

STRATEGIC PLANNING & PERFORMANCE (POLICE) COMMITTEE
Monday, 2 June 2025

Minutes of the meeting of the Strategic Planning & Performance (Police) Committee
held at on Monday, 2 June 2025 at 11.00 am

Present

Members:

Jason Groves (Chair)
Melissa Colett (Deputy Chair)
Michael Mitchell
Deputy Helen Fentimen
Deputy Madush Gupta

In attendance:

Deputy Benjamin Murphy

Officers:

Paul Betts	- City of London Police
Alix Newbold	- City of London Police
Umer Khan	- City of London Police
Mandy Horsburgh	- City of London Police
Kate Lloyd	- City of London Police
Erica Doran	- City of London Police
Insp Megan Cardy	- City of London Police
Brett McKenna	- City of London Police
Tor Garnett	- City of London Police

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Deborah Oliver and Deputy Benjamin Murphy. Members however noted Deputy Benjamin Murphy was in attendance online.

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

There were no declarations.

3. ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIR

The Committee proceeded to elect a Deputy Chair in accordance with Standing Order 26(6).

RESOLVED, - That, Melissa Collett, being the only Member having indicated their willingness to serve, was duly elected Deputy Chair for the ensuing year.

4. MINUTES

RESOLVED, - That the public minutes and non-public summary of the meeting on 11 February 2025, be approved as accurate record.

5. PUBLIC OUTSTANDING REFERENCES

Members received a report of the Town Clerk with the Committees Public Outstanding references.

Members noted that signage was being explored as part of a broader crime prevention strategy, aiming to deter offenders and raise public awareness. Discussions on whether signage should be temporary or permanent, its role in reinforcing police presence, and its integration with wider initiatives like CCTV and facial recognition were had. Recent investments in 4K cameras and estate surveillance were also noted as part of this approach, with Officers agreeing to look into the issue of facial recognition more broadly and reporting back at a future meeting.

Members agreed to close the action relating to the HMICFRS update.

Members noted that a paper on Operation Tinsel would be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee.

Finally with regards to the action relating to the Policing Plan, Members noted that a comms pack would be prepared for the next meeting, as well as a similar pack to inform the public about crime trends and prevention.

6. QUARTERLY HMICFRS INSPECTIONS UPDATE

The Committee received a report of the Commissioner which provided an overview of His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Service (HMICFRS) related activity over the last quarter.

Members noted that 15 of 16 PEEL recommendations were signed off, with the remaining one concerning improvement in how problem-solving plans were closed. A Member requested clarity on this, and Officers confirmed this would address in the next update. The Chair confirmed that timelines for publication were in place and that the police comms team would coordinate with Corporation Comms to ensure transparent and balanced messaging.

Members heard that next PEEL inspection would include fraud and custody. The new police headquarters, expected by 2027, will feature a purpose-built custody centre aligned with national standards. Fraud remains a key focus, with efforts underway to align local and national responsibilities.

There was no PEEL review for national lead functions, which the Committee thought was a missed opportunity. Officers outlined plans to better showcase national contributions through a "PEEL accelerator" initiative, aimed at supporting other forces and highlighting the City's leadership and impact across the country.

In response to a question on how PEEL was used to inform policing practice, Members noted that PEEL assessments have driven tangible improvements in policing—particularly in victim services, investigations, and response standards—by providing tactical guidance that informs operational changes and enhances public service delivery.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

7. POLICING PLAN PERFORMANCE REPORT - Q4 2024/25

The Committee received a report of the Commissioner which summarised the Policing Plan Performance for Q4 in 2024/25.

During the discussion the following points were raised:

- Members asked how the force was encouraging crime reporting and how this was being measured. Officers highlighted that this was done in various ways which included public surveys, visible policing, and partnerships with venues to build trust and ensure incidents were reported.
- The Chair and Deputy Chair asked about comparing crime data with pre-COVID levels as well as seasonal trends. Officers explained that year-on-year comparisons were more useful than pre-COVID data, which can distort trends due to broader tolerance bands. Officers were happy to take the feedback on as this was the last iteration of this current report and use COVID numbers as part of the narrative going forward, rather than the data.
- Members noted that the Police forecast crime trends annually, with theft and low-level violence remaining the most consistent issues. Members asked for consistency across the trends.
- Members enquired about specific areas of crime which were not achieving positive outcomes and what was being done to address this. Officers noted that theft was a challenge, however, things like Operation Swipe were aiming to improve results. It was suggested that shoplifting should be tracked separately, which Officers noted.
- Concerns were raised about rising hate crime figures. Officers explained that incidents were small in number, often linked to public disorder, and were closely monitored with added engagement and operations in place.
- In response to questions related to the wellbeing scores and female recruitment, Officers explained that CoLP compare scores with other forces and confirmed women were recruited at all levels, with strong senior representation.
- Members asked if PEEL inspections would boost fraud training and if delivery could be more flexible. CoLP were exploring blended and regional options, noting funding and staffing challenges, however this presented them with the opportunity to really advertise their training offer.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

8. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIC PLAN QUARTERLY UPDATE

The Committee received a report of the Commissioner outlining the progress and developments in the City of London Police and City of London Corporation's joint strategic community engagement plan.

Members heard that recent cluster panel meetings addressed local concerns like ASB, rough sleeping, shoplifting, and protest activity. A structured debrief was underway to improve future panels, with a full evaluation due in December. Officers also highlighted that the community WhatsApp channel had grown to 105 members. There have been 94 business engagements and 129 self-initiated

contacts by ward officers. The team was working with the City Belonging Project to expand engagement, especially with underrepresented groups.

Members emphasised the need for broader engagement, especially through the City Belonging Project and with the resident engagement lead. Officers acknowledged the need for joined-up messaging and consistent officer briefings, especially after incidents like the one discussed at the Barbican panel.

A Member raised concerns about inconsistent panel scheduling and suggested an all-member briefing before the December review. It was stressed aligning engagement with communication strategy and audience needs. Officers confirmed their openness to feedback but cautioned against frequent changes to the model. Officers also agreed to include City Belonging updates in future reports, provide more detail on event popularity, and consider PEEL report findings in the December review. An all-member session would be arranged to gather input before finalising changes.

In response to a question relating to anti-social behaviour in Tower Ward, it was clarified that this was low level, mostly linked to bus line issues.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

9. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**
There were no questions.

10. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT**
There was no urgent business.

11. **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 of business on the grounds they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act.

12. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**
RESOLVED, - That the non-public minutes of the meeting on 11 February 2025, be approved as accurate record.

13. **NON-PUBLIC OUTSTANDING REFERENCES**
Members received a report of the Town Clerk with the Committees Non-Public Outstanding References.

14. **OPERATION SWIPE - CITY OF LONDON RESPONSE OF THEFT OF MOBILE PHONES**
The Committee received a report of the Commissioner on the activity across the City of London Police's coordinated response to the theft of mobile phones within the square mile.

15. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**
There were no questions.

16. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE COMMITTEE AGREES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED**

There was no urgent business.

The meeting ended at 12:44

Chairman

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