

COMMUNITY AND SAFER CITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

19 JULY 2011

POLICE REFORM AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY BILL

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES: SP3 SAFE CITY

CORPORATE PRIORITIES: CIO1: Delivering Customer Focused Services, CIO4: Improving Partnership Working to Deliver 'One City'.

1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update members of the Community and Safer City Scrutiny Committee on the progress of the Police and Social Responsibility Bill.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 On 8 February 2011, the Scrutiny Committee received a report outlining the proposals set out in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill. The Committee agreed to receive regular updates on the progress during the year ahead.
- 2.2 The report outlined the key points of the Bill at that time, including:-
- § Abolishes police authorities and replaces them with directly elected Police and Crime Commissioners for each police force outside London.
 - § Replaces the Metropolitan Police Authority with the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime, to be run by the Mayor of London. (The Queen will continue to appoint the Metropolitan Commissioner and the Deputy Metropolitan Commissioner on the advice of the Home Secretary).
 - § Sets out the basic duties of a Police and Crime Commissioner, including publishing a police and crime plan, setting the local police and crime objectives, and setting the local precept and annual force budget (including contingency reserves) in discussion with the chief constable.
 - § Provides for Police and Crime Commissioners to appoint and, if necessary, suspend or dismiss the chief constable of their police force. The chief constable will retain control of all other officers of the police force.
 - § Provides for the establishment of Police and Crime Panels for each police area to advise and scrutinise the work of the Police and Crime Commissioner.
 - § Restores the right to non-violent protest around Parliament through repealing sections 132-138 of the Serious Organised Crime and Police

- Act (SOCPA) 2005; also prohibits encampments and other disruptive behaviour in Parliament Square.
- § Provides for amendments to the Licensing Act 2003 in order to give the police and local authorities much stronger powers to remove licenses from, or refuse to grant licenses to, any premises that are causing problems.
 - § Allows local councils to charge more for late-night licenses to pay for additional policing.
 - § Provides for doubling the maximum fine for premises which persistently sell alcohol to under 18s, and for increasing the period of suspensions which can be imposed on such premises.
 - § Introduces greater flexibility in relation to the scrutiny and utility of temporary event notices.
 - § Amends the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 by introducing a new power for the Secretary of State to temporarily ban new psychoactive substances ('legal highs') for up to one year whilst the health issues are considered by independent experts.
 - § Amends the constitution of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs to allow greater flexibility in the membership of the Council.
 - § Amends the Greater London Authority Act 1999 and the Local Government Act 1972 to enable local authorities to attach powers of seizure and retention of any property in connection with the breach of a byelaw.
 - § Amends the process for issuing private arrest warrants for universal jurisdiction offences.

3. Current Position

- 3.1 Stuart Douglass will provide an update on the current position.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1 That the Community and Safer City Scrutiny Committee note the contents of the report.