

Committee(s): Police Authority Board	Dated: 08 May 2024
Subject: Chair's Update	Public
Report of: James Thomson	For Information

National Lead Force – engagement

The Authority has continued to arrange opportunities to engage key stakeholders on the important work of the City of London Police on economic and cyber crime.

I was pleased that the City was able to host a reception and dinner in the Guildhall on 10 March to mark the Government's Global Fraud Summit on 11/12 March. Attendees included HRH the Princess Royal, the Home Secretary, Lord Mayor, Policy Chair and myself together with a range of senior law enforcement and private sector partners. And I was very pleased that the City Commissioner and other senior City Police figures were prominent participants at the Summit itself. The City Police being at such gatherings with senior international partners, and representing British policing, is important in helping to garner greater international cooperation to tackle fraud.

There are forthcoming visits in the coming weeks by Home Office Minister Lord Sharpe and Feryal Clark MP, Shadow Crime Reduction Minister. They follow a second visit to the City Police in April by Anthony Browne, the Prime Minister's Anti-Fraud Champion, to see a demonstration of the new system replacing Action Fraud. I and other Members also recently heard directly from the suppliers of the replacement service for Action Fraud at a recent Fraud and Cyber Crime Reporting and Analysis Service Procurement Committee to go through their detailed implementation plans and seek assurance on delivery of this important programme.

We are also pleased to be hosting a roundtable on Fraud Policy with Rt Hon Emily Thornberry MP (Shadow Attorney General and Labour Policy Lead on Fraud) on 14th May. This event will bring together representatives from law enforcement, criminal justice system, industry, and consumer & victims' groups to capture the strengths of the current system in fighting fraud and the actions needed to make a step-change in our collective response.

£1m additional funding for serious violence and ASB initiatives

The City Police Authority has successfully bid for £1m Home Office funding in FY 2024/25, for 'hotspot policing' initiatives to tackle violence and anti-social behaviour. This will fund more patrols by the acquisitive crime, dedicated ward officer, and cycle teams, implementation of 'Operation Vigilant' with night-time patrols targeting sexual violence offenders, increased monitoring of CCTV feeds to detect and prevent crime,

and more analytical staff. Implementation is commencing immediately and will run until 1 April 2025, when funding ceases. Plans are in place to analyse the impact on outcomes including crimes, arrests, and use of police powers.

Stephen Lawrence Day event in the City: 23 March

I was immensely proud to host the latest City event to mark Stephen Lawrence Day on 23 March. The event saw over 100 people from across London, most of them young people, coming together in the Guildhall to recognise Stephen's legacy, discuss ways of building better relationships between communities, the police and institutions, and ultimately the part we can all play in building a more equitable future. It provided a moment to reflect on the past but look to the future. And the fantastic youth panel we had at the event makes me hopeful about what that future looks like. I am grateful to those Members who attended and supported the event on the day. And I look forward to the City continuing to play a visible role in enhancing Stephen's legacy. There is still much to do.

Cyle Event – Mansion House and Bank Junction

I supported an operation targeting anti-social cyclists together with partners focussing on education, engagement and enforcement. This included a cycle roadshow held outside Mansion House together with an operation at Bank Junction cracking down on anti-social behaviour and road offences. Lord Mayor Professor Michael Mainelli and Lady Mayoress Elisabeth Mainelli also supported the event.

The event offered free cycle checks, free bike marking and registration and sit an opportunity to sit inside an HGV lorry to see the road from the view point of a lorry cab and better understand the hazards whilst near large vehicles courtesy of FM Conway. London Fire Brigade spoke to members of the public about the dangers of charging e-bikes and e-scooters at home.

The event was very well received by participants and the public on the day and had good coverage in the press, ITV London News and social media.

Member briefings

Can I highlight two forthcoming briefings for Members on policing matters:

- 5 June (14.00 – 15.30) on local policing issues; and
- 10 October (10.30 – 12.00) on the City Police's national responsibilities.

Both provide opportunities to learn more about the picture of crime in the City (and nationality), what the City Police are doing in response, and to ask questions of senior police officers and staff. I very much encourage attendance.

City of London Policing Plan 2022-2025

I presented the annual refresh of the City of London Policing Plan to the Court of Common Council on 25 April. I said then – and truly believe – that the City is privileged to have its own dedicated police service, which we should not take for granted.

The Police Authority Board has a vital role in ensuring that the objectives in the current Plan are achieved. At the same time, we will begin the process for developing a new three-year plan for 2025-2028. That will be important for setting the strategic direction for the City Police for the next phase of its evolution.

Police Authority Board Chair

The May meeting of the City of London Police Authority Board (PAB) will mark the end of my four-year tenure as Chair. Having started as a City of London Special Constable in September 2002, serving as such until 2015 when I joined the Board, it is fair to say that I feel very invested in the City of London Police.

I was informed last week, that Trainee Police Horse Andy, the latest recruit for the Mounted Unit, has just completed training as I am stepping down. I am thrilled to report that his policing name will be PH Thomson. I feel truly honoured to be recognised in this way and Police Authority Board Members will be informed of the passing out date in due course but expected to be 1 July.

I would like to extend my very sincere gratitude to all the City of London police officers, special constables, staff, volunteers and cadets as well as all members of the Police Authority Board and its Committees, and the Police Authority Team, for their dedication, support and hard work.

It has been a complete honour and privilege to serve as Chair for the past four years. I look forward to remaining on the Board and I wish my successor well.

I am confident that the City of London Police is well-positioned to face future challenges, delivering exceptional policing services for the public, the City and the country.