

DMPC and London Councils Leaders for Crime

Friday 16th February 2024

Attendees

MOPAC – DMPC Sophie Linden, Diana Luchford, Kenny Bowie, Tamara Barnett, Natasha Plummer, Connie Stygall

London Councils -

Cllr Jas Athwal of Redbridge

Cllr Darren Rodwell of Barking and Dagenham

Cllr Ian Edwards of Hillingdon

Cllr Gareth Roberts of Richmond

Fiona Taylor, CEO Barking & Dagenham

Althea Loderick, CEO Southwark Council

Doug Flight, Strategic Lead for London Councils

Joseph Foxwell, Principal Policy and Project Officer for London Councils

Hannah Kuehn, Principal Policy and Project Officer for London Councils
(observing)

Note of meeting

Item 1. Welcome, agree minutes and actions from the last meeting

There was agreement for the minutes and actions from the last meeting.

London Councils are still in discussion with the MPS about the form of cluster meetings in addition to the bi-annual meeting with the Commissioner.

Item 2. Violence/Homicides

Cllr Gareth Roberts referred to a recent homicide investigated by BTP, noting disparity in the communication the borough received during the investigation from BTP compared to the MPS.

Cllr Darren Rodwell agreed that notification from BTP regarding incidents at Barking station may also require a better line of communication.

MOPAC agreed to follow this up with BTP.

DMPC Sophie Linden said that the MPS are implementing the Violence Harm Assessment to tackle serious violence and suggested using this meeting to ensure boroughs are getting what they need, and the right partnership approach is in place. DMPC Sophie Linden asked if councils are having conversations with their borough commanders about VHA. There was agreement from Councils.

DMPC Sophie Linden asked if Councils are accessing the Critical Incident Fund. There was agreement from Councils.

Cllr Darren Rodwell raised concerns regarding increasing community tensions, the safety of council members and the MPS' response. Some members feel they haven't had the right response from the police. Cllr Rodwell added that female councillors are particularly worried for their safety.

Cllr Jas Athwal said that community tensions are high and there is no prevention or support leaving members feeling let down by the police and at risk of not standing again.

DMPC Sophie Linden will raise concerns with the MPS regarding individual security for local politicians.

Fiona Taylor raised that whilst cases of direct threats to life can reach court quickly, cases of continuous harassment and ongoing abuse, take a long time due to court backlogs and so Leaders need better outcomes they can advise elected members.

DMPC Sophie Linden recognised the impact to life and potential impact on democracy and MOPAC agreed to take these concerns forward.

Item 3. Community Engagement

Natasha Plummer presented on MOPAC's Community Engagement Review.

DMPC Sophie Linden said that when MOPAC are in a position to decide on implementation, a formal conversation is needed with Councillors on what will work.

MOPAC said that there are ongoing conversations regarding the future of OWL whilst the MPS review their digital engagement. MOPAC are aware that some councils are using OWL and some counterparts can no longer use OWL due to a funding gap, this is a query which MOPAC are working through with partners to look at a collective alternative whilst the MPS develop a more sustainable solution.

Some limitations of OWL were raised. Cllr Ian Edwards however noted that OWL is extensively used in Hillingdon and has created a benefit of having a database of people who have CCTV which is accessed by the MPS; OWL is effective for detecting and investigating crime and will need a smooth transition.

Cllr Darren Rodwell said that there is a need for a common platform to be built that holds data and works for civil and criminal use.

DMPC Sophie Linden said this is a goal for the future and in the meantime the need to determine the service OWL provides to shape a pan London MPS platform.

Cllr Gareth Roberts raised concern regarding the update that SNBs will continue with no significant change. Cllr Roberts noted there is no guidance on the MOPAC website to support one SNB model.

DMPC Sophie Linden said the timeframe for OWL is going to be speedier but will need a few months for transition. For SNBs, MOPAC don't yet have a date, but work is ongoing.

MOPAC is aware there are many different variations of SNBs and is happy to take feedback on any issues. The MPS are doing a full review of engagement activity which is progressing relatively quickly.

Item 4. LPB Progress and Comms

London Councils requested to discuss the possibility of a user-friendly LPB comms product.

Cllr Jas Athwal added that a product is needed so that instead of going to the MOPAC website for a 3-hour webcast or reading the minutes, there is a user-friendly summary of what went on.

MOPAC took an action to have discussions about the practicality of a note for multiple local audiences.

Item 5. Abstractions

MOPAC and London Councils agreed to follow up offline any queries Cllrs would like to raise in relation to MPS Abstractions.

Item 6. Estates

DMPC Sophie Linden said the MPS estates strategy is still with the MPS as there is an issue on the work from home policy which is not yet settled.

Cllr Gareth Roberts asked for an indication on timescales. DMPC Sophie Linden said the MPS are trying to settle this quickly as it is recognised that it impacts the rest of the estate strategy.

Cllr Jas Athwal said police officers need to be working on the streets and not from home.

DMPC Sophie Linden said there are some staff roles than can work from home, but the MPS are working out optimum level and costs.

Cllr Darren Rodwell said there has been ongoing conversations for years now about co-location with LAs. DMPC Sophie Linden said that this has not caused everything in the strategy to be frozen and the MPS are still working through where people should be based and their commitment.

End of meeting.