

SAFER CITY PARTNERSHIP STRATEGY GROUP

Monday, 6 June 2016

Minutes of the meeting of the Safer City Partnership Strategy Group held at Guildhall on Monday, 6 June 2016 at 11.00 am

Present

Members:

Peter Lisley (Deputy Chairman) - Assistant Town Clerk
Ade Adetosoye - Director of Community and Children's Services
Jon Averbs - Port Health and Public Protection Director
John Simpson - London Fire Brigade
Bob Benton - City Business Representative
Barbara Gough - Barbican Resident
Peter Dunphy - Chairman of the Licensing Committee
Mark Scott – NHS, City and Hackney CCG
Lucy Sandford – Voluntary Sector

In Attendance:

Marianne Fredericks - Deputy Chairman of the Licensing Committee

Officers:

Alex Orme - Town Clerk's Department
David MacKintosh - Town Clerk's Department
Inspector Hector McKoy - City of London Police
Chris Pelham - Community and Children's Services
Craig Spencer - Town Clerk's Department
Jacquie Campbell - Community and Children's Services Department
Tirza Keller - Community and Children's Services Department
Julie Mayer - Town Clerk's Department

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Doug Barrow (the Deputy Chairman, Peter Lisley was in the Chair), Kate Cinamon, Don Randall and Richard Woolford.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations.

3. MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved, subject to an amendment recording Lucy Sandford (Voluntary Sector) as having been present.

4. OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

The Committee received its outstanding actions list and noted the following:

Nut sellers

The Port Health and Public Protection Director advised that an individual had been apprehended the previous weekend and their cart confiscated. Members were concerned about a perceived lack of hygiene and use of unsafe equipment and officers advised that perpetrators could be injuncted against returning, as had been the case with ice cream vans. Members noted that Consumer Protection officers were working with the City of London Police and would provide a further update at the next meeting.

Noise Nuisance from the Tube

The Deputy Chairman of the Licensing Committee had met with the Transport Commissioner in May, who agreed to engage fully with Members and residents and asked for any further issues to be flagged as soon as possible. The Barbican Resident Member advised that there had been no noise reduction since the last meeting. The Port Health and Public Protection Director had also raised the matter with the Chairman of Port Health and Members agreed that a solution was timely, given the introduction of late night tube services. The Deputy Chairman of Licensing was thanked for her intervention in this matter.

5. **SAFER CITY PARTNERSHIP STRATEGIC PLAN**

Members received the Safer City Partnership Strategic Plan and noted that the headlines agreed last year had now been fleshed out and aligned with partners' various activities.

During the discussion on the plan, the following points were raised:

- The Plan would be updated annually, to align with the Policing Plan and with a focus on crimes against the person.
- There were plans underway, as usual, for the Festive Season.
- There were concerns expressed about the rise in cyber and internet dating crimes, particularly in light of the recent high profile case which been heard at the Central Criminal Court. The Licensing Team had been working with local hotels about being extra vigilant and it was suggested that licensed premises be encouraged to do likewise; i.e. a sign in the ladies' toilets; *'if you need to leave quickly, please use XX exit and call the following number for a cab'*. Given that one of the licensing objectives promoted personal safety, it was suggested that this would be easy to introduce.
- The Community Safety Manager advised that a communications strategy aimed at reducing violent and sexual crimes against women and girls was being developed. Members noted that the FGM Strategy would be presented to the next meeting.
- The Community Safety Manager had researched partners' available resources when drafting the Plan. Members noted that the partners' priorities were visible on the new SCP web site.

- Members noted that the new Scrutiny Board was being set up and they would be scrutinising the work of the Safer City Partnership.

RESOLVED, that - the Director of Community and Children's Services and the Community Safety Manager agreed to meet to discuss the capacity to meet the Strategic Plan's objectives and identify any funding gaps.

6. **COMMUNITY SAFETY TEAM UPDATE**

The Committee received an update report of the Community Team Safety Manager.

During the discussion on this item, the following points were raised/noted:

- The Police had found the City Community Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (CCM) very helpful and it saved a lot of police time.
- Members noted that forthcoming events included domestic violence and the Christmas campaign. A list of forthcoming events and campaigns would be provided at future meetings.
- There was some debate about the Safety Thirst campaign and whether it was overly bureaucratic. Furthermore, a lot of the criteria were covered by the Licensing Objectives and therefore it might be perceived as repetitive. Members noted that some work had been done with the larger chains, at area management level, and conducting interviews tested whether the objectives were fully understood and being applied. It was also suggested that the campaign could be aimed at three levels of establishments: late night, small and chains.

The Licensing Officer and the Community Safety Manager agreed to report to the Licensing Committee and the Safer City Partnership in November this year, with proposals to review the Safety Thirst scheme.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

7. **TAXI MARSHALLING SCHEME**

The Committee received a report of the Community Safety Manager in respect of the Taxi Marshalling Scheme. Members noted that the scheme had never been funded by the Safer City Partnership, as contributions had been received from other sources; i.e. Proceeds of Crime (POCA) funding, from the Crime Prevention Association. Therefore Members were not being asked to approve a budget cut.

There was some debate as to whether funding could be provided from the Night-time Levy. Members noted that the Home Office believed that Taxi Marshalling helped to manage the night time economy but there was some debate as to whether cabs were more effective if parked outside late premises, rather than directing patrons away from them, thereby risking noise nuisance and anti-social behaviour. Members also noted that there was no longer a

shortage of cabs coming into the City and therefore it was more difficult to justify continuing the scheme, particularly with in light of the introduction of late running of the central line. Furthermore, there was a considerable increase in the use of apps for booking cabs.

The Police representative advised that their position would always be to support a scheme which assisted with public order and would like to be given the opportunity to comment before a decision was taken. Officers also agreed to approach TfL for assistance.

If the Corporation were to withdraw from the Taxi Marshalling Scheme, it was suggested that a baseline be set to monitor the impact of the withdrawal on the levels of crime in the area.

RESOLVED, that – the Corporation funded element of the Taxi Marshalling Scheme be withdrawn, if alternative sources of funding cannot be identified.

8. SAFEGUARDING (CHILDREN) ANNUAL REPORT

The Committee received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services, which had been circulated to Members after the last meeting and comments/questions had been invited. The Assistant Director, Community and Children's Services, advised that he had not received any.

In response to question about the next Annual Report, the Assistant Director advised that officers were working with the Police on child sexual exploitation cases and the links to children missing from care, home and education. Members noted that there were no such cases in the City and safeguarding officers continued to work with schools outside of the City which educated City residents' children and looked after children.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

9. LONDON FIRE BRIGADE - END OF YEAR REPORT

The Committee received a verbal update from the London Fire Brigade officer, who was pleased to advise that the Brigade had achieved all of its targets and one stretch target.

Members noted that the City Fire Station had started serving part of Southwark and the Brigade now fell within the Home Office's remit, not the Department of Communities and Local Government. Furthermore, there was a new Chairman of the Fire Authority and very likely to be a new Commissioner. The officer advised that the Home Secretary had made a recent announcement about Fire Brigade targets and a new London Safety Plan was being drafted. Whilst this was unlikely to have any resources implications for the City, the Brigade continued to seek ways of maximising efficiency.

10. CITY OF LONDON POLICE UPDATE

The Committee received a verbal update and tabled report of the City of London Police and noted the following headlines:

- There was an upward trend in reporting violence without injury but a decrease in violent crime.
- Victim based acquisitive crimes were decreasing but the summer months generally saw an increase.
- Given that 1 incident could perpetrate 6 crimes, this tended to distort the figures. Members asked if they could be broken down and presented differently, with narratives.
- Local intelligence had led to raids on 5 addresses, allegedly being used as brothels and 2 arrests had been made. The women involved were being cared for by the appropriate agencies but had not been arrested.
- Members noted that, at the recent City Residents' Meeting, there had been a large number of questions about cyclist offences and behaviours.

The Deputy Chairman asked that, for future meetings, the update report should be provided with the agenda and for the data to be relevant to the objectives of the Safer City Partnership Strategic Plan; i.e. violence against the person. Members also suggested that it would be helpful if the data had some context; i.e. the City's relatively low levels of violent crime but the very high number of cyclists, when compared to other areas.

In concluding, Members asked if they could see a summary of the key findings from the most recent HMIC inspection report.

11. HOUSING NEIGHBOURHOOD PATROL SERVICE

The Committee received a report of the Assistant Director, Housing and Neighbourhoods, in respect of the Housing Neighbourhood Patrol Service. The Assistant Director also tabled a contextual appendix to the report.

Members fully endorsed the work of the service, as it represented a key piece of partnership work. Members also agreed that it did not duplicate the work of the police but added value. The Police representative agreed with this position as it saved time spent dealing with low level nuisance.

There was some discussion about the £30,000 shortfall and possible future funding streams. Members noted that POCA had contributed initially and the Police representative agreed to investigate whether they would support a further bid.

RESOLVED, that – the proposal to continue the Neighbourhood Patrol Service for a period of two years, starting 1 August 2016, be endorsed.

12. **HEALTH AND WELLBEING UPDATE**

The Committee received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services, which provided an overview of local developments related to the work of the Board. Members also received a tabled copy of the Square Mile Performance Indicators and noted that there would be a Commissioning Team Meeting in July to look at underperforming areas.

Members noted the work of the Bridge Pilot (suicide prevention) which had started in January and was supported by the Community Safety Team. Officers advised that they would be submitting an application to the next Planning and Transportation Committee to extend the pilot to all City Bridges. The team had also produced a leaflet and run 2 training sessions on awareness and suicide prevention, which had received very good feedback.

Members noted that training would be provided to Tower Bridge staff next week, along with 'train the trainer' sessions. The Police representative welcomed this initiative as there had been an increase in suicide attempts from London Bridges, as well as from high rise buildings but a lot of the victims were from outside of the City.

The Deputy Chairman asked if future reports could provide headlines relevant to the Safer City Partnership Strategic Plan, in order to avoid duplication with the work of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

13. **PUBLIC PROTECTION SERVICE (ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH, LICENSING AND TRADING STANDARDS) UPDATE**

The Committee received an update report of the Director of Markets and Consumer Protection. Members noted that the next report would contain more detailed explanations and breakdowns on noise nuisance and reflect the priorities agreed earlier on the agenda in respect of the Safer City Partnership Strategic Plan.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

14. **PREVENT UPDATE**

The Committee received a report of the Community Safety Manager in respect of recent prevent activity. Members noted the continued support of the City of London Police and good engagement with Higher Education Institutions. Officers were discussing the introduction of a mandatory staff training session with HR and would be improving the mechanism for recording those who had undertaken the training. Given that the Strategy had received some negative publicity, Officers would continue to frame training from a safeguarding perspective.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

15. **DOMESTIC ABUSE FORUM QUARTERLY REPORT**

The Committee received a report of the Director of People (Community and Children's Services) and Members noted the consultation on the name of the Forum. It was suggested that this should reflect the wider issues of emotional abuse, exploitation and coercion. The work of Robin Newman (Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator, Community Safety Team) was highly commended.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

16. **DOMESTIC HOMICIDE REVIEW - UPDATE**

The Committee received a report of the Community Safety Manager in respect of the Domestic Homicide Review, which fell within the remit of the Safer City Partnership Group. Members noted the full report was expected in September this year, dependant on the outcome of the prosecution. The Deputy Chairman reminded Members that this was the first Domestic Homicide Review that the Safer City Partnership had been tasked with and it had demonstrated good information sharing and learning opportunities.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

17. **QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

There were no questions.

18. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There were no items of urgent business.

The meeting ended at 1 pm.

Chairman

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