

CRIME AND DISORDER SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Thursday, 29 May 2025

Minutes of the meeting of the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee held at
Committee Rooms, 2nd Floor, West Wing, Guildhall on Thursday, 29 May 2025 at
11.00 am

Present

Members:

Deborah Oliver (Chair)
Tijs Broeke
Deputy Peter Dunphy
Steve Goodman
Deputy James Thomson
James Tumbridge

Officers:

Richard Riley CBE	- Town Clerk's Department
Charles Smart	- Town Clerk's Department
Raquel Pinto	- Town Clerk's Department
Judith Finlay	- Community & Children's Services Department
Simon Cribbens	- Community & Children's Services Department
Valeria Cadena	- Community & Children's Services Department
Gavin Stedman	- Environment Department

With James Tumbridge as Chairman until item 4.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Deputy Christopher Hayward, Deputy John Fletcher and Deputy Helen Fentimen.

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

There were no declarations.

3. ORDER OF THE COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL

The Committee received an Order of the Court of Common Council dated 25th April 2025 appointing the Committee and setting its terms of reference for the ensuing year.

4. ELECTION OF CHAIR

The Committee proceeded to elect a Chair in accordance with Standing Order No 28.

RESOLVED – That, Deborah Oliver being the only Member expressing their willingness to serve, was duly elected Chairman for the ensuing year.

5. ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIR

The Committee proceeded to elect a Deputy Chair in accordance with Standing Order No 29.

RESOLVED – That, Deputy Helen Fentimen being the only Member expressing their willingness to serve, was duly elected Deputy Chairman for the ensuing year.

6. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED, - that the public minutes and non-public summary of the meeting held on 14 November 2024 were approved as an accurate record, subject to the correction of a typographical error on page eight.

7. **SAFER CITY PARTNERSHIP STRATEGY 2025 - 2029**

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director Community and Children's Services which presents the Safer City Partnership Strategy for 2025-2029.

The strategy aimed to ensure the Square Mile remained a safe place to live, work, learn, and visit, by focusing on four priority areas:

1. Violence against women and girls (VAWG)
2. Serious violence
3. Antisocial behaviour
4. Acquisitive crime

Overall, emphasis was placed on prevention, intelligence-led practice, and effective partnerships.

During the discussion the following points were noted:

1. Members expressed concern over the absence of cycling issues in the strategy, in particular dangerous cycling behaviour, bike-enabled phone snatching, and the lack of enforcement and clarity on responsibility. Officers took the feedback on board and explained that a working group on cycling was being established to address these concerns.
2. Phone snatching, often involving bikes or e-bikes, was highlighted as a growing concern amongst Members. Officers explained that Operation Swipe which was a joint initiative with the Metropolitan Police was established to tackle this issue.
3. Members also raised concerns about crimes occurring just outside the City boundary) and the lack of visible coordination with the Metropolitan Police and called for clearer partnership roles and responses in these areas.
4. Reports of fraudulent charity collectors were discussed. Officers noted that the licensing team was actively investigating and prosecuting illegitimate operations.
5. Overall, Members stressed the need for better signage to indicate entry into the City, stronger public messaging and deterrence campaigns and more visible and permanent communication of safety initiatives.
6. Several members felt the strategy lacked clear articulation of partnership roles and outcomes. It was suggested that case studies be used to illustrate successful collaborations, to highlight how different departments

coordinate with each other and to improve internal communication so frontline officers were aware of strategic initiatives

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

8. **SAFER CITY PARTNERSHIP STRATEGY 2025 - 2029: DELIVERY PLAN AND GROUPS**

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director Community and Children's Services which presents the Safer City Partnership Strategy for 2025-2029: Delivery Plan and Groups.

Members received a presentation from officers on the delivery of the strategy and the various stakeholders involved.

Members questioned the value of the current report, noting it repeated previous content and lacked clear milestones, deliverables, or impact measures. Officers agreed that an action plan would be brought to the next meeting.

Concerns were also raised about how business feedback was being addressed. Officers confirmed that Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) were engaged and open to collaboration, including funding initiatives like taxi marshalling and homelessness support. However, coordination across BID areas remained a challenge.

Members also asked how success would be measured. Officers acknowledged the current lack of analytical capacity but noted that data-sharing protocols were in place and improvements were planned.

Officers gave examples of business engagement which included crime prevention advice through the Destination City programme and a new e-learning tool on domestic abuse for SMEs.

RESOLVED- that the report be noted.

9. **COMMUNITY SAFETY DELIVERY IN THE CITY OF LONDON**

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director Community and Children's Services detailing the need for an expanded and changed Community Safety function within the City Corporation to respond to changing demands and context, and to mitigate the strategic and operational constraints of the current model.

Members noted that a review found that current resources were insufficient to meet expectations, and funding had been secured to support an additional operational role.

A Member asked to see the full report and whether it included alternative ways of working. Officers confirmed this and added that a bid for more resources had been submitted to the Senior Leadership Team.

Another Member questioned whether businesses could contribute financially, given their responsibility for workers in the Square Mile., whilst the Chair raised concerns about the lack of City representation at cluster meetings to address non-policing issues like graffiti and cycling.

Officers acknowledged these points, noting that while funding was a challenge, the leadership team had been supportive. The current approach was to fund statutory responsibilities internally and seek external support from Business Improvement Districts for additional initiatives. Discussions with the Chamberlain's office remained ongoing.

RESOLVED- that the report be noted.

10. **SERIOUS VIOLENCE SUB-GROUP AND HOTSPOT RESPONSE GRANT UPDATE**

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

Members were supportive of innovative approaches like "Servator" tactic for disrupting sexual offending in the night-time economy. Officers confirmed this was already funded and being expanded.

Members raised questions about leveraging the £18 million Secure City CCTV platform. Officers acknowledged technical challenges with the system but confirmed that efforts were underway to align CCTV coverage with crime patterns and explore advanced capabilities like facial recognition and pattern detection.

Members emphasised the need to ensure the promised benefits of the Secure City investment were realised and suggested applying pressure to resolve technical issues.

It was noted that community and cycle policing teams were recently expanded, which was welcomed as a positive development.

RESOLVED- that the report be noted

11. **LATE NIGHT LEVY - 12 MONTH REPORT (1 OCT 2023 - 30 SEP 2024)**

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director of Environment which provided information relating to the tenth year of operation of the Late Night Levy since its inception since October 2014.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

12. **CASTLE BAYNARD, ROUGH SLEEPING AND ENCAMPMENTS**

The Committee received an update from the Executive Director Community and Children's Service.

An update was given on the Castle Baynard rough sleeping encampment. A multi-agency team was addressing antisocial behaviour linked to the site, focusing on safety and support without criminalising homelessness. Actions

included removing fire hazards and working with partners to assess the community impact.

Members asked about understanding and supporting individuals on-site, and Officers confirmed they have detailed knowledge and were offering services. Other areas like Peninsula House were also being monitored, with potential long-term solutions such as design changes under consideration.

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

There were no questions.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT

There was no other business.

The meeting ended at 12:22.

Chairman

Contact Officer: Raquel Pinto
Raquel.Pinto@cityoflondon.gov.uk