

Committee(s): Police Authority Board	Dated: February 2025
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Report of: Tijs Broeke	For Information

City of London Policing Plan 2025 – 2028

Thank you to those Members who were able to attend the briefing on the development of the new City Policing Plan on 28 January. As Members will have seen, I subsequently asked for any further input to be sent in time for the discussion at the February meetings of the Strategy Planning and Performance Committee and the Police Authority Board.

As Members know, 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.

City of London Police Budget

Following news of the Provisional Grant Settlement on 17 December 2024, the Home Office confirmed the funding settlement for the City of London Police in writing on 31 January. The letter outlined that the City will receive a maximum of £92.9m in Government grant funding for 2025/26 – an increase of £7.3m on 2024/25. This includes £1.4m of neighbourhood policing grant funding (there is an emphasis on the importance of neighbourhood policing in the Home Office paperwork). The implications of the funding settlement are being worked through now.

Strategic engagement

I was honoured to be able to greet Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer as he visited Guildhall Yard East on 9 January. With the Foreign Secretary announcing a new sanctions regime to stop people smuggling crime rings and remove illicit finance, fuelling their operations, the Prime Minister convened a roundtable with law enforcement leaders to discuss a collective approach. I was very proud of how well the visit was executed – my thanks go out to all officers and staff involved in organising the visit in such quick time, and in such a professional manner. And equally proud of our Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner who shared their law enforcement perspective and economic crime expertise on the matter.

I have continued to engage widely with key organisations to develop the conversation on police reform, particularly where this impacts the City Police's national roles on fraud, economic and cyber crime. I met with Rick Muir (Director of the Police Foundation) and will continue to do so as thinking on this strand develops. I also met with Phil Brickell and Luke Charters, MPs with a keen interest in fraud and strengthening the system response and I am pleased that the conversation in this space is so healthy, as interest grows and ideas develop on what the next Fraud Strategy may cover. We also continue to work with Ministers, building our

relationship with the Fraud Minister and Security Minister in particular, and look forward to hosting them back at the City in the near future.

The City also looks forward to hosting the President of the Financial Action Task Force and the Treasury at an event in March, recognising the work of UK and Australian law enforcement using illicit finance leads to combat Child Sexual Exploitation, underlining the interconnectedness of economic crime with other serious crime types.

Serious Violence Duty

The Police Authority Team, with City Police and other local public sector partners, have begun the 'annual refresh' of the City's Serious Violence Duty strategy (first published January 2024), to be completed by the end of the financial year. As agreed with City Police, this will not contain substantive new commitments on policing (which are for the next Policing Plan) and so will be provided in due course to the Board and to the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee for information.

Victims Strategy

The City Police and Police Authority Team are working on plans for the public launch of the joint Police-Corporation victims strategy, which was cleared by PAB last year. Members should note that this has already been launched internally to City Police officers and staff in December, with a significant amount of accompanying comms and promotion, and that implementation has been underway for several months.

City Independent Custody Visitors (ICVs)

I am pleased to provide an update on the Police Authority's ongoing commitment to enhancing oversight and safeguarding the welfare of individuals in custody. The Police Authority Team have made significant progress in their recruitment efforts aimed at improving diversity and representation within our current group of volunteers, successfully adding four new Independent Custody Visitors (ICVs) to the City Scheme. Custody familiarisation training is being coordinated with the ICV Scheme Manager and the City Police and are expected to take place in the next few weeks. Recruitment activities will continue to be a primary focus, and further updates will be communicated to PAB and the Professional Standards & Integrity Committee for information.

Governance reform

I have been discussing with the Police Authority Team how we might improve the effectiveness and efficiency of our governance arrangements as they apply to the work of the City of London Police. I am open to ideas which would make PAB, and its Committees, work better – reducing duplication, providing better alignment with the objectives in the City's Policing Plan, and improving the strategic scrutiny of the City Police. I will share a direction of travel on this before the May meeting of the Board to give Members a chance to give me their thoughts.

New Year Honour for Deputy Board Chair

I would like to congratulate, formally, our Deputy Chair James Thomson on being awarded a CBE in the New Year Honours for services to policing and inclusion. This national recognition is richly deserved. He has, in my view, been an exceptional member, Chair and Deputy Chair of the Police Authority Board. He has campaigned successfully for national reforms to combat fraud and cybercrime, championed local safety initiatives including tackling violence against women and girls, and advocated strongly and authentically for diversity and inclusion. He has been a big part in ensuring that the City Police is on a journey to becoming one of the most inclusive and trusted police services in the country. The award of a CBE is welcome recognition of this public service.