanent increase. A ballot was held, whereby Joanna Abeyie received 7 votes, Naresh Sonpar received 6 votes and Alderman Kawsar Zaman received 3 votes.

RESOLVED, that:

1. The Membership of the PSI Committee be increased by (1) until the end of the Municipal Year.
2. Joanne Abeyie and Naresh Sonpar be appointed to the PSI Committee for the remainder of 2023/24

7. CHAIR'S PUBLIC UPDATE

The Board received the Chair's update, noting particularly the conflict in the Middle East, the Economic Crime briefing on 19 October and the importance of the contribution of local forces and PCCs in tackling fraud, wider economic crime and cyber-crime and the publication of the National Policing Strategy for tackling these threats.

The Chair further advised that he would be speaking to the Home Secretary on Thursday 26 October to discuss prioritisation of fraud; legislation and policy improvements and funding for CoLP (including National Lead Force funding).

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

8. **COMMISSIONER'S UPDATE**

The Board received the Commissioner's update and the Town Clerk commended the City of London Police for their decisive action in respect of policing in London in relation to the Middle Eastern conflict.

The Director of the Police Authority Team set out the wider activities of the security and resilience teams and the next steps in respect of community/business meetings; utilising channels such as the 'City Belonging' project. The City of London Police had reached out to the relevant staff associations to offer support in respect of the impact of the conflict.

The Police's impartiality in this matter was noted and they had been working with the CPS to ensure clear guidance to officers. An operational Memorandum of Understanding was in place with the Met and BTP. Additionally, a Member briefing on Policing and Public Order had been scheduled for 31st October. Members noted the strong messaging around zero tolerance via social media, engagement sessions and cluster meetings. The Commissioner stressed that all calls to CoLP relating to the impact of the conflict will be scrutinised and immediate action taken.

During the discussion and questions on other matters, the following points were noted:

1. Members are very supportive of the Cycle Squad and the evidence base from the 12-week trial would be presented to the next meeting of the Board, noting the likely intention of the City Police to make it permanent.
2. The Commissioner agreed to add data to the 'Walk and Talk' initiative in terms of its impact on behaviours. The Commissioner advised that the application for 'White Ribbon' accreditation had been submitted. The Chair asked for an update at the November Board.
3. There had been some very good, quantified improvements in respect of the Lead Force Contact Centre, with more call handlers than previously. Whilst there is a strong communications and engagement strategy in place, the Commissioner accepted that it could be more pro-active. However, many countries across the world hold the service in very high regard.
4. There are 240 trained cypto-currency advisors, who are producing guidance to businesses and prevention messaging, noting its significance in money laundering.
5. As Members cannot use the Electoral Register to engage with the community would they be able to use Heart of the City?
6. BBC action week for fraud was running between 23rd and 27th October, with a number of City of London Police appearances scheduled across tv and radio.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

9. EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGN TACKLING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

The Board received a report of the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services seeking support to launch a Violence Against Women and Girls Educational campaign, developed by the City of London Corporation Community Safety Team, alongside London Borough of Hackney and London Borough of Tower Hamlets.

During the discussion, the following points were noted:

1. Members asked if the use of the acronym 'VAWG' could cease.
2. Officers are working with the City of London Corporation Licensing Team in respect of the messaging around transport hubs in the run up to Christmas.
3. The Act itself lacks definition as to what might constitute a breach and officers agreed to work with Remembrancers and the City Surveyor in terms of making the parameters more defined.

RESOLVED, that – the Campaign be commissioned

10. NATIONAL BUSINESS CRIME PORTFOLIO- NATIONAL BUSINESS CRIME CENTRE (NBCC)

The Board received a report of the Commissioner which provided an update of the work of the NBCC since its last paper in June 2023.

During the discussion, the following points were noted:

1. The Team was congratulated on this work, noting the extensive reach into the business community.
2. As safe retail spaces are fairly small in the City, it would be helpful to have a practical example as to what they might look like. The Chair also asked for an update, which would be brought in the next report setting out how this might align with safe spaces for Violence Against Women and Girls and protecting vulnerable people.
3. The Home Office Transformation fund had now depleted.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

11. NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING STRATEGY

The Board received a report of the Commissioner in respect of the HMICFRS PEEL Inspection recommendation in that the City of London Police should develop a strategy for providing neighbourhood policing.

During the discussion, the following points were noted:

1. The process for scrutiny of the performance framework and delivery plan/referral to the Board had been discussed at length at the recent SPPC.
2. The Chair supported the suggestion, from the Deputy Chair, that this should be presented to each meeting of the SPPC.
3. The Cluster Meetings are generally well attended by businesses but not residents, despite extensive advertising and newsletters. It was suggested that they are held at a different time of the day. The Chair asked for a report from the City Police and Police Authority Team in respect of re-invigorating the cluster meetings and the communications supporting them.
4. There had been some turnover of Ward Officers but recruitment was stabilising, with robust reward and retention packages for neighbourhood policing. Whilst Community policing offers a good evidence base for promotion, the roles could be profiled better in terms of their core values.
5. The Town Clerk agreed to work with the Executive Director of Community and Children's Services and the Public Health Team in respect of an early intervention offer and how this might be integrated across the Partnership. Members noted the work underway within the Safer City Partnership, with the various delivery groups looking at common themes.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

12. **INDEPENDENT CUSTODY VISITING SCHEME ANNUAL REPORT**

The Board received a report of the Town Clerk which provided an update on progress of the City of London's Independent Custody Visiting Scheme, presenting the Panel's Annual Report and informing Members of some of the recent issues raised by the ICV Panel in relation to custody provision in the City.

The Chair thanked the ICV Panel and lead Member, Deborah Oliver, noting how they continued working throughout the pandemic, when a lot of groups across the UK ceased. The Commissioner asked to meet with the team and the Scheme Manager was commended for her excellent work across a wide remit.

During the discussion, the following points were noted:

1. The group had recently reduced from 9 to 7 and the Lead Member asked for support with the recruitment process and speed of vetting.
2. Feedback on issues and recommendations raised are currently picked up by a dedicated Working Group, chaired by the Superintendent. The PA Director agreed to bring a report to a future meeting on the Governance of the Group.
3. A date would be set for Members to visit the new custody facility when it was built.

4. The 'City Hope' Conference on 26 October in respect of Suicide Prevention was welcomed. However, there are separate conversations underway about mental health across Community and Children's Services, the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Integrated Commissioning Board, which could be more joined up.
5. There is also a Mental Health Working Group looking at prevention at a national level, with NHS partners. The Town Clerk had attended the City Healthwatch AGM and recommended it as a strong link into this work, from the patient's perspective.
6. The work with the Integrated Commissioning Board (ICB) is being led by the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services. The last meeting of the ICB discussed the amount of Police hours spent in A&E departments when there are no NHS Mental Health Practitioners available.

At 12.55 the Board agreed to extend the meeting to conclude the business on the agenda.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

13. QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE BOARD

There were no questions.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT

There were no items of urgent business.

15. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED – That under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act.

Item No.	Paragraph(s) in Schedule 12A
16 -22	3, 7

16. NON-PUBLIC MINUTES

RESOLVED, that – the non-public minutes of the meeting held on 20th September 2023 be approved

17. NON-PUBLIC OUTSTANDING REFERENCES

Members received the non-public outstanding actions list.

18. NON-PUBLIC MINUTES FROM RECENT COMMITTEES

Received.

- 1a. Strategic Planning and Performance - 5th September 2023
- 2a. Resource Risk and Estates - 6th September 2023
- 3a. Economic and Cyber Crime - 8th September 2023

4a. Professional Standards and Integrity Committee - 15th September 2023

19. **MIDDLESEX STREET, CAR PARK, MIDDLESEX STREET, E1 7AD**

The Board received a report of the City Surveyor

20. **NON-PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE BOARD**

There were no questions.

21. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE BOARD AGREES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED**

There were no items of urgent business.

22. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED, that – the Confidential minutes of the meeting held on 20th September 2023 be approved.

The meeting ended at 1.10 pm

Chairman

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