

Committee(s)	Date(s):
Police Committee - For Decision	1 st March 2018
Subject: Draft Policing Plan 2017-2020 (Year 2 2018/19)	Public
Report of: Commissioner of Police Pol 17-18	For Decision
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Summary

This report presents the draft revised Policing Plan 2017-20, which has been updated for the 2018/19 financial year. The Plan informs the community, stakeholders and staff how the City area is to be policed. Members are asked to consider the text only; the plan will be professionally formatted prior to publication.

The Force and Court of Common Council (in its capacity as a police authority) are required to continue to publish a policing plan by the Police Act 1996 due to being exempt from the legislative requirement to publish a police and crime plan.

Members considered and endorsed proposals regarding the updating of the plan for 2018 at a workshop on the 15th December 2017. As there have not been any external changes and the priorities remain the same (albeit in a slightly amended order), the existing plan remains fit for purpose with some minor amendments reflecting the Corporate Plan, new efficiency initiatives and updated financial information. The re-ordered priorities are:

- Counter Terrorism
- Cyber Attack
- Fraud
- Vulnerable people
- Roads Policing
- Public Order
- Violent and acquisitive crime

High level financial information is included within the plan based on the current medium term financial plan, which has been reported to your Committee separately.

Recommendation(s):

- 1) Your Committee adopts the Draft Policing Plan 2017-20 (updated for the 2018/19 financial year) appended to this report as the Policing Plan for the City of London, subject to any further amendments agreed by your Committee and the Commissioner;
- 2) Following approval the plan is published on the internet by 31st March 2018.

Main Report

Background

1. Legislation requires Police and Crime Commissioners to publish police and crime plans in place of traditional policing plans¹. That requirement does not apply to the Court of Common Council in its capacity as policy authority for the City of London. The Force and your Committee continues to be governed by the relevant sections of the Police Act 1996 with respect to the publication of policing plans.² However, where possible the Force and Authority has resolved to align the format of its policing plan with the general requirements of policing and crime plans.
2. The responsibility for drafting the policing plan and advising a police authority on its contents remains with the Commissioner of Police. However, guidance and legislation is clear that the police authority must approve and subsequently own the published plan.

Current Position

3. The Police Act 1996³ requires the police authority to issue, before the beginning of each financial year, a policing plan setting out:
 - i. the proposed arrangements for the policing of that area for the period of three years beginning with that year; and
 - ii. its policing objectives for the policing of its area during that year.
4. Although the plan covers a period of three years, there is a requirement to review and republish the plan annually. In the past the Force has produced a 3 year running plan that changes annually; however, at the Policing Plan workshop on 15th December 2017 it was agreed that the current plan is substantively fit for purpose and that it should be updated as a 'year 2' version to accommodate 'in plan' developments or changes. 2019/20 will constitute year 3 of the plan, with the next major revision in terms of content and style proposed for 2021. This brings the Policing Plan closer to how Police and Crime Plans are published and operate.
5. There is a requirement that policing plans (and their policing and crime plan equivalents) must have regard to any national strategic policing priorities stipulated by the Home Secretary.⁴ Such priorities are currently articulated by the Strategic Policing Requirement; the Force's approach to this appears prominently in the draft plan. Additionally, the plan takes account of Government policy statements regarding reducing crime, addressing antisocial behaviour (ASB), supporting the vulnerable, accountability and value for money.

¹ Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011

² S. 6ZB Police Act 1996 (as amended by the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011)

³ S.6ZB as above

⁴ As determined under s.37A of the 1996 Act

Developing the plan

6. Although the plan covers 3 years, a comprehensive policing plan review process is conducted each year which informs its ongoing development. That process considers any changes to legislation and Government policy, the Force's and City of London Corporation's risk registers, formal partnership obligations and the results of consultation and engagement activities. Benchmarking against a broad range of Police and Crime Plans is also carried out.
7. Members of your Committee continue to be instrumental in shaping the plan through participation at workshops, the last one was held on 15th December 2017. Members attending the workshop endorsed the principal proposal regarding the plan, which was to maintain the current plan with updated text to reference the Corporate Plan, new initiatives, updated financial information and the Transform programme.
8. Members will be aware from participation in the policing plan workshop that the priorities were only set following a robust review of intelligence, threat, national drivers and results of engagement activities. The range of the priorities naturally mirrors the range of roles fulfilled by the Force, from pan-London and national responsibilities (counter terrorism fraud and public order) to addressing City-specific, community concerns around volume crime and road safety. The order of the priorities reflects the threat, risk and harm posed by each area and corresponds with the Force Control Strategy (the principal operational delivery document that is used to prioritise activity, based on threat, risk and harm).
9. Community engagement also shapes the plan; the results of the principal annual community survey were considered at the 15th December workshop. The adopted priorities address the main concerns of the public, however, with the exception of anti-social behaviour (ASB). Whilst the threat, risk and harm associated with ASB in the City does not merit it being a distinct operational priority, the fact that it remains a public concern means that the policing plan does include details of how the Force will continue to tackle ASB and working in partnership with the City of London Corporation, seek to reduce it.

Policing Priorities for 2017-20 (Year 2, 2018/19)

10. The policing priorities for 2018-19 presented in the plan are:
 - Counter Terrorism
 - Cyber Attack
 - Fraud
 - Vulnerable people (umbrella term to include Child Sexual Exploitation, Modern Slavery, Human Trafficking and Mental Health)
 - Roads Policing
 - Public Order
 - Violent and acquisitive crime

Measures

11. Members will be aware that the Force has not set or relied on targets over the past three years. This accords with the now national stance that is wary of the unintended impact that targets can have on officer behaviour, crime recording and resource allocation and which is considered contrary to the Police Code of Ethics.
12. Experience has shown us that targets are not essential to managing performance. The Force will continue to measure and manage performance across a broad spectrum of activities, which will be reported quarterly to your Police Performance and Resources Sub Committee.
13. Measures that were based on the delivery of the 4P plan were included in last year's version of the plan. For consistency those measures will be carried forward in the proposed draft, with the addition of an overall crime indicator. Performance against the measures will continue to be reported to your Police Performance and Resources Sub Committee quarterly.

Finance

14. The plan contains high-level details only of the Force's anticipated income and expenditure over the term covered by the plan. The charts included are based on the latest approved Medium Term Financial Plan. The Force's funding situation is extremely fluid compared to other forces and this makes accurate forecasting over the entire term of the plan very difficult. It is likely that the figures contained in the plan, even though they cover a three year period, will change in the next iteration.
15. The plan additionally includes details of how the Force intends to address its continuing budgetary challenges, including high level references to the Transform programme.

Publishing the plan

16. It is very rare for forces to produce hard copies of policing plans with the norm being for plans to be published on force and authority websites. Hard copies can be made available on request, although this is usually limited to a simple print of the PDF document on the website. There have not been any external requests for hard copies of any of the policing plans over the past nine years. However, as last year, the Force will produce a professionally formatted plan for internet publication based on the attached draft.

Proposals

This Report proposes:

1. Your Committee adopts the Draft Policing Plan 2017-20 (Year 2, 2018/19) appended to this report as the Policing Plan for the City of London, subject to any additional amendments agreed by your Committee and Commissioner.
2. Following approval the plan is published on the internet by 31st March 2018.

Strategic Implications

17. The Policing Plan directly supports the City of London Corporation's Corporate Plan.
18. The Policing Plan also has regard to the priorities of the Safer City Partnership.

Conclusion

19. Issuing and publishing a Policing Plan remains a statutory obligation on the Force and Court of Common Council in its capacity as police authority. The Policing Plan appended to this report is compliant with current guidance on those matters policing plans must address. Accordingly, your Committee are invited to adopt the proposed Plan as the Policing Plan for the City of London.

Attached Papers:

Draft City of London Police Policing Plan 2017-20 (Year 2, 2018/19)

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