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Committee(s)	Dated:
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Introduction

1. This report provides an update on the Economic Crime Academy and provides a picture of the current position.

Current Position

Priority setting

2. A workshop was conducted with representatives from City of London Police and Police Authority in January 2020. This was to consider the future direction of the Academy including their role in the national landscape, priorities and operating and funding model. Next steps are to set this out in a document for further consultation.

Training and impact of Covid-19

3. Face to face training has once again been suspended due to government restrictions. Where possible delegates have been offered the option of virtual delivery where practical. The need to move to online training during lockdown has provided opportunity for the Academy to test how it delivers training which will support the move to a more blended approach to future training delivery.
4. This has included the Fraud Foundation Investigators Programme (FIPP) which is being delivered to Police Staff Investigators across England and Wales under Home Office funding. All participating forces have agreed to virtual delivery of the FIPP and this course is now being delivered as a blended course with virtual sessions and online modules. The Academy has also been approached by the Food Standards Agency to provide a virtual FIPP course in March for their staff.
5. Other courses such as money laundering, bribery investigation, investigative interviewing, online investigators, crypto currency and demystifying cyber-crime are also now being successfully delivered as virtual courses.
6. After careful consideration the two week Specialist Fraud Investigator course aimed at PIP level 2 investigators have been suspended as the length of the course and the amount of work require to redesign the course for virtual delivery

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make it impractical to deliver this remotely at present. This decision is under monthly review.

7. The situation in relation to face-to-face training will be reviewed and risk assessed as changes are made to lockdown restriction and as soon as classroom-based training can safely be delivered it will restart. Initially this is likely to be closed courses for single forces or organisations in their Covid-19 safe training units. As restrictions are eased and it is safe to do so, consideration will be given to recommencing open courses in commercial training venues.
8. The Academy has started work with Regional Organised Crime Units to carry out local training needs assessments to identify likely demand over the coming financial year. This has been successfully piloted with the eastern region.
9. In conjunction with the Government Counter Fraud Profession (GCFP) team at the Cabinet Office and Coventry University, a third of online courses for Future Learn are being developed for delivery in April based on the GCFP Fraud Risk Assessment Standard. This is part of a project funded by Lloyds Bank and is aimed at the creation of an online counter fraud qualification.

International work

10. The Academy has been carrying out a series of 12 virtual training need assessments funded by the International Anti-Corruption Coordination Centre (IACCC) with anti-corruption bodies in overseas jurisdictions regarded as posing a high risk of money laundering such as the Cayman Islands, Gibraltar and the Seychelles. This has resulted in development of training packages to be delivered virtually from March this year.
11. Similarly, the ongoing project funded by the NCA to develop economic crime investigation capacity in Ukraine has continued with virtual delivery of training using a mix of pre-recorded modules and live zoom sessions. In addition, the NCA are now funding the translation of the new fully online version of the Demystifying Cyber training course into Ukrainian for delivery to 180 delegates this year with a further 100 to 200 next financial year.
12. The Academy has continued to provide external quality assurance on behalf of the FCDO for their financial crime capability building programme in Pakistan which is now being delivered virtually.

Conclusion

13. Despite the impact of Covid-19, the Academy has continued to deliver high quality training and generate sufficient income to cover its costs. It is projected to break even this financial year.
14. The pandemic has provided the opportunity for the Academy to develop new online and blended programmes for training delivery now and in the future.