

CRIME AND DISORDER SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Thursday, 21 September 2023

Minutes of the meeting held at Guildhall at 9.00 am

Present

Members:

Tijs Broeke (Chair)
Mary Durcan
Helen Fentimen
Deputy John Fletcher
Deputy Shravan Joshi
Graham Packham
Deputy James Thomson
James Tumbridge

Officers:

Richard Riley	-	Director of Police Authority Board
Simon Cribbens	-	Assistant Director, Commissioning and Partnerships, Community and Children's Services
Commander Umer Khan	-	City of London Police
Julie Mayer	-	Town Clerks
Gavin Stedman	-	Port Health and Public Protection Director, Department of the Environment

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Ruby Sayed (Deputy Chair), Deputy Peter Dunphy and Deputy Chris Haywood.

Ruby Sayed and Peter Dunphy joined the meeting remotely.

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

There were no declarations.

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED, that – the minutes of the meeting held on 13th June 2023 be approved.

Matters arising

Members noted that a hybrid training session had been scheduled for 1.30pm on Thursday 5 October.

4. REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE CITY OF LONDON SAFER CITY PARTNERSHIP

The Chair welcomed Members to the second meeting of the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee. Members were also reminded that, under Local Government

Act Legislation, Committee meetings must start promptly, within 5 minutes of the time published on the City of London Corporation's web page.

At the Committee's first meeting on 13th June 2023, Members expressed a wish to scrutinise discussions and decisions from the Safer City Partnership (SCP) Strategy Board. The most recent meeting of the Board had taken place on 4 September 2023 and Members received a report of the SCP Board Chair, Commander Umer Khan, reflecting the discussions.

The Chair reminded Members of the essential purpose of the Committee; i.e. to scrutinise the delivery and outcomes of the City of London SCP Strategy Board and identify cross cutting themes, whilst avoiding duplication of effort. The Chair stressed that the Committee should not be scrutinising the Police in isolation; this is the role of the Police Authority Board (PAB).

Members noted the following three areas which the SCP Strategy Board agreed should be priorities for 2023/24:

- Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)
- Serious Violence
- Reducing Re-Offending

During the discussion and questions on the report and appendices, the following points were noted :

- a) The SCP Strategy Board has a very wide remit but following it's reset last year, it is now more task and action orientated, which makes it better placed to receive effective scrutiny.
- b) The City of London Police enjoy a good working relationship with the Metropolitan Police but will always give an appropriate first response to incidents on the borders with Hackney and Tower Hamlets. The British Transport Police have given the same assurance.
- c) Ongoing work in respect of black cabs, Ubers etc, needs to be an integral part of draft planning policy. The Chair of the SCP advised that he had been working with 'Destination City' in respect of the nighttime economy and would be bringing a report to the next meeting of the PAB. It was suggested that an extreme police presence might be detrimental to the aspirations of Destination City.
- d) Mental health concerns are a backdrop to a number of issues and might warrant a deep dive in terms of reach and responsiveness, noting that the Police are not providers of specialist care. Members asked to see the report on Mental Health presented to the PAB on 20th September.
- e) Despite its low resident population, Children and Young People warrant significant focus due to the City Corporation's support of academies and its population of looked-after children/unaccompanied asylum seeking children.

- f) Cross cutting themes, such as anti-social behaviour and inconsiderate cycling/use of scooters are emerging as they are frequently raised in City Corporation committees. Members welcomed the implementation of cycle squads and asked to see the report on Cycling presented to the PAB on 20th September.
- g) Representation on this partnership might look different to other areas, given the uniqueness of the City in terms of its low and transient population. The Membership list for the SCP in the agenda pack was out of date, as the SCP should not include City Corporation Members.
- h) Data from 2021/22 showed that, of 17,000 calls to the Police, only 7000 were crime related. This was being analysed to enable further scrutiny in terms of partnership working around the contributors, and in seeking to eliminate and design out crime and disorder.
- i) The Reducing Violence Group, which has representation from the Crime Prevention Association and the Prevention of Violence Against Women and Girls Groups are good examples of a holistic approach.
- j) The Committee needs a chance to bed in, to enable future agendas to evolve, noting that the report of the SCP Chair is a good start. SCP Boards are not public meetings but Members of this Committee can observe them.
- k) Partners are legally obliged to engage and can be called to this Committee if that is not the case.
- l) POCA funding guidance needs a more strategic and flexible approach. The SCP Strategy Board will be looking at this again and the Chair suggested that this Committee should scrutinise it annually.
- m) The training session on 5th October would consider the areas discussed above in more depth and inform a future agenda plan. A Member had a number of suggestions in terms of a way forward for the Committee, which would avoid duplication and keep it on track. The Chair asked if they could be shared with the Director of the Police Authority Team, ahead of the session, and welcomed contributions from other Members of this Committee and the SCP Strategy Board. The Chair also suggested that the Committee should hold an informal meeting, after the training session, and before the next scheduled meeting of the Committee on 17TH November 2023.

Chair thanked officers for their work on the SCP's priority areas and commended the improvement to the SCP Strategy Board since its reset 10 months ago.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

5 **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE BOARD**

There were no questions.

6. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT**

There were no items.

7. **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 item(s) on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of the Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act.

Item no

Para No

8,9

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

There were no questions.

9. **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.

The meeting ended at 10.15 am

Chairman

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