CRIME AND DISORDER SCRUTINY COMMITTEE Thursday, 14 November 2024

Minutes of the meeting of the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee held at Committee Rooms, 2nd Floor, West Wing, Guildhall on Thursday, 14 November 2024 at 2.00 pm

Present

Members:

Deborah Oliver (Chair)
Ruby Sayed (Deputy Chairman)
Helen Fentimen OBE JP
Mandeep Thandi
Deputy John Fletcher

Officers:

Richard Riley CBE - Town Clerk's Department
Charles Smart - Town Clerk's Department
Kezia Barrass - Town Clerk's Department
Isaac Thomas - Town Clerk's Department

Simon Cribbens - Community & Children's Services Department
Valeria Cadena - Community & Children's Services Department

Gavin Stedman - Environments

Helen Isaacs - City of London Police

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Deputy Chris Hayward, Deputy Shravan Joshi and Tijs Broeke. Mary Durcan and Graham Packham were observing online.

2. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were no declarations.

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED, - that the public minutes and non-public summary of the meeting held on 11 June 2024 were approved as an accurate record.

4. UPDATES ON SAFER CITY PARTNERSHIP POLICY PRIORITIES

a) SERIOUS VIOLENCE SUBGROUP UPDATE

Members received a report of the Town Clerk which provided an update on the Serious Violence Subgroup.

Members discussed the 'Safe Spaces' scheme and queried if there was formal accreditation that could be provided to businesses that had participated to make visitors to the City aware of the safe spaces and to increase the overall uptake. Officers outlined that there were 33 safe havens within the City and that the City of London Police had engaged extensively with hotels in the City and agreed to provide further information on this at the next Committee.

Members noted that the Ask for Angela Scheme was embedded in licensing regulations, and all new venues were required to train their staff on the scheme. City of London Police officers agreed circulate information with Members on recent Ask for Angela spot checks.

Members expressed concern that slippage time was evident on the Serious Violence Duty Strategy delivery plan and requested that deadlines would be included to prevent further delays.

Members requested that all reports would include guides to operations listed and expanded acronyms to ensure that Members and the public would have improved context and understanding of the report.

RESOLVED, - that the report be noted.

b) REDUCING NEIGHBOURHOOD CRIME AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION

Members received a report of the Director of City Operations which outlined the strategy implementation for reducing neighbourhood crime and anti-social behaviour.

Officers outlined that this strategy was due to end in 2025, and that work was ongoing to set the priorities for the strategy for 2025 - 28.

RESOLVED, - that the report be noted.

c) CITY OF LONDON REDUCING RE-OFFENDING DELIVERY GROUP

Members received a report of the National Probation Service which provided an update on the City of London reducing re-offending delivery group.

RESOLVED, - that the report be noted.

5. WIDER WORK OF THE SAFER CITY PARTNERSHIP

a) SAFER CITY PARTNERSHIP STRATEGY 2025-2028 TIMELINE

Members received a report of the Executive Director of Community and Children's Services which outlined the Safer City Partnership Strategy 2025 – 2028 timeline. Members discussed how to ensure that residents without access to online platforms would be able to participate in the consultation. Officers outlined that work would be undertaken with the community and businesses face to face, and agreed to circulate the consultation plan once this had been finalised.

RESOLVED, - that the report be noted.

b) ALLOCATING SAFER CITY PARTNERSHIP PROCEEDS OF CRIME ACT FUNDING

Members received a report of the Executive Director of Community and children's services which outlined how the City of London Corporation recevies and administers proceeds of crime act funding.

Members discussed the Taxi Marshalling scheme and noted that this was funded for a 6 month period as a pilot and further funding for another 12 months would be applied for. The Chair noted the risks related to the cessation of the scheme and encouraged officers to measure the impacts of the scheme to aid in its continuation.

RESOLVED, - that the report be noted.

6. ADDITIONAL UPDATES

a) LATE NIGHT LEVY 12 MONTH REPORT

Members received a report of the Executive Director of Environment which outlined the 12 month late night levy.

Members noted that the Late Night Levy had been operational in the City of London since October 2014 and applied to premises licensed to sell alcohol after midnight. This levy had not decreased the number of licensed premises

Members asked for clarification and justification of the context of the priorities and their establishment; officers outlined that the Licensing Committee considers a report annually that covers the funding requirements of nighttime economy, which included but were not limited to managing nighttime noise, Uri-lifts and cleansing. Officers agreed to provide further information on this expenditure at the next Committee meeting.

RESOLVED, - that the report be noted.

b) CITY OF LONDON POLICING PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Members received a verbal report which charted the development of the City of London Policing Plan.

Members discussed how accessible the plan consultation would be to residents in the City and noted that BIDS were working businesses and residents to ensure opportunities to provide feedback on the plan. Officers shared that City of London Police had good engagement with security managers of businesses but had struggled to reach senior executives. Officers agreed to consider how to communicate cluster panels to improve on future attendance and wider awareness of each session.

RESOLVED, - that the report be noted.

7. QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE BOARD

There were no questions.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was one item of business.

Officers outlined ongoing work on the review of the Safer City Partnership collaboration with the City of London Police, and shared that this would be considered at the next Committee.

9. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED - That under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act.

10. SERIOUS VIOLENCE NON-PUBLIC APPENDICES

Members received a report of the Town Clerk which provided the non-public appendices of the Serious Violence Subgroup Update, which was considered in conjunction with item 4a.

Members queried the justification for these appendices being excluded from the public session and requested that this would be reviewed for the next meeting of the Committee.

RESOLVED, - that the report be noted.

11. NON-PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE BOARD

There were no questions.

12. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT** There was no other business.

| The meeting ended at 15:37 | | |
|----------------------------|--|--|
| | | |
| Chairman | | |

Contact Officer: Kezia Barrass kezia.barrass@cityoflondon.gov.uk