

City of London Corporation Committee Report

Committee(s): Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee – For information	Dated: 29/05/2025
Subject: Serious violence sub-group and hotspot response grant update	Public report: For information
This proposal: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• provides statutory duties	It delivers Serious Violence Duty legislation
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	No
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 Clerks' Department, City Police Commissioner
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Summary

The slide pack at Appendix 1 sets out the regular update on the work of the Safer City Partnership's serious violence sub-group, which is implementing the Serious Violence Duty in the City. The same update is presented in parallel to this committee and the SCP Board on 30 May. It also updates on plans for 'hotspot response' grant-funded initiatives in 2025/26.

As the slides at Appendix 1 and the 'strategy refresh' published earlier this month (see footnote below) detail progress on strategy delivery, updated analysis on serious violence, and the City's strategic approach, this cover report focusses on providing supplementary background information.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.

Main Report

Background

1. Legislation introduced in 2023 requires all local areas to develop and implement multi-agency strategies to reduce serious violence – the Serious Violence Duty. The City developed its strategy within the Safer City Partnership (SCP) – our local community safety partnership whose membership encompasses the same agencies required to collaborate under the Duty (such as police, health, probation, fire and rescue).
2. Our initial strategy was published in January 2024 and – as the slides at Appendix 1 summarise and as the updated ‘refresh’¹ sets out in full detail – has as of May 2025 been largely delivered.
3. Legislation requires local strategies to be ‘refreshed’ annually and the City’s ‘refresh’ was published in May 2025 (see footnote above), containing updated analysis on serious violence, a review of whether strategic priorities remained correct in light of these (concluding that they do), and nine additional measures to make progress on these priorities. Again, these are summarised in the slides at Appendix 1 and detailed in full in the published strategy.
4. The main change in approach has been more focus on additive, collaborative ‘partnership’ actions. The initial strategy included measures that were the sole responsibility of one partner agency (such as to increase police engagement with the hotel sector) and some which the Partnership was ‘monitoring’ but not itself delivering (such as the City Police’s implementation of Op Soteria, the national programme to improve investigation of rape and serious sexual offences).
5. The refreshed strategy was developed concurrently with the new (2025-28) Policing Plan, which sets out new ‘policing-only’ action on serious violence. It was also developed alongside the wider Safer City Partnership strategy, which has sought to delineate more clearly between action on ‘serious violence’ and on ‘violence against women and girls’ (another SCP priority). As such the refresh measures have, in practice, a narrower scope.
6. On ‘hotspot response’, the City received £1 million grant funding from the Home Office in 2024/25 to implement visible policing and ‘uniformed presence’ initiatives to reduce serious violence and anti-social behaviour. Technically, this lies outside of the Safer City Partnership (it is a joint Police Authority-City Police project) but it links closely to the Serious Violence Duty so is referenced both in the slides here and in the SV Duty refresh for information.
7. In 2025/26, the City has again received £1 million grant funding and the proposed use of this is summarised in the slides at Appendix 1.

¹ Published May 2025 and available [here](#)

Current Position

8. On the Serious Violence Duty, as above a refreshed strategy has been published this month and implementation will commence from June, overseen by the SCP's serious violence sub-group and reported on both to this committee and to the SCP Board. Members are encouraged to review the published refresh (see footnote above) for full detail, including the current position on the volume and nature of serious violence in the City.
9. On the 'hotspot response' programme, plans for 2025/26 have been agreed internally and submitted to the Home Office. Quarter 1 of the financial year (Apr-Jun) is a transition period as the programme shifts from the 2024/25 initiatives (summarised at Annex B of SV strategy refresh, see footnote above) to the 'problem-oriented' approach of 2025/26 (under which funding is being allocated more flexibly across a range of serious violence and anti-social-behaviour 'problems' – as summarised in the slides at Appendix 1 of this report).

Key Data

10. Detailed updated analysis on serious violence in the City is set out in the published SV Duty refresh, see footnote above.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

Strategic implications – The SV Duty and the hotspot response programme seek to make the City safer, and so support the Corporate Plan outcome of making the City a vibrant, thriving destination.

Financial implications – None. SV Duty and hotspot response measures are fully-funded.

Resource implications – SV Duty and hotspot response programmes both entail additional administrative work from the Corporation and partner agencies, but these are within resource capacity.

Legal implications – Delivery of SV Duty fulfils legislative requirement on the Corporation and public-sector partners

Risk implications – SV Duty and hotspot response both seek to reduce risk of violence and anti-social behaviour in the City, with the SV Duty having a specific priority focus on identifying and mitigating threats from a changing City.

Equalities implications – SV Duty has a specific priority focus on reducing sexual and domestic violence. While this is regardless of sex, gender, or sexual orientation, it should be noted that victims of these offences are predominantly (76%) female. Members will note that the Safer City Partnership has a separate focus on tackling violence against women and girls more specifically.

Climate implications – none.

Security implications – SV Duty and hotspot response seek to make the City more secure, in terms of reduced violence.

Conclusion

11. The serious violence sub-group is, through its refreshed Serious Violence Duty strategy, embedding a partnership approach to violence reduction in the City. This is complemented strongly by the hotspot response programme, providing significant additional activity to reduce and prevent violence.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – *Serious violence sub-group and hotspot response 2025/26 update*

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