

Committee(s): Police Authority Board	Dated: December 2024
Subject: Chair's Update	Public
Report of: Tijs Broeke	For Information

City of London Police Commissioner recruitment

I was pleased that following the open competition run by the City of London Corporation, the Court of Common Council, at its meeting on 10 October, appointed Pete O'Doherty as the next Commissioner of the City of London Police. My warmest congratulations go to him. Pete brings credibility, competence and passion to the leadership post of City Commissioner. I look forward to working closely with him to ensure that the City is the safest business district in the world, supporting the City Police's national roles, and realising our ambition for it to be one of the most inclusive and trusted police services in the country.

At the time of writing, we await the granting of Royal Assent to the appointment, which is in train.

Operational activity

I have been conscious of the extent of operational activity by the City Police at high profile set piece events over recent weeks. These include the Investment Summit at the Guildhall, the (ongoing) public inquiry into the death of Dawn Sturgess, and the 696th Lord Mayor's Show on 9 November. I have been very proud of, and grateful for, the professional way in which the City Police has supported these events. My thanks go to all those involved – both the visible and less visible – whose work has ensured the smooth running of the events and the safety of participants and the public.

Policing Plan 2025 – 2028

I am grateful to those Members who contributed to the session with the City Police on the development of the next Policing Plan in October. This is a really central piece of work, as it will set the strategic direction for policing in the City for the next three years, and set out how the public can assess whether the objectives in the Plan are being achieved. There will be further opportunities for Members to engage with the Plan's development. I very much encourage them to.

I am also grateful to those Members who have supported the recent Cluster Panels set up by the City Police, as part of its public engagement programme. I am interested in an assessment of how the Panels have gone, including what more can be done – by the City Police and Corporation (officers and Members) - to further promote such opportunities. In a similar vein, I look forward to hearing the results of the next City Question Time event in December, which will be supported by senior City Police officers and the Police Authority Board Deputy Chair.

Speaking engagements

Since the last Board meeting, I have spoken at a series of events including the City Police's national economic crime briefing day in October and, on behalf of the Chairman of Policy and Resources, the Financial Crime 360 conference in November. It has been my privilege to also speak at two evening events celebrating the work of the City Police: the City of London Police Reserve Officers' Dinner at Mansion House and, more recently, the City of London Police awards dinner at the Guildhall. Both events were inspiring, and humbling, in equal measure. And reinforced the pride I have in the City Police, and the work of all those who serve in it at all ranks and levels – officers, staff, Specials and volunteers.

Strategic engagement

Strategic engagement continues at pace. The Deputy Chair and I were pleased to welcome Lord Hanson (Home Office Minister for Fraud) on his visit to the City of London Police in October to learn more about its role leading the police response on fraud. Feedback on the visit was very positive and we welcomed the supportive references to the City Police in the Minister's recent letter to the Home Affairs Select Committee following their review of fraud. Next month sees the Security Minister, Dan Jarvis MP, return to the City to hear from teams leading the police response on economic and cyber-crime. Alongside these ministerial visits, I have been meeting with government special advisers to promote the work of the City Police, options for going further on tackling fraud, and to understand government ambitions around the recently announced White Paper on police reform, expected in the New Year. The Financial Times recently carried an op-ed from me about improving the response to fraud, timed to coincide with international fraud awareness week.

Budget implications

We need to be alive to the implications of the Budget announcement on the increase in Employers National Insurance contribution to 15% and reduction in threshold to £5,000 (from April 2025). The expectation is that this will be fully funded but will be confirmed by the Provisional Settlement for 25/26, expected w/c 9th December. The Board will need to consider this further, when details are clearer.