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Title: Letter on Safer Neighbourhood Boards

### **Executive Summary**

At the Police and Crime Committee meeting on 19 October 2020, the Committee resolved:

*That authority be delegated to the Chair, in consultation with party Group Lead Members and Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM, to agree a letter on the funding and support provided to Sfer Neighbourhood Boards.*

Following consultation with the Deputy Chairman, party Group Lead members and Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM, the Chair of the Committee, Unmesh Desai AM, agreed the Committee's letter to the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime.

The letter will be formally noted at the Committee's next appropriate meeting.

### **Decision**

That the Chair, in consultation with the Deputy Chairman, party Group Lead Members and Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM, agree the Committee's letter to the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime on the funding and support provided to Safer Neighbourhood Boards, attached at **Appendix 1**.

### **Assembly Member**

I confirm that I do not have any disclosable pecuniary interests in the proposed decision and take the decision in compliance with the Code of Conduct for elected Members of the Authority.

The above request has my approval.

**Signature**

**Date** 17/11/20



**Printed Name** Unmesh Desai AM (Chair, Police and Crime Committee)

# Decision by an Assembly Member under Delegated Authority

*Notes:*

1. The Lead Officer should prepare this form for signature by relevant Members of the Assembly to record any instance where the Member proposes to take action under a specific delegated authority. The purpose of the form is to record the advice received from officers, and the decision made.
2. **The 'background' section (below) should be used to include an indication as to whether the information contained in / referred to in this Form should be considered as exempt under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA), or the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR). If so, the specimen Annexe (attached below) should be used. If this form does deal with exempt information, you must submit both parts of this form for approval together.**

**Background and proposed next steps:**

At the Police and Crime Committee meeting on 19 October 2020, the Committee resolved:

*That authority be delegated to the Chair, in consultation with party Group Lead Members and Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM, to agree a letter on the funding and support provided to Sfer Neighbourhood Boards.*

Following consultation with the Deputy Chairman, party Group Lead members and Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM, the Chair of the Committee, Unmesh Desai AM, agreed the Committee's letter to the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime. The letter will be formally noted at the Committee's next appropriate meeting.

**Confirmation that appropriate delegated authority exists for this decision**

Signed by Committee Services		L J Harvey	Date	13/11/2020
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Print Name: Lauren Harvey	Tel:	x4383
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**Financial implications NOT REQUIRED**

**NOTE: Finance comments and signature are required only where there are financial implications arising or the potential for financial implications.**

Signed by Finance	Date	.....
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Print Name	Tel:	.....
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**Legal implications**

The Police and Crime Committee has the power to make the decision set out in this report.

Signed by Legal		Date	16/11/20
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Print Name	Emma Strain, Monitoring Officer	Tel:	X 4399
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**Supporting detail/List of Consultees:**

Steve O'Connell AM  
Sian Berry AM  
Peter Whittle AM  
Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM

**Public Access to Information**

Information in this form (Part 1) is subject to the FoIA, or the EIR and will be made available on the GLA Website, usually within one working day of approval.

If immediate publication risks compromising the implementation of the decision (for example, to complete a procurement process), it can be deferred until a specific date. Deferral periods should be kept to the shortest length strictly necessary. **Note:** this form (Part 1) will either be published within one working day after it has been approved or on the defer date.

**Part 1 – Deferral**

**Is the publication of Part 1 of this approval to be deferred? No**

Until what date: (a date is required if deferring)

**Part 2 – Sensitive information**

Only the facts or advice that would be exempt from disclosure under FoIA or EIR should be included in the separate Part 2 form, together with the legal rationale for non-publication.

**Is there a part 2 form - No**

**Lead Officer/Author**

Signed	Philippa Goffe	Date: 13/11/20
Print Name	<b>Philippa Goffe</b>	Tel: 07729 625453
Job Title	<b>Senior Policy Adviser</b>	

Countersigned by Executive Director	<i>E. Williams</i>	Date 17.11.2020
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Print Name	<b>Ed Williams</b>	Tel: X4399
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# LONDON ASSEMBLY



**Unmesh Desai AM**  
**Chair of the Police and Crime Committee**

## City Hall

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**Sophie Linden**  
**Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime**

(Sent by email)

17 November 2020

Dear Sophie

### **Safer Neighbourhood Boards: Funding**

I am writing to you on behalf of the Police and Crime Committee following a meeting I had recently with Jon Shapiro, who is Chair of the London Communities Policing Partnership (made up of London's Safer Neighbourhood Boards) and Chair of Tower Hamlets Safer Neighbourhood Board (SNB), and the points he raised, in particular, funding for SNBs this year (2020/21).

It is deeply disturbing to hear that SNBs are again facing issues with their funding this year although we are nearly in November and despite assurances made to the Committee in January.

The subject of SNB funding was raised in the Committee's investigation into MOPAC Commissioning held on 22 January. This was because the budget for 2019/20 wasn't allocated until August [2019] and grant agreements were not signed off by MOPAC until November [2019]. At this meeting, in response to a question about the process for this year, Sam Cunningham told the Committee:

*“The answer to your question is that it will not take that long next year because those processes [SNB funding moving to contracts and grants] are now in place. It will be a renewal of those grant arrangements as opposed to the introduction of new arrangements.”*

The Committee understands that the COVID-19 crisis has impacted MOPAC and its day to day business, however, this should not prevent it from supporting volunteer-run SNBs that carry out an important community role made even more relevant under COVID-19 regulations with so many people being based at home.

Many SNBs had already had funding bids approved and allocations made prior to MOPAC advising Chairs on 5th August that all budgets were being reviewed because of the impact of COVID-19. SNBs still await notification from MOPAC of funding available to them this year although we are halfway through the financial year. This is the second year in a row that this has happened and it is unacceptable.

The Committee has repeatedly raised the concerns of SNBs about the lack of support from MOPAC and it remains an issue that is raised regularly with Members because of the continuing perceived disengagement by MOPAC and the resulting feeling of neglect from SNBs, that feel their work is not valued or given enough recognition. Single points of contact within MOPAC have been withdrawn which is problematic for less skilled/experienced SNBs.

As a Committee we fully support the work of SNBs which is why we are calling on MOPAC to urgently review funding for SNBs and, as a priority, to release funds to SNBs which have already been notified of this year’s funding and for projects that have already been approved.

Please also provide information to the Committee in response to the following:

1. Funds to be allocated broken down by SNB and when this will be available;
2. Identify SNBs where funding is being delayed, and why;
3. What support is available to SNBs from MOPAC;
4. Confirm ‘dormant’ SNBs and what, if any, action is being taken to get these re-established.

We would be grateful to receive a response to these questions by 1 December 2020.

Yours sincerely,



**Unmesh Desai AM**  
**Chair of the Police and Crime Committee**