

Subject: Police and Crime Committee Work Programme

Report to: Police and Crime Committee

Report of: Executive Director of Secretariat

Date: 29 March 2017

This report will be considered in public

1. Summary

1.1 This report sets out progress on the Police and Crime Committee's work programme.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That the Committee notes the summary of work completed in 2016-17.

2.2 That the Committee notes the schedule of meetings proposed for 2017-18, which is subject to agreement at the Annual Meeting of the London Assembly on 3 May 2017.

2.3 That the Committee delegates authority to its Chairman, Steve O'Connell AM, in consultation with the party Group Lead Members and Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM, to agree arrangements for a site visit to the Metropolitan Police Service's (MPS) training centre in Hendon to observe the facilities for the training and development of officers.

2.4 That the Committee delegates authority to its Chairman, Steve O'Connell AM, in consultation with the party Group Lead Members and Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM, to agree the terms of reference and scope for the Committee's first provisional meeting of the 2017-18 Assembly year on 11 May 2017.

2.5 That the Committee agrees, in relation to urgent matters only, a general delegation of authority in respect of the Committee's powers and functions (apart from those that cannot under the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 be delegated) to the Chairman of the Committee, in consultation with the party Group Lead Members of the Committee and Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM, from the close of this meeting until the Annual Meeting of the London Assembly on 3 May 2017.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Committee receives a report outlining future topics for its work programme at each meeting. As this is the last meeting of the Assembly year, this report provides an overview of work undertaken in 2016-17 and sets out the proposed schedule of meetings for 2017-18.

4. Issues for Consideration

Summary of the Committee's Work in 2016-17

- 4.1 During the 2016-17 Assembly year, the Police and Crime Committee has scrutinised a wide range of topics related to policing and crime reduction in London, as summarised in paragraphs 4.2 to 4.19 below.

Appointment of the new Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime

- 4.2 The Committee started the year by holding a confirmation hearing for the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime. Sophie Linden was questioned about her personal attributes and capability; and the responsibilities of the role. Following the meeting, Members agreed not to object to her appointment, and made a number of additional comments to the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) in relation to the information Members are provided with ahead of confirmation hearings.¹

Serious youth violence

- 4.3 In July, members examined the issue of Serious Youth Violence (SYV), in particular the increase in knife crime amongst young people. The Committee considered the impact that SYV has on the capital; the challenges for organisations working with young people exposed to violence; and the opportunities that are available to the Mayor to help tackle and prevent it.
- 4.4 This meeting resulted in a report and letter to MOPAC—published in September—which set a number of challenges to be addressed.² These included understanding more about the drivers of SYV; increasing confidence amongst young people to report violence; and providing effective and appropriate messaging to London's young people about the realities of knife crime. This was the first time the Committee published a report in a different format: focusing on short, sharp messages summarising the evidence. The report prompted an invitation to the Chairman to speak at a conference on gangs and SYV and has been used by Members to support discussions at a local level with young people about serious violence and knife crime.

Violence against Women and Girls

- 4.5 In September, the Committee focused on Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG). The Committee heard that reports of VAWG in London are rising as victims gain confidence to come forward: but reporting has not translated into action against alleged perpetrators.

¹ London Assembly Police and Crime Committee, [Proposed appointment of Sophie Linden to the Office of Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime](#), 14 June 2016

² London Assembly Police and Crime Committee, [Serious Youth Violence](#), September 2016

- 4.6 The meeting resulted in a summary report that highlighted the difficulties in establishing the full extent of VAWG in London.³ The report said that the Mayor can play a significant role in making London a safer city for women and girls and that he must lead the response and conversation, regularly speak out about VAWG, and be a visible champion to end VAWG in London. It made a number of recommendations to the Mayor, including supporting women and girls to have the confidence to report VAWG; ensuring London's VAWG Strategy is adequately resourced and able to deliver on its priorities; protecting and building on London's network of specialist support services; and ensuring the right services in the right places.

Preventing extremism

- 4.7 The Committee used its thematic meeting in October to hold a discussion on preventing extremism in London with invited guests. Members discussed the ongoing challenges in respect of preventing extremism, and the work being undertaken by MOPAC. This included how public services have adapted to the new Prevent duty, what obstacles community groups face in tackling extremism at a local level, and the impact of the London CONTEST Board.
- 4.8 Following the meeting, the Chairman wrote to the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime to highlight the good progress being made at a local level to tackle extremism, particularly of the London Prevent Board.⁴ The letter noted, however, that progress made by MOPAC and the London CONTEST Board has been slow. It recommended further work to improve the sharing of information, transparency and the delivery of effective interventions. The report contributed to the development of the Mayor's Draft Police and Crime Plan, with the findings and recommendations being directly reflected in the draft plan.

Policing and security at Notting Hill Carnival

- 4.9 In November, the Committee carried out a short piece of work on policing and security at Notting Hill Carnival. It sought to examine the policing and security arrangements at Carnival, following reports that arrests at the event had reached record levels, to identify any improvements that can be made to keep people safe, and heard from the organisations involved in organising Carnival.
- 4.10 The report, *Notting Hill Carnival: safer and better*, highlighted a worrying rise in serious and violent incidents at Carnival, and a real risk that overcrowding could occur.⁵ It also reflected on the ability of the London Notting Hill Carnival Enterprise Trust Ltd—the organisers of Carnival—to deliver. In its report the Committee asked the Mayor to do two things: to help the Carnival Trust to become a stronger, more formal, organising body; and to work with the Carnival Trust to look at what changes might improve the safety and quality of Carnival, and to engage Londoners on any proposals.

Policing in and around the London Stadium

- 4.11 The Committee's meeting in December was used to speak with organisations responsible for the London stadium and surrounding area. This followed a number of incidents at West Ham football matches in the stadium, and criticism around the security arrangements, including stewarding and segregation, and the lack of police presence in the ground.
- 4.12 Members heard from organisations involved in the running of the stadium, including West Ham Football Club, about the roles and responsibilities of organisations; what improvements are being

³ London Assembly Police and Crime Committee, [Violence against Women and Girls](#), November 2016

⁴ London Assembly Police and Crime Committee, [Preventing extremism in London](#), November 2016

⁵ London Assembly Police and Crime Committee, [Notting Hill Carnival: safer and better](#), January 2017

made following recent incidents of violence at football matches; and how the wider Olympic Park is policed.⁶ Following the meeting the Committee visited the London Stadium to assure itself that the security procedures in place were effective. Members met with key personnel, toured the security facilities and heard about the improvements being made to the security plans.

Electoral fraud

- 4.13 The Committee agreed to review its work programme in early 2017 to hold an urgent investigation to clarify the involvement of the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) and the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) in relation to tackling allegations of electoral fraud and mismanagement in London. Particular attention was paid to the 2014 Tower Hamlets Mayoral Election, following the Election Court Judgement by the Election Commissioner.
- 4.14 The Committee looked at how allegations of electoral fraud are tackled and the types and volume of accusations in London in recent years. Members heard about the process for an investigation and the difficulties of gathering sufficient evidence necessary to seek prosecution of offenders.⁷ Following the discussion the Committee agreed to write to MOPAC to request further investigation into the work carried out by the MPS in relation to the Tower Hamlets Mayoral Election.

The Mayor's Draft Police and Crime Plan

- 4.15 The Committee recently agreed its response to the Mayor's Draft Police and Crime Plan. It examined the feasibility and potential impact of the Plan, particularly in light of the changing nature of crime and funding pressures faced by the police and other public services.
- 4.16 The report, produced to respond to MOPAC's formal consultation on the draft Police and Crime Plan, concluded that there were some issues in the draft Plan that needed further thought or explanation. It stressed that the final plan, and the strategies that follow it, should build and inspire confidence in these challenging and uncertain times: both of the police in the leadership shown by the MPS and MOPAC, and of the public in the police's ability to respond to their needs effectively. The report made a number of recommendations asking the Mayor to amend the Plan, or consider certain issues in more detail in future strategies.⁸
- 4.17 Before issuing the Police and Crime Plan, MOPAC must give the Police and Crime Committee a response to its report and recommendations. MOPAC's response is set out at Appendix 1 to Agenda Item 6.

Responding to urgent issues

- 4.18 A number of high profile reports on the performance of the MPS and safety of Londoners were published this municipal year, and the Committee dedicated time to discuss the impact and response to each. To do so, in some cases, the Committee organised short notice meetings in addition to its regular work programme. In November 2016, for example, Members invited Lord Toby Harris to speak about his assessment of counter-terrorism in the capital.⁹ In December 2016, the Committee called urgently on the MPS to provide an update on the conduct of child protection investigations, following a damning report by the Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary.¹⁰ These discussions, which took place only shortly after the publication of the reports, helped the Committee to question

⁶ Meeting of the London Assembly Police and Crime Committee, [1 December 2016](#)

⁷ Meeting of the London Assembly Police and Crime Committee, [9 February 2017](#)

⁸ London Assembly Police and Crime Committee, [Response to the Mayor's Draft Police and Crime Plan](#), February 2017

⁹ Meeting of the London Assembly Police and Crime Committee, [3 November 2016](#)

¹⁰ Meeting of the London Assembly Police and Crime Committee, [1 December 2016](#)

the MPS and MOPAC in question and answer sessions, and contributed to the Committee's thinking in respect of the draft Police and Crime Plan.

Question and Answer sessions with the MPS and MOPAC

4.19 The Committee continue to conduct regular question and answer sessions with the MPS and MOPAC. Topics covered this year included:

- The use of closed circuit television in London, following the decision of Westminster City Council to decommission its cameras;
- The rise in 'two-wheeled enabled' crime: crime committed by those on motorcycles or bikes;
- The merger of borough command units across London and other changes to neighbourhood policing;
- The MPS's efforts to tackle gun crime and knife crime;
- The possible introduction of spit guards in London's custody suites;
- The increase in hate crime; and
- Changes to the organisation of the MPS, including the appointment of a new Commissioner, and changes to its management structure.

Future topics and the schedule of meetings for 2017-18

4.20 The Committee's work programme is intended to enable the Committee to effectively fulfil its roles of holding the MOPAC to account and investigating issues of importance to policing and crime reduction in London. The Committee's work involves a range of activities, including formal meetings with MOPAC, the MPS and other stakeholders, site visits, written consultations and round table meetings.

4.21 The Committee will usually meet twice a month. One of the monthly meetings is usually to hold a question and answer (Q&A) session with the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime. The Commissioner of the MPS has been invited to these meetings. The Committee will primarily use Q&A meetings to investigate topical issues and review MPS performance, including consideration of MOPAC's approach to holding the MPS to account.

4.22 The Committee's other monthly meeting is used to consider a particular topic or aspect of policing and crime in greater detail. These investigations will be conducted either by the full Committee or working groups. Working groups will have delegated authority to prepare reports on the Committee's behalf in consultation with party Group Lead Members. Reports will be approved and published by the full Committee.

4.23 The schedule of 2017-18 meetings, subject to decisions to be made at the Assembly's Annual Meeting on 3 May 2017, is set out overleaf. The Committee is recommended to agree that delegated authority be granted to the Chairman of the Committee in consultation with the party Group Lead Members and Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM, to agree the terms of reference and scope for the Committee's first provisional meeting of the 2017/18 Assembly year on 11 May 2017 in order that guests can be secured for that meeting. Other topics for the future work programme are currently being discussed and a more detailed work programme will be reported to the next meeting for formal agreement.

- Thursday 11 May 2017 – thematic;
- Thursday 25 May 2017 – Q&A session;
- Wednesday 7 June 2017 – thematic;
- Wednesday 21 June 2017 – Q&A session;
- Wednesday 5 July 2017 – thematic;
- Thursday 20 July 2017 – Q&A session;
- Wednesday 6 September 2017 – thematic;
- Wednesday 20 September 2017 – Q&A session;
- Thursday 5 October 2017 – thematic;
- Tuesday 17 October 2017 – Q&A session;
- Wednesday 1 November 2017 – thematic;
- Wednesday 15 November 2017 – Q&A session;
- Thursday 30 November 2017 – thematic;
- Wednesday 13 December 2017 – Q&A session;
- Thursday 11 January 2018 – thematic;
- Wednesday 24 January 2018 – Q&A session;
- Wednesday 7 February 2018 – thematic;
- Thursday 22 February 2018 – Q&A session;
- Wednesday 7 March 2018 – thematic; and
- Wednesday 21 March 2018 – Q&A session.

5. Legal Implications

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

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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