

MDA No.: 1315

Title: Safer Neighbourhood Boards Letter

1. Executive Summary

1.1 At the Police and Crime Committee (PCC) meeting on 21 July 2021, the Committee resolved that:

Authority be delegated to the Chairman, in consultation with the Deputy Chairman and party Group Lead Members, to agree a letter to the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime on the support given to Safer Neighbourhood Boards.

1.2 Following consultation with the Deputy Chairman and party Group Lead Members, the Chairman is asked to agree the letter to the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, as attached at **Appendix 1**.

2. Decision

3.1 **That the Police and Crime Committee's letter to the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime on the support and funding provided to Safer Neighborhood Boards, be agreed.**

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:



Printed Name: Shaun Bailey AM, Chairman of the Police and Crime Committee

Date: 5 August 2021

3. Decision by an Assembly Member under Delegated Authority

Background and proposed next steps:

- 3.1 The exercise of delegated authority agreeing the Committee's letter to the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime will be formally noted at the Committee's next appropriate meeting.

Confirmation that appropriate delegated authority exists for this decision:

Signature (Committee Services): L. Harvey

Printed Name: Lauren Harvey, Senior Committee Officer

Date: 28/07/2021

Telephone Number: 020 7983 4383

Financial Implications: NOT REQUIRED

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

Signature (Finance): Not Required


Printed Name: N/A

Date: N/A

Telephone Number: N/A

Legal Implications:

The Chair of the London Assembly has the power to make the decision set out in this report.

Signature (Legal): 

Printed Name: Emma Strain, Monitoring Officer

Date: 28/07/21

Telephone Number: 020 7983 6550

Supporting Detail / List of Consultees:

- Susan Hall AM (Deputy Chairman)
- Unmesh Desai AM
- Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM
- Caroline Russell AM

4. Public Access to Information

- 4.1 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.
- 4.2 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.
- 4.3 **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

If yes, until what date:

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

Signature: J Roker

Printed Name: Janette Roker

Job Title: Senior Policy Adviser

Date: 28/07/2021

Telephone Number: 020 7983 6562

Countersigned by Executive Director:

Signature: *Joanna Davidson*

Printed Name: Joanna Davidson, Interim Executive Director of Secretariat

Date: 28/07/21

Telephone Number: 07813 796175

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LONDON ASSEMBLY



Shaun Bailey AM
Chairman of the Police and Crime Committee

Sophie Linden
Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime
Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime

(Sent by email)

5 August 2021

Dear Sophie,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Police and Crime Committee following a recent meeting I had with David Millar and Tayo Prince regarding funding for Safer Neighbourhood Boards (SNBs).

It is disappointing to hear that SNBs are again facing issues with their funding, including the delay in the announcement of funding allocations for 2021-22. While we are pleased to learn that the SNB community engagement budget has now been finalised, and that MOPAC has been keen to limit the impact of the pandemic on SNB allocations, we understand that the budget for SNBs has been cut by 30 per cent. Sadly, this will be felt by SNBs across London. The Committee has repeatedly heard concern from SNBs that their core funding is inadequate and is not enough for them to function effectively. This is not good enough and a great setback for SNBs. We seek reassurance and clarification from you that MOPAC is doing all it can to support SNBs throughout the current funding application process, to ensure that all SNBs receive the maximum amount allocated to them.

The Committee understands that not all SNBs have accessed or spent the money allocated to them over recent years. We would be grateful if you could provide details of funds allocated, applications received and project spending approved, and details of these projects, for each SNB over the past five years.

The Committee has repeatedly raised the concerns of SNBs about the lack of support from MOPAC, including the withdrawal of single points of contact. There is a continuing perceived disengagement by MOPAC and the resulting feeling of neglect from SNBs, who feel that their work is not valued or

given enough recognition. Many SNBs still require significant support from MOPAC. The Mayor has said that SNBs provide a “vital – and much appreciated – service for Londoners”. However, the perceived lack of support from MOPAC and the annual funding struggles faced by SNBs, including a reduction in funding, delayed funding announcements and late payments, result in fewer opportunities to build capacity, fewer opportunities for Londoners to contribute to policing in London and raises doubt about the Mayor’s support for such structures and his commitment to meaningful engagement.

The Committee has also previously highlighted concern about how well SNBs have been functioning and has acknowledged that there is room for improvement. However, we are concerned that this has been compounded by the demands MOPAC has placed on SNBs without providing effective support to those that need it.

In addition, the Mayor has made a commitment in his Action Plan for Transparency, Accountability and Trust in Policing, to work with communities to overhaul London’s community-police engagement structures. This creates a feeling of uncertainty among SNBs for their future, and while this work is taking place, they are expected to continue to function. The Mayor has recognised that they will need support to do so, in particular as a result of the “more limited parameters of operation due to COVID”. The Committee urges you to ensure that all SNBs have the level of support they need to enable their important work with London’s communities to continue. The Committee would also welcome further information on how MOPAC has been supporting the work of SNBs during the pandemic, in particular the support provided to those SNBs that may have struggled in the past, and how it will continue to do so over the forthcoming years.

While the consultation on the Mayor’s Action Plan for Transparency, Accountability and Trust in Policing showed that more needs to be done to build credibility with Black Londoners and increase their representation on community engagement groups, including SNBs, the Committee urges MOPAC to ensure that all London’s communities are represented on SNBs and other community-police engagement structures in London. The Committee would welcome further information on how MOPAC has engaged SNBs in its work to overhaul community-police engagement structures and what it is doing to support SNBs to improve the diversity of their membership, in order to ensure that all Londoners are proportionately represented on these groups.

We would be grateful if you could provide a response to this letter by 2 September 2021. Please copy your response to Janette Roker and Philippa Goffe, the Committee’s Senior Policy Advisers (janette.roker@london.gov.uk) (philippa.goffe@london.gov.uk).

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Bailey', written in a cursive style.

Shaun Bailey AM
Chairman of the Police and Crime Committee