

ECONOMIC CRIME BOARD OF THE POLICE COMMITTEE
Monday, 23 September 2013

Minutes of the meeting of the Economic Crime Board of the Police Committee held
at Committee Rooms, 2nd Floor, West Wing, Guildhall on Monday, 23 September
2013 at 1.45 pm

Present

Members:

Simon Duckworth (Chairman)
Brian Harris
Helen Marshall
Alderman Neil Redcliffe
Deputy Richard Regan

Officers:

Alex Orme	- Town Clerk's Department
Xanthe Couture	- Town Clerk's Department
James Goodsell	- Town Clerk's Department

City of London Police

Adrian Leppard	- Commissioner
Stephen Head	- Commander, Economic Crime
Paul Barnard	- Detective Superintendent

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Mark Boleat.

2. DECLARATIONS BY MEMBERS OF PERSONAL OR PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS IN RESPECT OF ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED AT THIS MEETING

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED – That the public minutes and summary of the meeting held on 7 June 2013 be approved as a correct record.

4. ECONOMIC CRIME UPDATE - NATIONAL FRAUD CAPABILITY PROGRAMME

The Sub Committee received a report of the Commissioner of Police that updated Members on the National Fraud Capability Programme.

National Fraud Investigation Bureau

The Commissioner informed Members of the recent announcement of Action Fraud co-joining with the National Fraud Investigation Bureau (NFIB) which would result in efficiency gains and increased performance.

National Fraud Authority

The closure of the National Fraud Authority (NFA) would be complete and by 1 of April 2013, the transition would be complete to the National Crime Agency (NCA).

The Chairman and officers discussed if there would be impact to staff due to the amalgamation, and there were concerns that the changes could result in negative impacts and NFA staff loss. The Commissioner noted that in the next financial year, there would be options available to examine what its functions should be and had been small in terms of staff numbers as it had operated as a multi-function outsourced call centre. The Chairman remarked that it was important that the Force was aware of the risks and vulnerabilities and articulated these due to the changes.

Members and officers discussed what inherited costs would result from staff integration to which the Commander of Economic Crime advised that risk was low and funding was available to integrate staff and find further efficiencies, many implicated were in management functions who had favourable terms and conditions of employment.

The Chairman remarked that the Force needed to be conscious of the potential decline in government funding for the NCA. The Commissioner advised that there was a dialogue occurring with the Chamberlain's Department on how to mitigate the risk of lower funding for Action Fraud. The Chairman stated that he would send a letter to the NCA advisory board on the capacity of the Force as the national lead for fraud.

Regional Fraud Teams

The Commander of Economic Crime advised that there were £3.5 million available in funds for the development of regional fraud teams ranging in size, which would be a hub and spoke model with the CoLP represented on all the boards. Issues concerning how to manage performance would be addressed through the creation of standards.

A Member queried if staff would be recruited to the Regional Fraud Teams (RFT) who were external to the police forces and it was advised that the recruitment of civilian police investigators was supported and a pool of staff was being used. An additional source of candidates would also potentially be available from the Metropolitan Police Service.

The Chairman requested that Members be notified of the RFT appointments being made. The Commissioner advised that it was not possible for the Force to recruit to these teams due to budgetary constraints, but the Force was able to ensure that intelligence officers in Regional Organised Crime Units (ROCs) were being developed.

The Commander of Economic Crime noted that due to the structure of the relationship between ACPO and the NCA, the Force would coordinate the work of RFTs on behalf of ACPO. Officers discussed that the structure for organised crime teams across the country was complex with many sources of funding and RFTs were needed.

A Member stated that the Force risked being held accountable for all these new areas, and the Chairman agreed, noting that it was important for the Force to document what command responsibilities were being undertaken as cases of fraud continued to grow. He asked if there were new innovative sources of funding available as there could be less traditional sources of funds available. The Commissioner advised that a communications plan was being developed to communicate with different stakeholders on the positive work of the force in its role as the national lead force overseeing the RFTs.

The Commander of Economic Crime noted extensive preparation was taking place in advance of the Economic Crime Awareness Day at the end of October to ensure the programme was fully articulated and that many Police and Crime Commissioners could attend.

5. NATIONAL LEAD FORCE: FIRST QUARTER PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Sub Committee received a report of the Commissioner of Police updating on the first quarter performance of the 2013/14 achievement of the National Lead Force (NLF) against its agreed Key Performance Areas (KPA's) and Key Performance Indicators (KPI's).

The Commander of Economic Crime noted that changes to stakeholder management had occurred that included an enhanced survey process to include a stakeholder workshop. All victims of crime would now receive notification of how details of how their incident of fraud was progressing.

The Commander of Economic Crime advised a much more efficient process had been developed to deal with disruptive actions.

In reply to questions from Members on the National Leader Force Dashboard Quarter 1 2013/14 (p. 17), the Commander remarked that the next quarter results would enable a comparison to be made to the first quarter.

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

There were no questions.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

The following urgent items of business were raised –

The Town Clerk undertook to send upcoming dates of the Sub Committee to a Member of the Sub Committee.

8. 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 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act.

Item No.
9

Exempt Paragraphs
3

9. FRAUD TRAINING ACADEMY: BUSINESS PLAN FOR 2014 TO 2017

The Sub Committee received a report of the Commissioner of Police which presented Members with the draft Fraud Training Academy Business Plan for 2014 to 2016.

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

There were no questions.

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

There were no items of urgent business.

The meeting ended at 3.10 pm

Chairman

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