

Committee(s): Police Authority Board – For discussion	Dated: 04/09/2024
Subject: City of London draft Victims Strategy	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation’s Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	Diverse engaged communities / vibrant thriving destination
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N – there is additional spend but it is funded within existing budgets
If so, how much?	See paragraph 7
What is the source of Funding?	City Police and Police Authority budgets
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain’s Department?	Y
Report of: Temporary Commissioner, Town Clerk	For discussion
Report author: Matthew Ebbs (City Police), Charles Smart (Police Authority team)	

Summary

This is a cover report explaining the context for, and development of, the City’s first victims strategy – attached at Appendix 1. The strategy is provisionally scheduled for publication later in September.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to note the report.

Main Report

Background

1. Over the past year, the City of London Police and Corporation’s Police Authority team have jointly drafted a Victims Strategy. It contains new strategic priorities and measures for local policing, the Police Authority and wider Corporation on victims, and summarises the victims’ content of the City Police’s National Policing Strategy for Fraud, Economic and Cyber-crime.
2. As set out in the strategy’s context section (p.4 of Appendix), it has three main objectives:

- To make sure the City is ready to deliver both the specific aims of the Victims and Prisoners Act 2024 and embody its wider goal to put victims firmly at the heart of the criminal justice system
 - To detail how we will deliver our local commitment to put victims at the heart of everything we do, both in the City Police and with action from the Police Authority and wider Corporation
 - To increase trust and confidence in the police by improving services and outcomes for victims
3. Prior to the development of this strategy, the City Police had already been assessed by HM Inspectorate of Constabularies as being “*among the best in England and Wales at obtaining the best outcomes for victims*”, and the City Police continues to maintain a very high positive outcome rate for reported offences.
 4. As such, this strategy has not been developed in response to any external recommendations or identification of issues, but is rather a way to give a clearer strategic and measurement framework to existing work, and – as above – an opportune point to ready ourselves for new national legislation.
 5. In developing this strategy we reviewed national evidence, national and local survey responses, and local performance (with conclusions set out in Section 1 of the strategy), and shared the draft with several external organisations with a specific interest in this work¹ and PAB Members for comment. In practice, we received (and have incorporated) detailed feedback from MOPAC and the London Victims Commissioner’s team.
 6. Members should note, however, that this is very much ‘step 1’ of wider engagement – the strategy is meant, in part, to act as a springboard for engagement with a range of external partners and specific measures on this are set out in Section 1. This, along with the various measures on analysis and evidence-gathering, will inform future reviews of our strategic approach - it is intended to be flexible.
 7. The strategy contains several new measures with some cost associated, all of which are met from existing budgets:
 - A team to co-ordinate and lead the strategy, including new victims service manager – *drawn from within City Police headcount*
 - Launching a Victim Voice Forum with MOPAC - *£TBD, to be funded from Police Authority budget*
 - ‘Beacon’ membership of the Employers Initiative on Domestic Abuse – *c. £45,000, to be funded from Police Authority budget*
 8. As set out in the strategy, progress and performance against the management framework will be reported to SPPC, and overseen by a working-level victims services board.

¹ MOPAC, London Victims Commissioner, APCC, City of London IASG

Current Position

9. The strategy is presented in near-final draft, subject to any final comments or suggestions from Members. There is no set date for publication but, provisionally, this will be later in September – an internal and external comms plan will be developed for this and can be shared with Members outside of committee if desired. The delivery timeline following publication is set out in the strategy document.

Conclusion

10. This report sets out that City Police and the Police Authority have developed a victims strategy to give a clearer framework for ongoing work, and ready the organisations for new national legislation. Members are invited to discuss the draft strategy ahead of likely publication later this month.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – draft City of London Victims Strategy

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