

Committee(s): Safer City Partnership Strategy Board	Dated: 19/01/2024
Subject: Serious Violence Duty	Public
Report of: Ian Thomas, Town Clerk & Chief Executive	For Decision
Report author: Charles Smart, Policy Officer (Police Authority)	

Summary

National legislation passed in 2022 requires the City of London, like all police areas, to produce a strategy for reducing local serious violence. The attached strategy will be published this month (January) and has been developed over 2023 by the City's Police Authority and City of London Police, with contributions from partners in the Corporation (mainly community safety and licensing), health, probation, fire and rescue, and the British Transport Police. Based on a quantitative assessment of the City's serious violent offending, it focuses on a) violence in the night-time economy, b) sexual and domestic violence, c) identifying and mitigating emerging serious violence threats and risks.

Recommendation(s)

The Safer City Partnership Board is asked to **formally approve the publication of this strategy**, which has already been signed off by the Police Authority Board (in December 2023) and at working level by statutory public sector partners.

Points to Note

- The City's quantitative analysis demonstrated that the City has very low rates of serious violence, including in comparison with other London boroughs. There is minimal violence linked to the City's small, low-risk residential population, and instead almost all victims and perpetrators of serious violence are non-resident. This means that, unlike other areas, our strategy takes less of a 'whole systems public health approach' because there is much less scope and much less need to address threats and risks associated with residents, through interventions in areas like education, youth diversion, social care, or housing.
- Instead, the strategy focusses on the night-time economy (which is responsible for most serious violence), sexual and domestic violence (which has seen numerically small but proportionally significant increases in reported offending), and mitigating emerging threats (as the City has hitherto lacked an integrated, forward-looking picture of these). The strategy includes a summary

of the separate, more detailed 'strategic needs assessment' which we plan to publish separately in due course (although there is no requirement to do so).

- The strategy has been developed with input from 'statutory partners' (those required to be involved – the local authority, health service, education service, fire and rescue, probation service), input from the CoL Crime Prevention Association (as a member of the SCP), and reflects available survey evidence from residents and workers. However, the strategy notes a need to improve our understanding of City resident and worker views on serious violence, and sets an ambition to further improve partnerships and collaboration with local public and private sector organisations.
- The strategy includes several measures with additional cost, all of which are either already funded locally (from the SCP POCA fund or by the Police Authority team budget) or nationally (by a successful bid to the Safer Streets Fund). The Board should also note that the City will receive £1m additional funding, separate to the strategy, for hotspot policing initiatives on serious violence and ASB next year. Work is underway with the City Police to scope options for the use of this funding.
- Following publication, we will be developing a comprehensive delivery plan which will be overseen by the SCP's serious violence sub-group, and reported back to both this Board and to the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – City of London Serious Violence Duty Strategy

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