

CITY OF LONDON POLICE: OFFICIAL - RECIPIENT ONLY

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| Committee: Economic Crime Committee | Date(s): 16 November 2020 |
| Subject: PCC engagement and force accountability | Public |
| Report of: T/Commander Clinton Blackburn and Town Clerk | For information |

1. City of London Police is working with the Home Office to consider what policy tools are available to encourage prioritisation and improve accountability for fraud locally. Areas under review include:
 - a. Engagement with PCCs to increase awareness of fraud, encourage prioritisation and improve local accountability
 - b. Inclusion of fraud in the Strategic Policing Requirement
 - c. Greater focus on fraud through the HMICFRS inspection process
 - d. Strengthen NFIB data shared with local forces and PCCs and improved transparency of that data
 - e. New ministerial governance structures
 - f. New fraud outcomes for policing
2. This report provides an update on planned engagement with Police & Crime Commissioners in the coming months. This aims to help PCCs understand how they can contribute to the fraud response and hold their forces to account. A longer term strategic stakeholder engagement plan is in development and is also linked to the NLF Plan. This will be shared with the Committee following approval through force governance.
3. The Chairman of the Police Authority Board has recently been made the Deputy Lead for the Fraud Portfolio in the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners. He has already begun to use this platform to engage PCCs, speaking at a recent fraud conference hosted by APCC-West Mids OPCC. The ambition is to substantially increase the proactive messaging about the contribution the City of London Police makes to tackling fraud across the UK in their role as National Lead Force for Fraud. The Police Authority has a significant role in this mission and work is already underway to raise the City's profile in this policy area.
4. Below are some examples of immediate upcoming PCC engagement the Force and the Authority have planned:
 - a. 24 November - APCC fraud leads and West Midlands:
 - i. Mackey recommendations
 - ii. Performance dashboards
 - iii. Lead Force Ops Room
 - iv. Op Otello
 - v. West Midlands fraud report

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- b. Late December – all PCCs
 - i. Performance dashboards
 - ii. Local accountability
 - c. End Jan/early Feb – West Mids/APCC follow-up session to last symposium:
 - i. Action Fraud update
 - ii. Reform Programme update
5. The West Midlands Deputy PCC has recently published a report they sponsored on the response to fraud in the UK and this has helped raise interest within local policing on this crime type that is all-too-often neglected at the local level. The City of London Police and the Authority are keen to capitalise on this opportunity of raised awareness, using the APCC to reinforce the message that local forces have a critical role to play in tackling volume fraud. Fraud must be made a priority in PCCs' local police and crime plans for forces to begin to take their investigative responsibilities seriously.
6. Additionally, as part of their report on the response to fraud, the West Midlands Deputy PCC is also proposing establishing a National Fraud Forum bringing together public and private stakeholders (likely launch after PCC elections in May 2021). The Force and the Authority are linking closely with this work to see where they can best support this outreach, particularly to the private sector given the key role they play in the system.
7. Beyond PCCs, the Authority is also looking at opportunities to engage with Government and other Parliamentarians to give a platform for the Force to demonstrate the value they add to wider policing and victims. All too often the agenda is run by negative media stories about Action Fraud and the significant contribution it makes can get side-lined, which can leave the Force and the Authority on the back foot. It is hoped that a more proactive and comprehensive engagement with key stakeholders will help balance this narrative and give a fairer reflection on the impact the Force is having.