

Committee(s) Policy and Resources Committee	Dated: 14 December 2017
Subject: Update on CPR Visit to Tel Aviv	Public
Report of: Director of Economic Development	For Information
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Summary

In order to support the development of a City Corporation cyber security strategy the Policy Chairman visited Tel Aviv, Israel in October. The delegation from the Corporation and the City of London Police met with academic centres of excellence, innovators and government to better understand the environment required to combat cyber crime, and promote innovation in the cyber security sector in London. Key themes included maintaining an innovative cyber ecosystem, strengthening cyber skills and promoting trade and investment in the London/UK.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the report.

Background

1. Following cyber-attacks such as Wannacry and the compromise of Deloitte data, the City must act to defend against the growing threat and keep up with the growth of innovation in this market. The City of London is looking to develop a cross-Corporation cyber strategy in order to reflect the current environment within The City. Members therefore gave approval for the Policy Chairman to visit Tel Aviv in order to inform the cyber security strategy. This complemented her visit and meetings in New York (30-31 October).

Main Report

Meetings in Tel Aviv

2. The Chairman met with academics from a Tel Aviv University's academic centre of excellence in cyber security. The Centre performs an important role in investing in technologies to prepare against attacks and is a centre of excellence for research in cyber security. It carries out scientific research and develops skills in this area. The importance of links between academia, government and the private sector was discussed.
3. The Chairman visited several venues set up by international banks that develop the cyber ecosystem in Tel Aviv by hosting research and development and innovation centres. Compulsory military service is key in developing "human capital" in cyber and powers the tech community. Early identification of talent has led to a high level of skilled labour resource in cyber. These international organisations have set-up accelerators and innovation labs in Tel Aviv to access the talent pool, finding solutions by working with and supporting start-ups and

innovators. The centres focus on Fintech and cyber security, with an aim to promote innovation and support Tel Aviv based startups.

4. The Chairman visited an arm of Tel Aviv local government and discussed activities that support the tech community in the city. The parallels and differences between London and Tel Aviv were discussed with a focus on the diversity of talent in both cities.
5. A demonstration of ethical hacking also took place where “ethical hackers” from an innovation lab provided examples of methods cybercriminals use to access the networks of large organisations. This session provided a practical insight into cyber threats and a resulting discussion in the solutions that are available to organisations.
6. A roundtable took place on a more general theme of increasing the flow of capital and talent between Israel and London. A wide range of views was heard from organisations based in Tel Aviv on what Israeli firms may look for in a market to develop cyber security solutions and access global markets. Tel Aviv has resource centres that see the threat of cybercrime as well as the opportunity for innovation and commercialisation.

Conclusion

7. The visit provided valuable insights into how Tel Aviv has generated an innovative ecosystem in cyber security. Meetings with a wide range of stakeholders enabled the Chairman to draw from different viewpoints to gain an understanding of what key players are required to attempt to emulate this ecosystem and inform the cyber security strategy.
8. The Chairman, and delegation from the Corporation and City of London Police developed thinking around how London and the UK can promote an ecosystem that supports innovation and cyber skills with stakeholders in academia, government and the private sector that work in collaboration.

Appendices

None

Background Papers

A paper was submitted to the Policy & Resources committee on 20th October 2017 requesting approval for the Policy Chairman to visit Tel Aviv.

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