

<b>Committee:</b> Community and Children's Services	<b>Dated:</b> 13/12/2023
<b>Subject: Community Patrolling Service – variation of contract</b>	<b>Public</b>
<b>Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?</b>	1, 12
<b>Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?</b>	<b>N</b>
<b>If so, how much?</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>What is the source of Funding?</b>	
<b>Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?</b>	n/a
<b>Report of: Judith Finlay, Executive Director, Department of Community and Children's Services</b>	<b>For Discussion</b>
<b>Report author: Simon Cribbens, Assistant Director – Commissioning and Partnerships</b>	

### Summary

This report informs Members of the variation of the Community Patrolling Service contract to deliver Home Office funded activity on the City's bridges. Variation of the Department's contract allows for the rapid mobilisation of an expanded service in line with the conditions of the grant. The expanded service supports City Operations and the City of London Police. It should be noted that the Police Authority Board are separately asked to endorse the delegation of Community Safety Accreditation Scheme (CSAS) powers to the provider. Such powers support community safety patrolling, but the expanded delivery is not contingent on them.

### Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.

### Main Report

#### Background

1. The Department of Community and Children's services commissions a Community Patrolling Service, delivered under contract the provider Parkguard, to address specific issues.
2. The scope of the contract is limited to two discrete areas:
  - a. Resident reassurance – which provides some targeted patrolling and response on the City's social housing estates within the Square Mile
  - b. Outreach support – supporting delivery of outreach services for street homelessness people, and to deliver patrols reducing begging.

3. The resident reassurance patrols is funded by the Housing budget and operates on the City's social housing estates. Tasking is informed by intelligence gathered by housing colleagues. Deployment is based on intelligence and arising need rather than scheduled patrolling. All information and intelligence gathered by Parkguard is shared with police sector team each week. For anything that requires urgent attention Parkguard will call the police. The scale of delivery is limited by the amount of budget made available but is broadly considered proportionate to need.
4. Outreach support provides assistance to the delivery of outreach services for street homelessness people, and to deliver patrols minimising begging. It aims to help reduce anti-social behaviour which may be associated with begging, and to enable the outreach services to work with the most vulnerable. This includes facilitating effective outreach working by homelessness services in challenging situations and locations.

### **Current Position**

5. The Police Authority Board team led a bid to the Home Office's Safer Streets Fund. The fund supports local authority initiatives to prevent crime, and the City of London bid included additional CCTV, lighting and an expansion of community safety patrolling to the City's bridges (in partnership with Southwark and Lambeth).
6. The bid was successful and provides funding for additional activity in 2023/24 and 2024/25. Grant conditions expect the rapid mobilisation of delivery.
7. To enable the rapid mobilisation of this additional delivery, the current Departmental contract with Parkguard has been varied within the permitted limits. The variation increases the contract value by £100k (fully funded by the Safer Streets Fund grant). The variation was approved the Community and Children's Services Category Board in line with the delegations of the procurement code.
8. While the contract is held by the department, delivery focuses predominantly on areas and issues that are the concern of City Operations and the City of London Police. Tasking and oversight will be provided by a multi-agency panel, including the Department's Community Safety Team.
9. The patrolling will also engage with relevant initiatives such as the suicide prevention approaches on the bridges.
10. The current provider Parkguard does not operate in the City using Community Safety Accreditation Scheme (CSAS) powers. The CSAS powers, introduced in 2002, allows Chief Constables to delegate some limited powers to accredited local officers such as neighbourhood wardens or security staff. This includes powers to request a person's name and address (where they have committed an offence or are acting in an anti-social manner), confiscate alcohol in some circumstances and to stop cyclists riding on the footpath.

11. The powers are delegated by the Commissioner of the City of London Police. A report to the Police Authority Board (13 December 2023) seeks endorsement of the delegation. This report is provided with the “for information” items. The expanded provision funded by the Safer Streets Fund is not contingent on the use of such powers, but they are considered beneficial to its operation

## **Corporate & Strategic Implications**

### Strategic implications

12. The service aligns with and supports the delivery of the Corporate Plan, the Safer City Partnership Strategy, the Department’s business plan.

### Financial implications

13. As set within the report – the expansion is fully funded by Home Office Grant

### Resource implications

14. None.

### Legal implications

15. The variation of contract has been reviewed by the Comptroller and City Solicitor and is compliant.

### Risk implications

16. None.

### Equalities implications

17. The provider is required to ensure that the provision of the service meets the needs of service users from different religious, ethnic and cultural backgrounds including paying due regard to specific needs that may relate to gender, sexual orientation, disability, age, and transgendered status. 26.4. The provider will monitor activities and outcomes so as to identify and address any gaps in its delivery to any of the protected groups within the Equalities Act 2010.

### Climate implications

18. None.

### Security implications

19. Delivery aims to prevent crime and anti-social behaviour.

## **Conclusion**

20. The expanded delivery of community reassurance patrolling will

## **Appendices**

- None

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