

City of London Corporation's statement of position on reform to police force structures

- 1. The City of London Corporation supports government's aims for police force reform** – to reduce costs to national taxpayers, make specialist functions more effective, deliver more consistent and higher-quality policing services, improve major incident response, and strengthen accountability.
- 2. An independent, more regionally integrated City Police is the best way to achieve these reform aims** – this builds on what is working: it retains the structures that ensure accountable, tailored and high-performing policing in the Square Mile, with closer integration on back-office and specialist functions improving efficiency and effectiveness.
- 3. The City of London's safety and security are important to national growth and prosperity** – underpinning vital public services and jobs across the country. A safe City is core to its position as a competitive global financial centre whose FPS sector, 676,000 workers and 24,000 businesses generate £109 billion output, £1.3 billion business rates and a major share of the FPS sectors' £110 billion annual tax revenue. A less safe City means a less prosperous nation.
- 4. The City's policing model is built around its distinct and nationally important safety requirements** – the City needs - and has - strong local policing, expert protective security against physical and digital threats, deep relationships with City businesses and dedicated local leadership and accountability. London and the country as a whole benefits from this model, which could be lost under other structures.
- 5. Corporation funding and support for City policing would not automatically transfer with functions into another structure** – the Corporation is the only local authority qualified to levy the Business Rate Premium that funds £33 million a year to City policing, the Corporation also provides rent-free accommodation valued at £4-5 million a year, and has invested almost £700 million capital spend on City policing and security this decade. These are predicated on supporting its dedicated, independent police service and the high levels of safety this delivers.
- 6. The City Police is already delivering the reform outcomes government wants to achieve** – its performance is at or amongst the highest nationwide, it is already extensively integrated on operational and back-office functions with other police forces and the Corporation. It has local-authority-led accountability and a strong, inclusive force culture that are key to public trust and confidence and the City's high-quality, responsive policing service.
- 7. The Corporation will oppose reforms that don't deliver the White Paper's aims in London** – there are no clear reasons or evidence why absorbing the City Police into a larger force would improve policing outcomes in the City, save money compared to closer integration, or enhance local accountability. The Corporation won't support reforms if these are unsupported by evidence or by the City and London's communities.
- 8. The City Police is key to tackling fraud** – it has capabilities and expertise, backed up by the Corporation, which should be harnessed, and where necessary, extended by Government in building a new policing model to tackle fraud - which now accounts for 46% of all crime in England and Wales.