

ECONOMIC CRIME BOARD OF THE POLICE COMMITTEE
Wednesday, 28 November 2018

Minutes of the meeting of the Economic Crime Board of the Police Committee held at Committee Rooms, 2nd Floor, West Wing, Guildhall on Wednesday, 28 November 2018 at 1.45 pm

Present

Members:

Nicholas Bensted-Smith (Chairman)
Deputy Keith Bottomley
Deputy Robert Merrett
Benjamin Murphy

Officers:

Simon Latham	- Town Clerk's Department
Oliver Bolton	- Town Clerk's Department
Alistair MacLellan	- Town Clerk's Department
Karen Baxter	- Commander, City of London Police
Peter O'Doherty	- City of London Police
Neil Taylor	- City of London Police

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Deputy Dog Barrow, Simon Duckworth, Andrew Lentin, Deputy Henry Pollard 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

RESOLVED, that the public minutes and non-public summary of the meeting held on 6 July 2018 be approved as a correct record.

The Chairman welcomed Commander Karen Baxter to her first meeting of the Economic Crime Board. Commander Baxter was heard regarding her background and her plans for the Economic Crime Directorate (ECD), on conclusion of which the following points were made.

- A Member commented that, in his view, the pursuit of perpetrators of economic crime was an area for development. The Commander agreed but noted that with over 800k reports of economic crime the ECD needed to ensure its intelligence-led approach to pursuing perpetrators was suitably robust.

- A Member queried whether ECD could review the potential to secure private sector funding from developing tech industries. The Commander agreed, noting that it would be possible for ECD to tap into work that private sector firms were already undertaking.
- A Member noted that the pace of technological change was so fast that it was necessary to ensure there was a triangulation between regulatory bodies, trading standards and the Police to ensure an effective response to economic crime.

4. **OUTSTANDING REFERENCES**

Members considered a report of the Town Clerk regarding outstanding references from previous meetings and the following points were made.

1 – Fraudulent Cryptocurrencies

- In response to an update from the Commissioner noting that advice regarding fraudulent cryptocurrencies had been uploaded on to the City of London Police website, the Chairman requested that this reference be retained for the foreseeable future so that it could be periodically reviewed by the Board (**Reference 1/2017/P**).

2 – Cyber Training

- The Commissioner noted that a training session had been scheduled for 15 December 2018 but had been cancelled on the advice of the Town Clerk (**Reference 2/2017/P**).

3 – Economic Crime Victim Care Unit (ECVU)

- The Chairman noted that this was now a standing agenda item and so this reference could be closed.

The Chairman noted that the following references were on the agenda at that meeting and could therefore be closed.

- 4 – Quarter Date Staff Estimates
- 5 – Demand, outcome and trends report
- 6 – Glossary of Terms
- 7 – Surveys
- 8 – Explanation of recruitment challenges

RESOLVED, that the report be received.

5. **NATIONAL LEAD FORCE PERFORMANCE: FOR THE 6 MONTHS TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2018**

Members considered a report of the Commissioner regarding National Lead Force Performance for the six months to 30 September 2018 and the following points were made.

Pursue

- The Commissioner noted the 15% increase of reported crimes to Action Fraud compared to the previous year and added that this was a positive development as each reported crime added to a more complete intelligence picture. The Force was currently supporting 11,000 victims, undertaking 559 investigations, and monitoring 54 organised crime groups.
- In response to a question from a Member regarding public engagement, the Commissioner replied that work needed to be undertaken to create a clear narrative that economic crime was as much a policing issue as was anti-social behaviour. Moreover, the scale of economic crime was massive – for example, banks often absorbed credit card fraud on behalf of their customers but did not report this as the impact of economic crime.
- A Member referenced a recent report by Which? that noted the scale of economic crime and queried whether the Economic Crime Board had a role in highlighting the issue with central Government. In response, the Commander noted that fraud was a relatively complex and dry subject which meant the narrative around economic crime needed to change. The ECD would be publishing economic crime statistics quarterly and annually and was reaching out to partners such as Police and Crime Commissioners.
- In response to a further question on the role of the Board in shaping that narrative, the Commander noted that this was a discussion item for a future meeting (**Reference 3/2018/P**).
- In response to an observation from a Member that Action Fraud was not as user-friendly as it could be, the Commissioner noted that the new Action Fraud system had gone live six weeks previously with a refreshed dashboard and a function that prompted regular updates for the person or organisation that had reported a crime.
- In response to a comment from a Member, the Commissioner agreed to schedule a session on Action Fraud customer experience (**Reference 4/2018/P**).

Protect

- The Commissioner noted that social media engagement was high and that the Force was undertaking work to ensure security-by-design – for

example the Force had a placement with Microsoft to engineer out any reported software security flaws.

- The Commissioner reported that the CyberGriffin programme involved monthly security briefings for industry, and that a recent survey had demonstrated that 25% of businesses engaged changed their approach to cybersecurity as a result of the programme.

Prepare

- The Commissioner noted that 507 delegates to the Economic Crime Academy (ECA) had a 99% satisfaction rate. The Force was currently recruiting to five posts to the ECA as this was intrinsic to the ECDs overall capability.
- In response to a question from a Member, the Commissioner noted that the Force did employ a number of training partners and agreed to check whether these included City & Guilds (**Reference 5/2018/P**).

Victim Service

- The Commissioner noted that the Force would continue to survey economic crime victims going forward to inform the Force's approach to victim service.
- In response to a question regarding return on investment, the Commissioner noted that the Force had a number of tools to ensure asset recovery, and that assessments could be made regarding the future value of harm prevented by the disruption of criminal activity.
- The Commissioner noted that resourcing was a challenge given the national shortage of trained detectives. A new recruitment process had been implemented which had seen 17 new detectives put in post, with a further 7 in January 2019. There would be a total of 24 detectives in ECD from April 2019. This would be the first time that ECD had achieved full complement.
- The Commissioner noted that there was no Full Time Equivalent (FTE) staff in the Economic Crime Victim Unit (ECVU) due to the fact that only short-term funding had been available to date. There was now a guaranteed funding stream up until 2020. A small number of agency staff provided any required capacity.
- In response to a question from a Member regarding some departments being over-establishment, the Commissioner noted this was where work cover was required.

RESOLVED, that the report be received.

6. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE BOARD**
There were no questions.

7. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT**
There was no other business.
8. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**
RESOLVED, that under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act.
9. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**
RESOLVED, that the non-public minutes of the meeting held on 6 July 2018 be approved as a correct record.
10. **NON-PUBLIC OUTSTANDING REFERENCES**
Members considered a report of the Town Clerk regarding non-public outstanding references from previous meetings.
11. **ECD STAFF NUMBERS AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2018**
Members considered a report of the Commissioner regarding Economic Crime Directorate (ECD) Staff Numbers as at 30 September 2018.
12. **ECONOMIC CRIME ACADEMY UPDATE**
Members considered an update report of the Commissioner regarding the Economic Crime Academy.
13. **ECONOMIC CRIME VICTIM CARE UNIT (ECVCU) UPDATE- AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2018**
Members considered an update report of the Commissioner regarding the Economic Crime Victim Care Unit (ECVU) as at 30 September 2018.
14. **RESTRICTED ACTIVITY UPDATE**
Members considered an update report of the Commissioner regarding Restricted Activity.
15. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE BOARD**
There were no questions.
16. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE BOARD AGREE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED**
There was no other business.

The meeting ended at 3.07 pm

Chairman

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