

**LOCAL POLICING COMMITTEE**  
**Tuesday, 16 September 2025**

Minutes of the meeting of the Local Policing Committee held at Committee Rooms,  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, West Wing on Tuesday, 16 September 2025 at 10.00 am

**Present**

**Members:**

Jason Groves (Chair)  
Deputy Helen Fentimen OBE JP  
Michael Mitchell  
Deborah Oliver

**In attendance**

Joanna Abeyie  
Deputy Benjamin Murphy

**Officers:**

Umer Khan	- Commander, City of London Police
Paul Betts	- Deputy Commissioner Local, City of London Police
Richard Riley	- Director of Police Authority
Amanda Horsborough	- Detective Chief Superintendent, City of London Police
Blair Stringman	- City of London Police
Megan Cardy	- City of London Police
Helen Isaac	- City of London Police
Erica Doran	- City of London Police
Charles Smart	- Town Clerk's
Rachael Waldron	- Town Clerk's
Oliver Boulton	- Town Clerk's
Preet Desai	- Town Clerk's
Rhys Campbell	- Town Clerk's

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from the Deputy Chair, Melissa Collett and Deputy Benjamin Murphy, Deputy Madush Gupta and Joanna Abeyie in advance of this meeting.

Deputy Benjamin Murphy and Joanna Abeyie observed this meeting virtually.

**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 previous meeting held on 2 June 2025 were approved as a correct record.

### **4. PUBLIC OUTSTANDING REFERENCES**

The Committee received the joint report of the Town Clerk and Commissioner in respect of Public Outstanding References. During the discussion the following points were noted:

1. The Chair asked for further details regarding the implementation of signage within the City. The Director, Police Authority advised the Committee that there was an aim to provide a report on signage at the next meeting. The report would aim to explore the scope of using signage as to help prevent crime but also a potential deterrence. Funding for signage remained uncertain but officers would consider all technicalities relating to the implementation of signage in the City. The Chair was keen for the Committee to have sight of all proposals available prior to confirmation of the source of funding.
2. A Member asked for a final column to be included to the outstanding references which detailed the expected completion dates.
3. The Policing Plan Quarterly Update was expected to be provided Members and the public following this meeting but would remain as an outstanding reference since it was still under review.
4. The Deputy Commissioner clarified that an annual review on the community engagement strategy would be undertaken following this meeting with engagement meetings taking place in November 2025, and the annual review was expected to be completed by the start of 2026. The review would involve feedback from both the community and Members, and proposals would be brought back to the Committee for further discussion.
5. The Committee agreed to close the action to provide a report on Operation Tinsel since this had been provided at this meeting. Regarding item 6, Policing Plan Performance Report, this report was on the agenda for this meeting of the Committee and it was proposed that this action be closed subject to any feedback from Members when this report was discussed under item 8 of the agenda.

### **5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIC PLAN QUARTERLY UPDATE**

The Committee received a report of the Commissioner of Police in respect of the Community Engagement Strategic Plan Quarterly Update. Officers advised the Committee of the four priorities outlined in the Neighbourhood Policing and Engagement Strategy: crime prevention, protection of vulnerable individuals, intelligence gathering and fostering public trust.

In respect of Cluster Panels, officers advised the Committee of the implementation of cluster panels, with two rounds already completed and there was a focus on learning from its initial sessions. The panels were being standardised through a toolkit to ensure consistency whilst allowing for local flexibility, and were to be scheduled biannually with the option for additional meetings based on community demand.

A Member asked how the senior team was using learning to inform practice, officers advised that all were welcome to attend cluster panels and officers had learnt through these cluster panels that greater flexibility of how to attend these panels should be considered with both in-person meetings and virtual participation being mentioned so as to meet the needs of the community and city workers. The Cluster Panels were to be chaired by Strategy Engagement Officers to ensure consistency and work was being done to create a prevention strategy to reduce the levels of crime in the City.

A question was raised in respect of the Barbican Resident Summer Party and it was suggested that Police presence be expanded at similar events. Officers acknowledged this and advised that further engagement opportunities were being explored and officers were aiming to create a comprehensive engagement calendar for 2026 detailing key community events where the City of London Police (CoLP) and the City Corporation would be able to promote community, safety, prevention and policing across the City. A Member was keen to view any feedback reports following these events so that any changes as a consequence of these events taking place could be reviewed. The Member also reminded officers to be mindful when consulting members of the public, noting that the Lauderdale Police Store had been met with opposition. The Deputy Commissioner recognised the Members' concern and acknowledged that through the formal process of consultation officers would need to make the link between the challenge of the accommodation for Police resources, such as horses, and the benefits to the Community to help prevent those from concluding police presence as a negativity instead of the positives and benefits of having these resources.

In respect of community engagement, the Chair asked for a broader understanding of the details of this engagement. The Deputy Commissioner noted that discussions were held with the HM Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) and broadly they were satisfied with the Community Engagement Strategy and its intended outcomes, and that work had been undertaken to tactically deliver this strategy though it could prove difficult to capture all work undertaken in one tactical delivery report. The committee agreed to formalise action items for better accountability, with the Town Clerk tasked to ensure clear tracking of requests and commitments so that these could be reviewed by the Committee at subsequent meetings.

The Chair noted that City Belonging Project was not referenced in this report, and it was advised that it would be beneficial to embed police engagement with the City Belonging Project.

RESOLVED, that – the report was received, and its contents be noted.

## **6. CYCLING BEHAVIOUR IN THE CITY OF LONDON**

The Committee received a joint report of the City Police Commissioner and Town Clerk in respect of Cycling Behaviour in the City of London.

Officers highlighted the large increase in cycling within the City over the past decade, however there had not been an associated increase in cycling or pedestrian injuries, and advised Members of the City Corporation's Vision Zero Strategy which set out to reduce road traffic fatalities to 0 by 2040, as well as to improve cycling behaviour and anti-social cycling.

A Member asked how the City compared to other cycling cities, such as Amsterdam and Copenhagen, and what could be learnt from how they addressed cycling issues. Officers advised that they were currently unaware of statistics from other cycling cities but agreed to investigate further and noted that the Square Mile was better in terms of cycling behaviour compared to the average across London.

The Chair noted that there were many cyclists that ignore traffic signs and the Highway Code and was aware that Transport for London (TfL) utilised a solution called 'Vivacity' which used AI to monitor traffic and wondered if officers could make better use of AI for better data analysis to identify hotspots and deploy resources accordingly. He also noted the increase in dockless e-bike within the City and how their presence continued to cause a high degree of nuisance for pedestrians as they regularly obstructed the public highway, and suggested that the dockless e-bike companies be instructed to resolve this. A Member made the Committee aware to the 'No Cycle Zone' within the Barbican Estate for Lime bikes as the e-bikes would physically stop upon entry, and asked if there were any technical solutions for e-bikes to automatically stop at red lights. Following this, officers were asked for further details of coordination points with the Metropolitan Police and other local authorities. The Commander informed the Committee that the issue concerning Lime Bikes was raised at City Question Time and that this was picked up as an action that the City Corporation was expected to follow up with the dockless e-bike companies to ensure that correct parking was adhered to. He agreed that this issue required a whole-system coordinated response and would take this forward into the Safer City Partnership to see how all stakeholders can contribute to the issue of dockless e-bikes. Officers advised that there had been an exponential increase in terms of enforcement in the previous 12 months, and CoLP had seized over 700 e-bikes.

RESOLVED, that – the report was received, and its contents be noted.

## **7. COMMANDER'S LOCAL OPERATIONS & SECURITY UPDATE**

The Committee received a report of Commander in respect of an update for Local Operations and Security and National Economic and Cyber Crime.

The Commander advised the Committee of recent operational activity, including support for major events and protests, and its impact on officers, and 'Operation Swipe' which targeted phone theft, with plans for intensified action and further community engagement. In relation to Operation Swipe, launched in February 2025, a whole system approach and delivery to reduce phone theft across the square mile which involved the Metropolitan Police, Home Office, and technology companies. Officers advised the Committee that further activity to supplement this work was expected to take place in the following week such as phone marking events and pursue activity to disrupt phone snatchers. The Chair asked if the CoLP could utilise the network of Heads of Security of businesses within the City to offer phone marking within particular organisations. Officers had already undertaken work with local businesses with some buying phone marking kits.

A Member was keen to view further information of strategies for less high-profile crimes and whether this could be featured within this report going forward. Officers acknowledged this but noted that it had been agreed that there would be a focus on reporting of the Policing Plan and performance framework. The Committee was also advised that further details on all street crime and retail crime within the City was featured in the Safer Town Centres Strategy which could be shared with the Committee, as well statistics of other offences deemed not as prominent.

The Chair asked for the report to be more aligned with the Policing Plan would help to provide the Committee with more detailed analysis of issues concerning Local Operations and Security and National Economic and Cyber Crime.

RESOLVED, that – the report was received, and its contents noted.

## **8. POLICING PLAN PERFORMANCE REPORT - Q1 2025/26**

The Committee received a report of the Commissioner of City of London Police in respect of a report which summarised the Policing Plan 2025 – 2028 Performance.

The Deputy Commissioner advised the Committee that in comparison to Q1 from the previous year there had been a significant decrease in all crime, and the 12-month direction of travel for all crime had decreased by 4.7%. The Committee was notified of the CoLP's commitment to reduce theft and there had been a 19% reduction in theft compared to Q1 of the previous year. CoLP officers had responded to 100% of instances of theft recorded on their Commanding System had been responded to, and key operational elements such as Operation Swipe and Reframe had contributed to overall crime reduction and contributed to CoLP exceeding service level targets. Regarding Terrorism, the Committee was advised that CoLP remained vigilant and threat levels remained substantial at the time of this meeting, however CoLP were routinely undergoing testing options involving critical planning in the City and the CoLP remained the Cyber Lead for Counterterrorism on the Prepare Board for London.

The Chairman asked for further details regarding the 4.3% year on year increase of violence taking place in the City, and its effect on CoLP officers. Officers explained that this increase was due to the peak seen in December 2024, however since April 2025 there had been a decrease noting lessons learnt from Operation Tinsel.

A Member asked officers to whether further support was required to assist with progress in areas of priority and what effect had the recent events of activism and protests taking place in the City had on CoLP. The Deputy Commissioner advised that the CoLP business planning process analysed all areas of business and future demands, and this was compared with CoLP's capability and capacity, and that protests were assessed through this process. Whilst protests had an impact on CoLP demand in terms of capability and capacity, the Committee was advised that the City was in an excellent position in regard to how it responded to protests, and CoLP had a good range of assets and experience at the command level. Violence in the nighttime economy remained a significant threat whilst theft contributed significantly to overall crime in the City.

Regarding shoplifting, the Committee asked if any further support could be given to retail workers. The Deputy Commissioner advised that the reporting of shoplifting had seen an increase and that the response rate in the City was at a good level. The Chair suggested that the statistic which noted one in five shoplifting offences being solved be included in potential signage. In relation to securing positive outcomes for victims, the Chair highlighted the decrease of positive outcomes secured from 21.2% in 2024 to 15.8% in 2025 and asked officers to explain the reason for this reduction, and also asked if progress had been made to implement the City's Victim Strategy. The Committee were advised that the way in which the outcome rate was reported was now in line with the HMIC style of reporting and in "Old Money" this statistic would have been closer to 21.2%. Officers suggested that 15.8% should be the benchmark and that CoLP would work to improve this statistic, and that an update on the Victim's Strategy was expected to be submitted to the Committee at its next meeting.

The Deputy Commissioner highlighted to the Committee the new Data Strategy and that the Chief Operating Officer had implemented a new Data Programme which aimed to foster a culture of self-service and data-driven decision making. The Chair asked if this was used to assess individual performance and he was advised that dashboard was used to help Supervisors with certain aspects such as victim codes and compliance investigation reviews.

Regarding data trends, officers were asked to explain what achievements would be attained once the trend had progressed appropriately. Officers explained that there had been increased use of data and dashboard usage but there remained a cultural challenge in encouraging CoLP officers to use data for decision-making processes. Work was still being undertaken at the time of this meeting to track the benefits of data usage and once this was completed it would assist in proving its impact and benefits. The Commissioner advised that structurally CoLP was in a good place and data was used in business planning meetings and the business planning process for decision-making and resource allocation.

RESOLVED, that – the report was received, and its contents noted.

**9. OPERATIONAL TINSEL REVIEW**

The Committee received a report of the Commissioner of the City of London Police in respect of the Operational Tinsel Review.

RESOLVED, that – the report was received and its contents noted.

**10. CITY OF LONDON POLICE VULNERABILITY OVERVIEW - BIENNIAL UPDATE SEPT 25**

The Committee received a report of the Commissioner of the City of London Police in respect of the City of London Police Vulnerability Overview - Biennial Update.

The Committee was advised that at the time of this meeting there was a rise in domestic abuse and sexual offences, and this was particularly linked to the night-time economy with high conviction rates achieved through evidence-led prosecutions. Officers highlighted that CoLP were focused on modern slavery, hate crime, and mental health and were working closely with national partners.

A Member asked if rough sleepers were classed as vulnerable people and noted an increase in rough sleepers within the City. Officers advised that they were classed as vulnerable people and that officers maintained a good relationship with the City's Homelessness Team and were working closely with the wider network including those within Community and Children's Services to address the issues concerning homelessness and rough sleeping.

RESOLVED, that – the report was received and its contents noted.

**11. QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

There were no questions.

**12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT**

There were no urgent items of business.

**13. 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.

**14. NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**

RESOLVED, that - the non-public minutes of the previous meeting held on 2 June 2025 were approved as a correct record.

**15. QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

There were no non-public questions.

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

There were no urgent non-public items.

**The meeting ended at 11:52pm.**

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Chairman

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