

City of London Corporation Committee Report

Committee(s): Strategic Planning & Performance Committee	Dated: 16 September 2025
Subject: Operational Tinsel Review	Public report: For Information
This proposal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> delivers Corporate Plan 2024-29 outcomes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dynamic Economic Growth Vibrant Thriving Destination
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:	The Commissioner of the City of London Police
Report author:	Chief Superintendent Helen Isaac

Summary

1. This report provides information on Operation Tinsel 2, how it was deployed and the overall impact on our priority crime types of violent crime, sexual offences and acquisitive crime in December 2024. These offences are linked to the nighttime economy and are expected to see a seasonal increase during December due to increased footfall and the number of people enjoying parties and other events in and around licensed premises.
2. Whilst overall crime fell in December 2024 against the previous month and when compared to the same period in 2023, violent crime rose to a level outside of the upper control limit and to its highest level in two years. During the hours of the operation, all crime types shown in the final report were static or reduced compared to December 2023, indicating that violence against the person offences rose outside of the times when the operation was in place. Acquisitive crime offences fell compared to December 2023 and November 2024 indicating that the operation had targeted the right locations at the right times.

3. Several points for this year's planning are included at the end of the report, taking on the learning from Op Tinsel 2 and using the Force's Problem Orientated Policing (POP) crime prevention approach to drive activity, with planning for the operation starting from September.

Recommendation

4. Members are asked to note the report.

Main Report

Background

5. December is one of the busiest times of the year in the City and due to the higher volume of people socialising and events running in licensed premises we expected to see a rise in NTE related crimes of violent and acquisitive crime. Op Tinsel 2 for Christmas 2024 began on Thursday 28th November and ran for four weeks. The focus was on targeting those who prey on party-goers and vulnerable people over the festive period. Op Tinsel 1 took place in 2023 and the same format was followed in 2024, following a reduction of offences in December the previous year.
6. Units from Response, Support Group, Traffic, Servator, Dogs, Proactive Crime Team, CID, Public Protection Unit and Volume Crime Unit, Partnership and Prevention Hub, Licencing, Neighbourhoods and the Cycle Team were involved on Thursday, Friday and Saturday each week in December from 1300hrs until 0700hrs.

Summary of Analysis

7. A closing report was provided considering the tasking completed against the taskings set and how effective this was against reducing crime. This was considered against crime data and taskings from the campaign in 2023 looking at what took place within the specific hours of the operation as opposed to the December period as a whole.
8. The report showed that during the days and times Op Tinsel deployed, the taskings were effective at reducing acquisitive and violent crime in the defined areas when compared to 2023. The Tinsel dashboard shown below, set up to monitor performance during the hours of the operation, provides a summary of overall performance during the period against the same hours of the operation in 2023.
9. This shows that there was a 22% reduction in offences between 2023 and 2024 in the hours Op Tinsel ran and a small reduction in every crime type.

Op Tinsel Dashboard Comparison 2023 and 2024



Operation TINSEL
Weekly Dashboard

2023			2024		
Occurrences	Positive Outcomes	Suspect / Offender	Occurrences	Positive Outcomes	Suspect / Offender
157	28	66	122	10	48

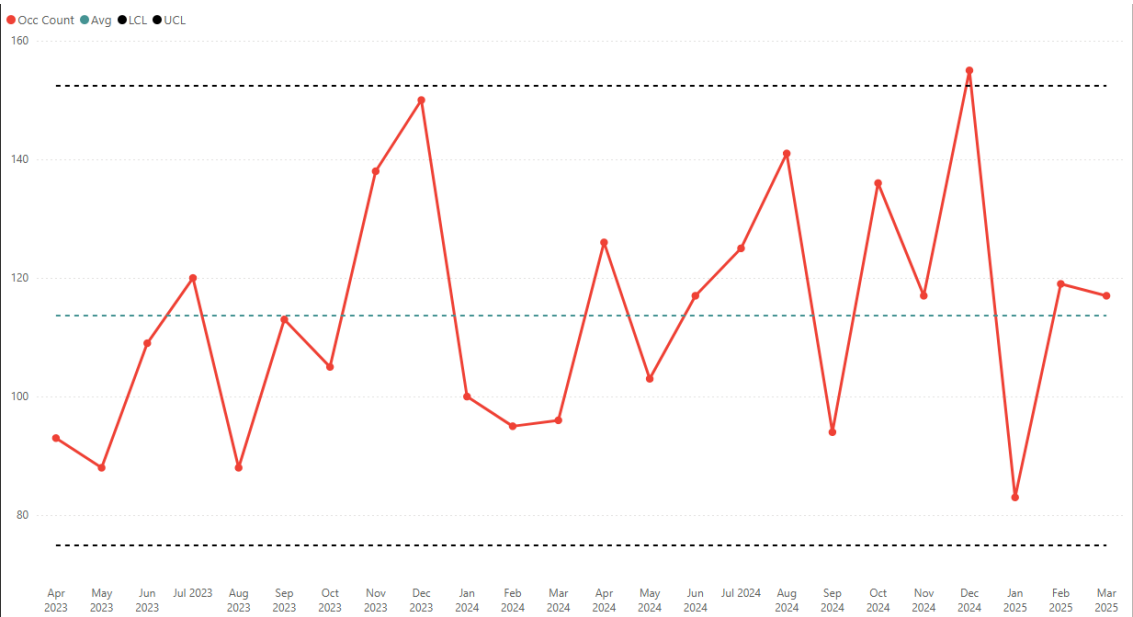
The data in this report has come from the same data source as last year. I have also used the same time frame for both years. We have seen small reductions against every crime type during Tinsel hours resulting in a 22% reduction in overall offences.

2023						2024									
Long Hour (Start)	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Total	Crime Tree LV3 Desc	Op Tinsel	Crime Tree LV3 Desc	Op Tinsel	Long Hour (Start)	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Total
00:00 - 00:59		5	1		4	10		ALL OTHER THEFT OFFENCES	22	00:00 - 00:59		4	1		5
01:00 - 01:59		2	3			5	39	VIOLENCE WITH INJURY	19	01:00 - 01:59		2	3	1	6
02:00 - 02:59		5	2			7	24	SHOPLIFTING	17	02:00 - 02:59		2	4	1	7
03:00 - 03:59		2	5	1		8	21	SHOPLIFTING	17	03:00 - 03:59		1	2		3
04:00 - 04:59		1		2		3	20	THEFT FROM THE PERSON	17	04:00 - 04:59			2	2	4
05:00 - 05:59				1		1	17	VIOLENCE WITHOUT INJURY	16	05:00 - 05:59					
13:00 - 13:59		2		4		6	20	VIOLENCE WITH INJURY	16	06:00 - 06:59		3			3
14:00 - 14:59		1	4	2		7	17	PUBLIC DISORDER	10	13:00 - 13:59		5	1		6
15:00 - 15:59		2	2	2		6	14	CRIMINAL DAMAGE	5	14:00 - 14:59		1	1		2
16:00 - 16:59		5	2	2		9	6	OTHER SEXUAL OFFENCES	5	15:00 - 15:59			4	1	5
17:00 - 17:59		2		2		4	5	ROBBERY OF PERSONAL PROPERTY	4	16:00 - 16:59			3	2	5
18:00 - 18:59		6	5	1		12	5	ROBBERY OF PERSONAL PROPERTY	5	17:00 - 17:59		2	3	1	6
19:00 - 19:59		5	5	3		13	5	MISCELLANEOUS CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY	2	18:00 - 18:59		2	3		5
20:00 - 20:59		4	3			7	3	POSSESSION OF WEAPONS OFFENCES	2	19:00 - 19:59		3	4	2	9
21:00 - 21:59		9	4	3		16	2	BURGLARY	2	20:00 - 20:59		4	5	3	12
22:00 - 22:59		9	5	6		20	1	BURGLARY	2	21:00 - 21:59		5	2	2	9
23:00 - 23:59		12	8	3		23		ROBBERY OF BUSINESS PROPERTY	1	22:00 - 22:59		2	6	3	11
								VEHICLE CRIME	1	23:00 - 23:59		10	12	2	24
Total	57	53	39	8	157	Total	157	Total	122	Total	34	56	28	4	122

Comparison with overall performance in December 2024

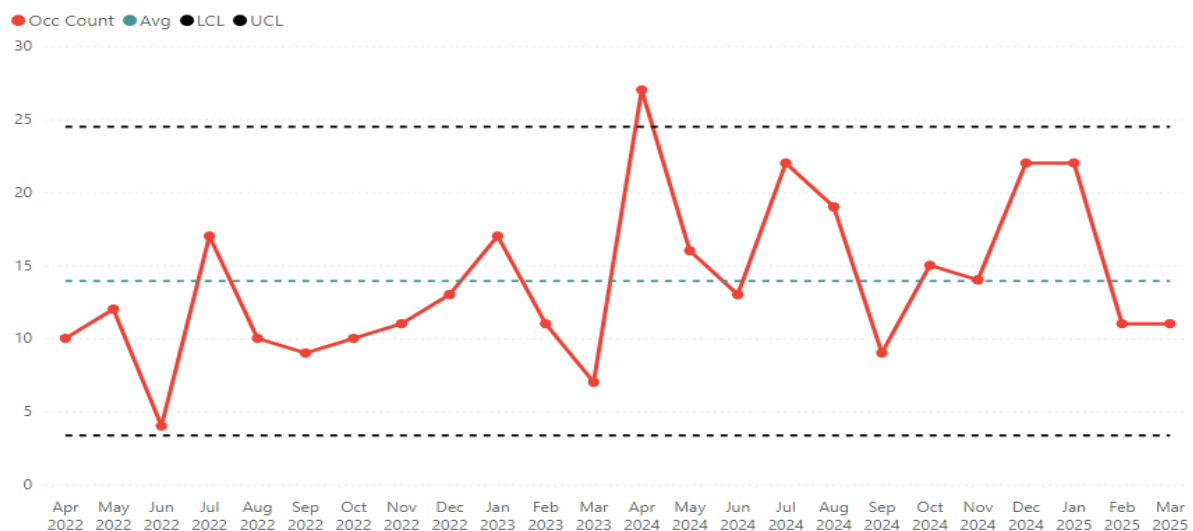
10. However, for the December 2024 period as a whole, violence against the person offences rose beyond the upper control limit beyond that seen in December 2023 and to their highest level over the two-year period shown in graph 1 below.

Graph one: Violence against the person



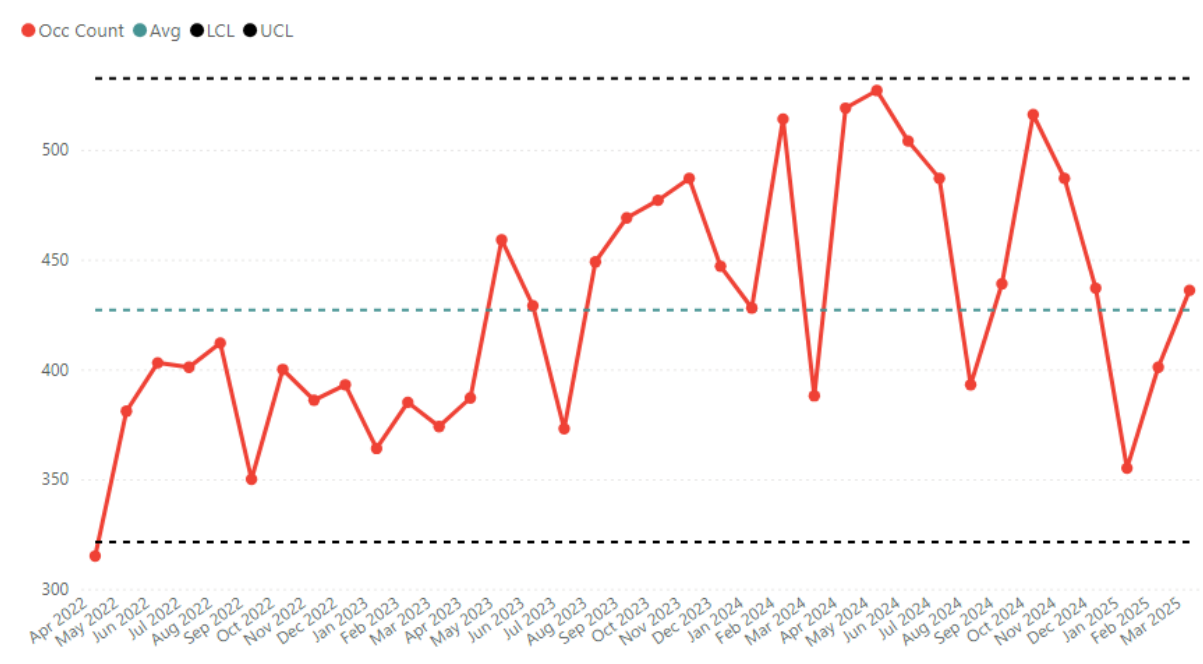
11. This indicates that whilst the operation provided a reduction to offences during the days and hours it ran, violent crime continued to rise outside of these times. Prior to the planning stages for the Christmas campaign in 2025, a full analysis of the last two years of relevant data will be completed to ensure the operation targets this offence category specifically. This will form part of the Problem Orientated Policing (POP) preventative approach the force is taking to reduce crime.
12. Compared to December 2023, there was a small rise in sexual offences as seen in graph 2 below, but not as significant as the rise seen in April 2024, which was outside of the upper control limit. The analysis recently produced to inform our targeting of sexual offences in April will be refreshed prior to the planning stages of this year's campaign so that activity is informed and directed.

Graph 2: Sexual Offences

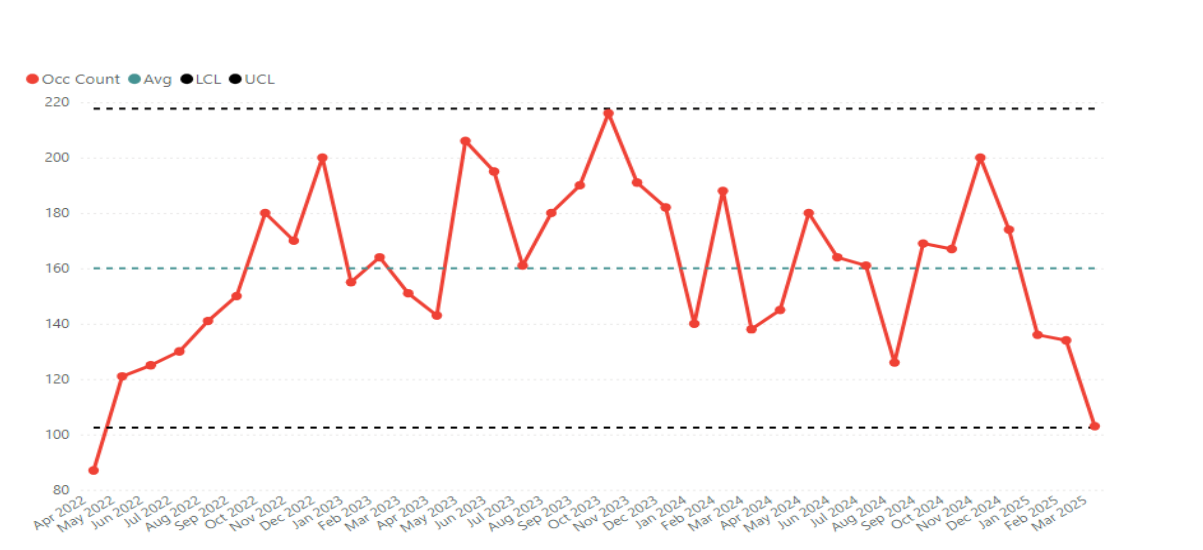


13. In the category of all theft, offences fell in December 2024 as shown in graph 3 below to just above average and below the level seen in December 2023. In the category of all other theft in graph 4 below, of which the majority is theft from licensed premises or cafes, but which does not include shoplifting, offences also fell in December 2024 compared with both December 2022 and December 2023, to just above average.

Graph 3: All theft offences



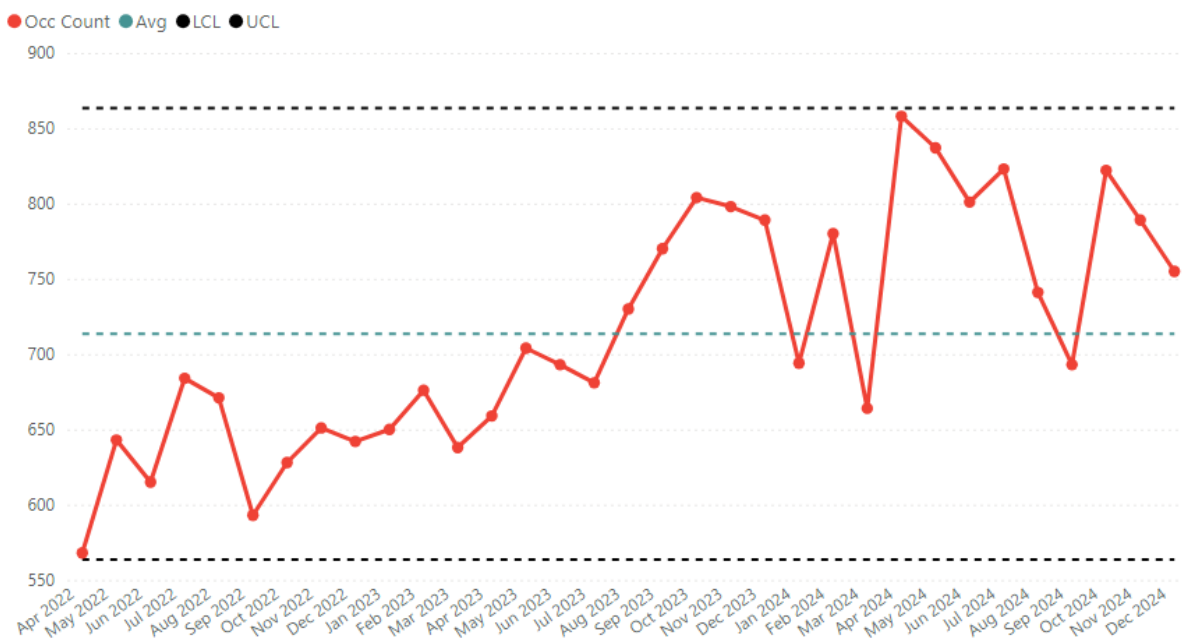
Graph 4: All other theft offences



14. This data indicates that the dates and times targeted for activity under Operation Tinsel were successful in preventing a rise in theft, particularly that linked to licensed premises, which is expected at this time of year.

15. However, in line with the force's POP approach, a full analysis of the last two years of theft data, broken down into the target categories will be carried out prior to the planning of this year's operation to ensure our approach is targeted at specific offence types, at the right times and in the right locations.
16. The expected rise in overall crime in December 2024 did not happen as shown in graph 5, which is against the seasonal trend. In fact, crime fell in November and December at a more significant level than in 2023, despite an increase in footfall of 9% in December 2024 from November.

Graph 5: All crime



Planning for Christmas Campaign 2025

- Ch Supt Isaac is assigned as Gold for the Christmas campaign this year, with Neighbourhood Policing leads Supt Conigliaro as Silver and D/Ch Insp Ball as Bronze.
- A full analysis has been undertaken in advance of the Christmas Campaign planning process for target offence types, to ensure targeted prevention at the right times and places in line with the Force's POP approach and the Policing Plan priorities. Delivery of this product is due in early September to inform planning.
- Planning meetings for this year have already commenced, with an initial resourcing meeting in August and monthly meetings thereafter to ensure the response phase of the operation is in place in advance and that this provides an all-force approach.
- Relevant partners will be involved at an early stage of the planning and delivery.
- A full communications campaign will be included in the planning and delivery of the operation.

Appendices

- None

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