

<b>Committee(s):</b> Police Authority Board	<b>Dated:</b> November 2023
<b>Subject:</b> Chair's Update	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> James Thomson	<b>For Discussion</b>

## **Lord Mayor's Show/Remembrance Sunday**

I was hugely proud, and grateful for, the impressive and professional way in which the City of London Police supported the 695<sup>th</sup> Lord Mayor's Show on Saturday 11 November, and the Remembrance Service at St Paul's the following day. I had the opportunity to attend a number of briefings – both local and national – in the run up and during the event. My sincere thanks go to all uniformed officers on duty on the City's streets that weekend. My thank also to the many other City Police officers, police staff and Corporation officers who worked hard before and during the events to ensure that the public and participants were safe. These events take months of planning and something like the Lord Mayor's Show starts with the debriefing of the one before. The planning and policing was clearly made more complicated by the dynamic national and London picture. My thanks also to Specials from both the City Police and Met Police who were also on duty and other police services providing mutual aid including West Midlands.

## **Middle East**

I continue to be saddened by the tragic events in the Middle East. I have been in close touch with the City Police leadership about the approach being taken in the City to engaging with and reassuring communities, and the support being given to colleagues in the Met Police, as required. The leadership has my full support. It is vitally important at this time that all in leadership roles in relation to policing – chief constables and commissioners, local policing bodies, and the Home Secretary – respect and adhere to the contents of the Policing Protocol which sets out how the functions of each should be exercised in relation to each other.

I have recently chaired separate online conversations with City workers, and members of the Jewish and Muslim communities in the City. They have been organised through the Corporation's excellent "City Belonging" network initiated earlier this year. They have provided opportunities for the City Police to amplify their reassurance messaging. And all have proved insightful, including as a reminder that our communities need both to be safe and *feel* safe and the importance of creating safe spaces for conversations to be enabled within organisations.

## **Economic Crime**

I was pleased to see Royal Assent for the Online Safety Act and Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Act. These bring in some significant changes to the legislative duties on businesses, not least with making fraud a priority harm that large social media companies will be required to address on their platforms. Additionally, while the failure to prevent fraud offence is a small step in the right direction, it is important that we develop further proposals, with Government, to make the

responsibility of protecting the public from fraud sit more broadly across the business community.

## **Stakeholder Engagement**

Our planned political engagement continues, promoting the benefits of the City of London Police as National Lead Force and the importance of the wider policing response that has to be a part of any new system that a future government of any political persuasion might be considering. The City of London Police and the Authority recently hosted two Labour candidates for Parliament (Rachel Blake – City and Westminster; and Joe Powell – Kensington and Bayswater) as it's important to illustrate the role of the City Police in tackling economic and cyber crime, and also keeping those that live, work and visit the City safe from harm. This was also a useful opportunity to describe the wider supporting role the City Corporation has in support these aims, as security is the critical foundation of prosperity.

The Authority and City Police will also be attending a Labour Policy Roundtable, organised by Lloyd's Banking Group, discussing the requirements for an effective system to tackle fraud.

The funding of national roles is key part of this for the City of London.

At the time of writing, we have just seen the change in Home Secretary from Suella Braverman to James Cleverley.

I remain very focussed on the Police Authority supporting the City Police with building momentum behind its Strategic Communications and Engagement Plan and we are looking at how we might support the resourcing of this to build momentum in the short term.

## **Safety in the City**

Two recent initiatives to highlight:

- **Taxi Marshalling launch** – On Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November a taxi marshalling scheme was launched outside Liverpool Street station, funded by the City's Safer City Partnership, and supported by the City's Crime Prevention Association. It will run on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights from 10pm to 1am, offering a safe way to get home. I very much look forward to seeing the evaluation of this scheme.
- **Safer Streets Fund grant award** – The City will receive £300,000 as part of a successful multi-borough bid to the Home Office's Safer Streets Fund. The initiative aims to reduce crime and disorder on central London bridges, funding a cross-borough problem-solving team supported by an analyst and business engagement officer from the Safer Business Network, a new data-sharing agreement, and in the City a contribution to new CCTV installations and an expansion of the Parkguard community patrol service. My thanks go to the Corporation officers involved in securing this additional funding for the City.

## **Baroness Casey visit**

The visit by Baroness Casey has had much positive feedback and provided opportunities to reflect on learnings for the City Police and the Authority as we progress towards making the City Police the most inclusive police service in the Country.

## **City Hope Conference**

The City Corporation hosted the City Hope suicide prevention conference on 26 October. The conference involved a range of insightful talks, workshops and panels that provided a strong overview of how we deal with the challenging nature of suicide intervention in the City. I commend the Corporation report published to accompany the event - "Suicide Prevention Measures in the City of London".

Sadly, the Square Mile has locations of significance that draw those who are contemplating taking their own lives. The report published last month sets out how we can work better with our partners inside and outside our City boundaries. We have a dynamic population with a diverse range of needs. As with many other areas, partnership working is key to the prevention of suicide.

I was honoured to close the conference, where I spoke of my own experience as a special constable attending calls on our City bridges, reinforced how partnership is key to addressing suicide in the City, and above all else, how we must retain hope in the midst of what are challenging, and sometimes daunting circumstances.