

ECONOMIC CRIME BOARD OF THE POLICE COMMITTEE

Friday, 6 July 2018

Minutes of the meeting of the Economic Crime Board of the Police Committee held at the Guildhall EC2 at 11.00 am

Present

Members:

Nicholas Bensted-Smith (Chairman)	Deputy Robert Merrett
Deputy Keith Bottomley	Deputy Henry Pollard
Andrew Lentin (External Member)	

Officers:

Oliver Bolton	- Town Clerk's Department
George Fraser	- Town Clerk's Department
Glenn Maleary	- Head of Economic Crime, CoLP
Pete O'Doherty	- T/Commander of Economic Crime, CoLP
Neil Taylor	- CoLP

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Deputy Doug Barrow, Simon Duckworth and Deputy James Thomson.

2. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were no declarations.

3. MINUTES

The Board considered the minutes of the last meeting, held on 27 April 2018.

The Chairman noted the recommendation at the last meeting from the Port Health and Environmental Services Committee that CoLP address the issue of fraudulent cryptocurrencies on its website. The Head of Economic Crime confirmed that he would action this. (1)

RESOLVED – That the minutes be approved.

4. OUTSTANDING REFERENCES

The Board received a report of the Town Clerk that summarised the outstanding actions from the last meeting.

OR1 – Cyber Training for Members

A Member noted the length of time that this action had taken to complete was unacceptable considering the importance of the issue. The Head of Economic Crime explained that, whilst there had been some training given to staff, this action had evolved to a Member session. He explained that the Cyber element

of the Economic Crime Academy was fully-booked for a significant period of time and it would be difficult to prioritise training slots ahead of paying customers. The Member accepted this and suggested that the City Corporation do pay for the session.

A Member suggested that this was a key issue that all Common Council Members should be informed of. The Chairman agreed but noted that it was planned to be trialled first with the Police Committee. The Head of Economic Crime explained that they had recently promoted Cyber Griffin to a number of committees so there was an awareness amongst Common Council Members. The T/Commander of Economic Crime explained that they are presenting Cyber Griffin and could adapt this to create a session for all Members over the next 4-5 weeks if desired. Members agreed. (2)

OR3 – #PhishyFridays

The Chairman noted that this was included to raise awareness of the campaign to avoid phishing scams and asked that it now be closed.

OR4 – Economic Crime Victim Care Unit

The Chairman asked that a written update on the ECVCU be included on the agenda as a standing item going forward. (3)

The Head of Economic Crime explained that the ECVCU was progressing from “Proof of Concept” to the rollout phase. He explained that approximately 4,600 victims had been serviced.

RESOLVED – That the report be received.

5. NATIONAL LEAD FORCE (NLF) PERFORMANCE UPDATE

The Board received a report of the Commissioner of Police that provided Members with an update on the Performance of CoLP in its capacity as National Lead Force.

The Head of Economic Crime explained that considerably more reports had been received than last year, though this reflected improved reporting standards and was viewed positively.

The Chairman noted that decreased disseminations was due to a reduction in reviewing capacity and asked for an explanation on this. The Head of Economic Crime explained that staff had been engaged in testing of the new Action Fraud systems which had put a limit on resources. He explained that once the new system was fully delivered, they expect there would be a boost in performance.

A Member asked at what stage a top-down review of the function, noting that a 21% increase in demand was very significant over a short time period. The Head of Economic Crime explained that there were competing demands across CoLP, but the Strategic Threat and Risk Assessment (STRA) process was tasked with evaluating and prioritising these.

The Head of Economic Crime explained that similar levels of demand were being handled by one third of the staff required. The Chairman requested an update that provided estimated quarter date staff numbers. (4)

A Member explained that it would be beneficial for Members to have an understanding of demand, outcomes and trends to show which areas were increasing in demand and which were static. The Head of Economic Crime explained that stakeholders received detailed reports of this information and confirmed that these could be included in future as appendices. The Member explained that it would also be useful to see demand of individual crime types if possible (5)

Members asked that terms be included within a glossary of terms as a standing item on the agenda. (6)

The T/Commander of Economic Crime explained that the formal release of the findings of the HMICFRS inspection would take place in September.

The Chairman noted that no surveys had been undertaken during the current financial year, as referenced in paragraph 6.3 of the report, and asked that this be actioned. A Member asked that it be confirmed that CoLP were not paying data handlers considering no surveys were taking place. (7)

The Chairman noted that recruitment to the Economic Crime Directorate was only being advertised on CoLP's website and asked why this was the case. The Head of Economic Crime explained that a more comprehensive plan for recruitment was in place and could be actioned with a long-term plan. A Member noted that it would be useful to identify the recruitment challenges. The Head of Economic Crime explained that strain on resource not only affected the front line of staff, but also the ability to plan. The Chairman requested that a written update be provided that explained recruitment challenges. (8)

RESOLVED – That the report be received.

6. **JOINT FRAUD TASKFORCE UPDATE**

The Board received a report of the Commissioner of Police that provided Members with an update on the Joint Fraud Taskforce (JFT).

The T/Commander of Economic Crime explained that the JFT was a very positive initiative with great potential. He explained that its Terms of Reference would be finalised over the coming months.

A Member asked how this initiative intersected with the banking sector. The T/Commander of Economic Crime explained that their main contact was with UK Finance, with an individual contact and dedicated team for the NECC (and JFT).

A Member asked if this would contribute to the ECVCU model. The Temporary Commander of Economic Crime explained that the Ministry of Defence (MoD)

was releasing recommendations around this, though the issue of sustainable funding needed to be addressed.

RESOLVED – That the report be received.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

There was no urgent business.

8. QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

There were no further questions.

9. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED – That under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act.

Item No. Paragraph(s) in Schedule 12A

10-11,13-15	3
12	7

10. NON-PUBLIC MINUTES

The Board considered the non-public minutes from the last meeting, held on 27 April 2018.

RESOLVED – That the minutes be approved.

11. NON-PUBLIC OUTSTANDING REFERENCES

The Board received a report of the Town Clerk that summarised the outstanding actions from previous meetings.

RESOLVED – That the report be received.

12. RESTRICTED ACTIVITY UPDATE

The Board received a report of the Commissioner of Police that provided Members with an update on the Performance of CoLP in its capacity as National Lead Force that was not suitable for publication.

RESOLVED – That the report be received.

13. ECONOMIC CRIME ACADEMY UPDATE

The Board received a report of the Commissioner of Police that provided Members with an update on the Economic Crime Academy.

RESOLVED – That the report be received.

14. POLICE REFORM AND TRANSFORMATION UPDATE

The Board received a report of the Commissioner of Police that provided Members with an update on the Police Reform and Transformation Fund.

RESOVLED – That the report be received.

15. ECD STAFF STRUCTURE

The Board received a report of the Commissioner of Police that provided Members with an overview of the current staff structure of the Economic Crime Directorate.

RESOVLED – That the report be received.

16. QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

A Member posed a question to the Board.

17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE COMMITTEE AGREE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED

Members discussed one item of further business.

The meeting closed at 12.36 pm

Chairman

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