Committee(s): Economic & Cyber Crime Committee	Dated: 08/09/2023
Subject: Innovation & Growth – Update of Cyber & Economic Crime related activities	**Public**
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	1, 6, 7
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	No
What is the source of Funding?	**NA**
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Summary

The core objective of Innovation & Growth (IG) is to strengthen the UK's competitiveness as the world's leading global hub for financial and professional services (FPS). This includes promoting the strengths of the UK's offer and enhancing the UK's position as a leader in FPS technology and innovation.

The following report summarises the activity that has been taking place across IG in relation to cyber and economic crime, as well as cross-team working between IG and the City of London Police (CoLP) since the ECCC last convened in May 2023. The report includes examples of collaboration between CoLP and CoLC as well as updates on the Cyber Innovation Challenge.

Links to the Corporate Plan

1. The activities set out in this report help deliver against the Corporate Plan's aim to support a thriving economy. This includes outcome 6c - to lead nationally and advise internationally on the fight against economic and cybercrime. It also supports outcome 7, positioning the UK as a global hub for innovation in financial and professional services.

Main Report

Innovation & Growth/City of London Police cross-team working

2. We continue to use this report to review those activities which demonstrate the benefits of IG and CoLP collaboration to make the UK the safest place in the world to do business. IG continues to look for ways to promote the activity of CoLP and support their work as part of our wider stakeholder engagement.

Collaboration
3. On 27th September, a representative from DCPCU will participate in a panel event at the CoLC and FCA event "Authorised Push Payment (APP) Synthetic Data Launch." The panel discussion titled "A tour d'horizon of APP Fraud:

Enforcement and policing" will explore the evolving APP Fraud landscape with a focus on typologies, enforcement and policing and areas to improve collaboration.

<u>Promotion of CoLP activity</u>
4. In early September the Lord Mayor will speak at the annual Cambridge Economic Crime Symposium. Teams within CoLC have shared draft lines for the speech including the role of CoLP as the lead force for economic crime.

Innovation & Growth activity

<u>Cyber Innovation Challenge 2.0</u>

1. The Cyber Innovation Challenge provided a unique opportunity for financial services (FS) and tech companies with innovative tech solutions to collaborate over a six week sprint to develop technologies to address a security priority for the FS sector. As a reminder the Challenge use case explored by participants looked at the mechanism by which data is securely shared between the FS industry and law enforcement. More specifically:

   How can technology capture live threat intelligence from financial services institutions and securely transfer this to law enforcement to improve oversight of threats facing industry? How can technology also provide a mechanism to share an anonymised update back to the wider FS sector to provide an enhanced insight into the threat level facing industry?

2. At the time of the last Committee meeting, the team were preparing to finalise 5-6 participating FS, open the application process for tech companies and finalise the Challenge timetable ready for the sprint to commence towards the end of June. An update on this is included below.

3. The team were pleased to welcome 5 FS to participate in the Challenge. They included Mastercard, Checkout.com, Clear.Bank and Legal and General. Representatives from 4 of the FS had been present during the industry roundtables held in February to identify the Challenge use case.

4. The application process for tech companies ran from 15th-31st May and was shared across CoLC and CoLP social media platforms as well as by Supporting Partners and industry bodies. Over 20 applications from UK and non UK tech companies were received – an increase on the first Challenge. On 5th June, representatives from CoLC and CoLP were joined by Supporting Partners Department for Business and Trade (DBT) and Microsoft to assess the applications and identify 5-6 successful applicants.

   7 tech companies were chosen to participate in the Challenge. The tech solutions offered by these companies all approached the use case in slightly different ways. For example, some were better suited to the question of how data can be securely collected by FS and shared with law enforcement, some looked at data collection more generally and others could address the use case in full. However, it was agreed that all 7 tech companies offered innovative solutions. Once

companies had been notified of the outcome of their application and introductory session was held for successful techs to meet each other as well as the team from CoLP and CoLC.

5. The Challenge sprint commenced on 20th June with the opening presentations. Here the techs introduced their solutions to participating FS and Supporting Partners. Following the presentations the FS and techs were partnered up and went on to engage in weekly themed 1:1 discussions across weeks 2-5 of the sprint. The purpose of these 1:1s was for the techs to gain valuable feedback on the requirements of FS and for the FS to enhance the solutions to reflect their preferences and compatibility with their business. The weekly themes were assigned to help guide these discussions, they were: use case exploration and product limitations to overcome, data, product security and accessibility requirements.

   In addition to the 1:1s, the techs benefitted from 6 collaboration sessions:

Collaboration session host	Theme
CoLP	Introduced the techs to the work and responsibility of CoLP as well as the system which would be replacing Action Fraud in Q1 2024.
Microsoft	Former RickIQ employee described experiences of acquisition by Microsoft and how they scaled. Microsoft also introduced a range of support offered to tech sector.
DBT	Introduced the support DBT offers the tech sector to export around the world.
Microsoft	Looked at the importance of ensuring products are accessible to the needs of different users.
London and Partners	Explored the support "Grow London" can offer SMEs to scale.
ICO	Introduction to the ICO Innovation Hub and discussion on UK data regulation.

   Although not a Supporting Partner, the team felt that the significance of data in this year's use case warranted engagement with the ICO as this would allow the techs to discuss data sharing and handling requirements directly with the regulator.

6. On 2nd August, the sprint concluded with the closing presentations. These highlighted a variety of the tech's learnings including better understanding of the technical preferences of FS, improved understanding of FS governance and compatibility requirements, an improved understanding of the data CoLP would find most beneficial from businesses and the support on offer for the tech sector to scale and export.

7. Although the sprint has ended there are two final steps to complete before we conclude this project. The first is the showcase event taking place on Tuesday

19th September, Guildhall. The agenda and speakers have been finalised and include a selection of handpicked techs and FS. While the event will be held under Chatham House rules, the team are working on some possible comms to be shared on the day and following the event. The second is the Challenge evaluation which will capture feedback from participants and Supporting Partners collected throughout the Challenge. This is an important tool in identifying the accomplishments and areas of improvement for future iterations. We aim to have the evaluation drafted in early Q4 meaning an update will be available for the next Committee.

Conclusion

The Cyber Innovation Challenge has been a collaborative effort between CoLP and CoLC and has showcased our shared objective to support industry and ensure London and the UK is a safe and secure place to do business. The project created a unique platform for collaboration to explore an ambitious use case and the team now looks forward to welcoming Members to the showcase and sharing findings from the Challenge evaluation.

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