Subject: Counter-Terrorism

Report to: Police and Crime Committee

Report of: Executive Director of Secretariat

Date: 3 November 2016

This report will be considered in public

1. Summary

1.1 This report provides background information to the Police and Crime Committee for its discussion with invited guests on the independent review of London’s preparedness to respond to a major terrorist incident.

2. Recommendation

2.1 That the Committee notes the report as background to putting questions to invited guests on the independent review of London’s preparedness to respond to a major terrorist incident, and notes the discussion.

3. Background

3.1 This meeting will be used to consider the report and recommendations detailed in the independent review of London’s preparedness to respond to a major terrorist incident.

3.2 On 27 May 2016, the Mayor announced a “full and independent review to ensure London is as prepared as possible to respond to a major terrorist incident”. The Mayor said he wants “to be reassured that every single agency and individual involved in protecting our city has the resources and expertise they need to respond in the event that London is attacked.”

3.3 Lord Toby Harris, former London Assembly Member, former chair of the Metropolitan Police Authority, and a member of the Joint Committee on National Security Strategy, was appointed to undertake the review. At the launch of the review, he said:

“I know how much the emergency services and all other agencies do day-to-day to keep Londoners safe. However, given the developing threat picture, it is timely to see whether more is needed and whether the existing arrangements can be made even more robust. The
review is intended to be wide-ranging, so as to provide the Mayor with advice on any action that needs to be taken.”

3.4 On 28 October Lord Harris published his findings. The review “commends London’s emergency services for their improved major incident readiness, with responses now substantially faster and more effective than five years ago.” It includes 127 recommendations for the Mayor, the MPS, Government and other agencies to consider. These include, for example:

- The Metropolitan Police to further explore the use of temporary barriers to protect against a Nice style attack in London.
- A London-wide pilot of a new public alert technology – so Londoners can be advised of a major terrorist attack with messages sent direct to mobile devices.
- CCTV to be installed on all underground and mainline trains and more easily accessible to emergency services in an emergency.
- COBR protocol to be changed so that the Mayor always attends meetings that affect London – with greater clarity around the role of the Mayor in a major incident.
- Consideration to be given to the introduction of a new MOPAC adviser on counter-terrorism, and Mayoral Adviser for Resilience.
- The Home Office to fully fund the National and International Capital Cities Grant (NICC), which currently costs the Metropolitan Police approximately £340 million a year.
- Security measure on the river Thames to be strengthened.
- The police and security services should work with businesses, local authorities and others to provide better information on how to prevent a terrorist attack, and what to do if the worst happens.
- The Department of Health should provide extra resources to the London Ambulance Service in recognition of the additional demands placed on them as the provider of services in the capital.

4. Issues for Consideration

4.1 The meeting will be used to speak to Lord Harris, the author of the report, about his work and recommendations. The Committee will consider the implications of the recommendations for the MPS, MOPAC, and the Mayor, and how recommendations will be taken forward and monitored for progress.

5. Legal Implications

5.1 The Committee has the power to do what is recommended in this report.

5.2 Officers confirm that the scope for this session falls within the Committee’s terms of reference.

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2 Mayor of London, Mayor of London appoints security expert Lord Harris to lead full terror preparedness review, 27 May 2016
3 Mayor of London, Lord Harris launches report on improving London’s terror preparedness, 28 October 2016
4 Mayor of London, Lord Harris launches report on improving London’s terror preparedness, 28 October 2016
6. Financial Implications

6.1 There are no financial implications to the Greater London Authority arising from this report.

List of appendices to this report: None

| Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 |
| List of Background Papers: None |

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