

Committee: Police Authority Board – For information	Dated: 04/09/2024
Subject: Government priorities for policing	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation’s Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	1,4,7, 12
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 and Commissioner	For Information
Report author: Oliver Bolton (Police Authority Team, Town Clerk’s); Alix Newbold (Chief Operating Officer, COLP)	

Summary

This report outlines the new Government’s manifesto commitments that relate to the work of the City of London Police – both in the local and national roles. It also summarises the new Home Office ministerial team’s portfolios and relevant legislation announced in the King’s Speech in July 2024. It also covers the draft Force Management Statement, a detailed self-assessment that chief constables are required to prepare and submit to His Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS).

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.

Main Report

Background

1. Following the General Election on 4th July, Labour formed a new Government and set about laying the foundations for delivering their manifesto commitments.

Current Position

2. The Prime Minister has confirmed that there will be five Mission Boards which he will chair, supported by a dedicated official as senior responsible owner. These missions cover five main themes for change:
 - i. Kickstart economic growth
 - ii. Make Britain a clean energy superpower
 - iii. Take back our streets
 - iv. Break down barriers to opportunity
 - v. Build an NHS fit for the future

Visible Policing

3. A significant commitment, is a 'crack down on anti-social behaviour with more neighbourhood police' – 13,000 new police officers and PCSOs. This includes a strong focus on 'visible neighbourhood policing.'

'Visible neighbourhood policing was the cornerstone of the British consent-based model. In too many areas it has been eroded leaving the police a reactive service focused on crisis response, rather than preventing crime.'

4. Labour will introduce a new Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee, restoring patrols to our town centres by recruiting thousands of new police officers, PCSOs and special constables...Residents will have a named officer to turn to when things go wrong'
5. Labour has vowed to pay for this by 'tackling waste through a new Police Efficiency and Collaboration programme for England and Wales. The programme will set nationwide standards for procurement and established shared services and specialist functions to drive down costs.

Knife Crime

6. Labour has pledged that knife carrying triggers rapid intervention and referral into Youth Offending teams with extended penalties, banning swords and machetes.
7. Labour aims to half knife crime in a decade and has pledged to introduce a new offence of criminal exploitation of children and to go after the gangs who are luring young people into violence and crime.

Retail Crime

8. Retail crime featured in the Labour Manifesto with a pledge to introduce a new offence of assaulting a shopworker.
9. In April 2024 Superintendent Patrick Holdaway (National Business Crime Centre) was part of a Home Affairs Select Committee panel giving evidence for the follow up inquiry into violence and abuse towards retail workers. The Committee wrote to the Home Secretary with a summary of their findings including:
 - Police response to retail crime is inconsistent

- Recommendation: a standalone offence for assaulting a retail worker, including wholesale workers
- Recommendation: Reiterate the 2021 recommendation that the Home Office should provide central funding for the continued operation of the NBCC and that the Government must ensure that these projects are fully resourced.

Violence Against Women and Girls

10. Labour has pledged to introduce a new offence for spiking, strengthen stalking powers and introduce specialist sexual offence centres.

11. The Labour manifesto includes a reference to the murders of Raneem Oudeh and her mother, Khaola Slaeem. Raneem was abused, stalked and received threats to kill from her ex-partner and repeatedly reported this to Police. On the night that Raneem Oudeh and Khaola Saleem were murdered they called 999 four times.

12. Yvette Cooper has called for 'Raneem's Law'. This proposal would see domestic abuse specialists placed in 999 control rooms across the country and improve early intervention by introducing a stricter time limits for considering whether victims need a protective civil order. Police forces would also be required to have a dedicated officer overseeing the enforcement of protective orders.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

A view on the impact of the policy proposals is pending further information on their implementation.

Financial implications – pending further policy detail.

Resource implications – pending further policy detail.

Legal implications – pending further policy detail.

Risk implications – pending further policy detail.

Equalities implications – pending further policy detail.

Climate implications – pending further policy detail.

Security implications – pending further policy detail.

Conclusion

13. While the Government has set out some clear priorities it remains to be seen how this work will be scoped and what opportunities there are for inclusion of City interests (e.g. fraud against individuals and businesses).

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Summary of Government Priorities for Policing ppt.

Oliver Bolton

Economic and Cyber Crime Lead, Police Authority Team, Town Clerks

T: 020 7332 1971

E: oliver.bolton@cityoflondon.gov.uk