

Committee(s): Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee – For Information	Dated: 03/06/2024
Subject: Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee - June cover report	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation’s Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	1. People are safe and feel safe
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N
If so, how much?	N/a
What is the source of Funding?	N/a
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain’s Department?	N/a
Report of: Town Clerk’s department	For Information
Report author: Charles Smart, Police Authority team	

Summary

The Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee exists, as required by law, to scrutinise (but not to direct) the work of the Safer City Partnership (SCP) on crime and disorder in the City of London. In 2023 the SCP agreed three priority areas of focus – serious violence, anti-social behaviour, and reoffending.

This paper summarises the SCP’s work on these three areas to date in 2024, and gives a brief overview of other matters discussed at the latest SCP Board. Of these, we would draw the Committee’s attention to the paper on finances – item 4 in the pack. Four SCP papers are included in an annex.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to note the report.

Main Report

A note on papers

1. The SCP is an internal officials-only board which does not publish its papers as standard. It has one annual public meeting a year for which papers are published, the last of which was in January with materials available [here](#). Where not included in annexes for this committee, other SCP papers are available to C&D Members on request – see the *SCP May Agenda* below for indication of these

Current Position – Serious violence sub-group

2. The SCP is delivering the City’s Serious Violence Strategy, which – as required by recent national legislation – it published in January 2024 ([here](#)). It has three

strategic priorities – to reduce serious violence in the night-time economy, to reduce sexual and domestic violence, and to improve the proactive identification and mitigation of future violence risks and threats.

3. Note that the SCP has a separate, pre-existing Violence against Women and Girls action plan, available [here](#). This largely focusses on education and training and access to support services for City residents, while the SV strategy focusses more on policing measures to prevent victimisation and pursue perpetrators – both resident and non-resident.
4. The SV strategy has 21 measures, of which at present 43% are complete (largely because they were already in train when the strategy was being developed), 33% are in progress, 10% have not started, and 14% are ‘unknown’ (although these are mainly wider areas of work referenced in the strategy rather than measures announced in it). The aim – which we believe we are on track to meet – is to complete most measures by December 2024 with some running to early 2025.
5. The strategy document includes a new performance monitoring framework with metrics on offence and arrest volumes, outcomes, victim satisfaction, and surveyed public attitudes on violence. It is not included here because only offence and arrest data are available at present – the City Police are transitioning to a new victim survey system and we don’t yet have a 2024 wider public attitudes survey.
6. However, we will be able to report fully on performance to this committee in future, and will be monitoring this closely within the delivery sub-group. Data on overall violent crime and violence against women and girls is available [here](#) and shows, broadly, that violence is slightly above pre-Covid levels while violence against women and girls reported to police continues to rise (primarily we believe, as in other force areas, due to increased reporting rather than higher incidence).
7. The committee should note that, following publication of the strategy, we have successfully bid for £1 million Home Office funding in 2024/25 for initiatives to tackle serious violence and anti-social behaviour with hotspot police patrols and enabling measures like better CCTV monitoring – see table below. The funding has detailed reporting requirements on activity (e.g. patrol hours) and outcomes (e.g. arrests), on which we will be able to report to this Committee in future – at present, data is limited as funding only commenced in April and initiatives are still being mobilised.

Initiative	Funding
Operation Vigilant – more patrols of specially-trained officers in the night-time economy	£246,000
CCTV monitoring staff – more staff monitoring CCYTV feeds to detect and prevent crime	£152,000
Acquisitive crime teams – more patrols to prevent robberies and thefts	£138,000
Cycle team – more patrols by the new cycle team to tackle robbery, theft, ASB	£112,000
Dedicated Ward Officers – more DWO patrols on residential estates	£36,000
Taxi compliance checks – periodic deployments to tackle taxi touts and check private hire vehicles	£31,000

Analytical staff – more analysts to gather more and better data on serious violence and ASB	£104,000
'Bridge crime' transfer – transfer to other initiative that had funding cut	£180,000

Current position – anti-social behaviour

8. On anti-social behaviour, the SCP is implementing the measures set out in its overarching 2022-25 strategy – see item 2, pages 9 to 13, in the papers annex. A verbal update on delivery progress will be given.
9. At its most recent meeting the SCP approved a revised City of London policy for anti-social behaviour – see item 2. This brings together and updates the various tools, powers, and approaches across the Corporation and its partners to tackling ASB, and clarifies what does and does not constitute ASB in the City. As such, this document does not announce significant changes in the City's approach to ASB or initiatives to tackle it, but rather clarifies the existing approaches and what issues they apply to.
10. On performance and data analysis, the SCP faces two interrelated issues. The first is a longstanding one – responsibility for tackling ASB falls across seven separate Corporation teams and the City Police, all of whom record ASB in different ways on different systems. This makes it very difficult to produce an aggregated overview of ASB volumes and trends at any one time. The second is that the analyst recruited to the Police Authority / community safety team in 2023 has been on long term sickness absence. This means the SCP has lacked the analytical capacity to work around the 'disparate data' issue. The relevant Corporation teams are discussing options to address these issues, but at this stage the SCP cannot present this committee with robust ASB performance data.

Current position – reoffending

11. A verbal update on delivery progress will be given.

Other relevant matters discussed at the last SCP Board

- **2023/24 Strategic Assessment** – The SCP is required to produce an annual refresh of its strategic assessment. A verbal update was given to the board explaining that, largely due to the long-term absence of the dedicated analyst (see ASB update above), this has been delayed.
- **Overarching SCP strategy update – item 2 in annex** – The SCP's overall 2022-25 strategy has been updated as of this May to reflect changes since 2022, predominantly changes in organisational responsibility for certain areas and the publication of new strategies such as the Serious Violence Strategy. These are summarised in the cover report to Item 2.

- **Policy area / partner updates** – The SCP Board received updates on partners’ work on vulnerability, combatting drugs, the multi-borough ‘bridge crime’ initiative launched in 2023 with Home Office Safer Streets funding, and the work of the London Fire Brigade in the City.
- **Operation Luscombe Review** – The SCP requested a review of Operation Luscombe, a multi-agency ‘hub’ approach to reduce begging launched in 2018. The review concludes that, while Luscombe has improved joint working and our understanding of the issue, it has not been effective in reducing begging and is not currently a justifiable use of resources.
- **BIDs and Crime Prevention Association update** – The City of London’s Business Improvement Districts are now represented on the SCP Board as part of efforts to improve join-up and collaboration with the City’s business sector. The SCP also received an update on the projects being delivered with its funding by the City of London Crime Prevention Association.
- **Funding update – *item 4 in annex*** – The SCP has a reserve of Proceeds of Crime Act funding that it uses for grant-making initiatives that support its priorities – in 2023/24 it funded the Taxi Marshalling service at Liverpool St station, various initiatives on women’s safety delivered by the Safer Business Network, support for the City Police’s Operation Lewis acquisitive crime initiative (cycle purchases), and cost of stewarding at New Years Eve events. This paper also summarises the wider crime and safety grant spending by SCP organisations – initiatives funded by the Police Authority, and three Home Office grants.

Appendices

1. Crime trends and analysis overview
2. Revised SCP 2022-25 Strategy
3. New Anti-Social Behaviour policy
4. SCP funding update

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SCP Board May Agenda

- January Board minutes / action tracker – *available on request*
- 2023/24 strategic assessment – *verbal update*
- Crime trends and analysis – *item 1 in annex*
- Update on overarching SCP strategy – *item 2 in annex*
- ASB sub-group update – *verbal update*
- ASB policy paper – *item 3 in annex*
- Reoffending sub-group update – *verbal update*
- Serious violence sub-group update – *available on request*
- Violence against women and girls update – *available on request*
- Vulnerability deep-dive – *verbal update*
- Home Office funding update – *verbal update*
- Combatting drugs partnership update – *available on request*
- SCP partner updates – *verbal / available on request*
- Operation Luscombe review – *available on request*
- Business Improvement Districts update – *verbal update*
- City of London Crime Prevention Association projects evaluation – *available on request*
- SCP funding update – *item 4 in annex*