

Committee(s): Police Authority Board	Dated: 27 September 2022
Subject: Commissioner's Update- September 2022	Public
Which outcomes in the <i>City Corporation's Corporate Plan</i> does this proposal aim to impact directly?	1
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N/A
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Report of: Commissioner of Police Pol 78-22	For Information
Report author: Angela McLaren, Commissioner of Police	

Summary

At the April Police Authority Board, it was agreed that the Commissioner's verbal updates would now be presented to the Board as formal written updates.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to note the report.

Police Authority Board – Commissioner’s Verbal Update – 27/9/22

Public Update – Commissioner

Operation London Bridge

- With the sad passing of Her Majesty the Queen, the City of London Police mobilised as part of Op London Bridge. Part of the early focus of the operation occurred in the City of London itself and a number of staff and officers have proudly supported this. Work continues supporting the wider London Operation.

Minister Changes

- Due to the new Prime Minister being successful in her campaign there has been a cabinet reshuffle resulting in changes to the Security Minister and Policing Minister. Details are still to be formalised. Efforts will be made to engage with both so that they have a good understanding of the work the City of London Police carry out and lead on locally and nationally in the Economic and Cybercrime space.

New Chief Operating Officer (COO)

- Mari Ladu joined the Chief Officer Team as COO in August. Mari began her career in the private sector, working for large international organisations such as the Financial Times and Air France. She moved into the public sector in 2013 where she worked as a senior consultant in local government for several years. More recently, Mari worked for both the NHS and as part of an executive team in the independent healthcare sector. Mari specialises in leading and transforming corporate services and is passionate about developing people and improving processes and services to provide better outcomes for the public. We are very pleased to have her with us.

Public Update – Operations and Security

Counter Terrorism

- A Prevent seminar is running in November for key City community members and partners promoting the Prevent scheme. Keynote speakers include Nichola Benyahia, whose son became radicalised before traveling to Syria and losing his life, and Mike Shoemsmith who was at the Borough Market/London Bridge attacks and now campaigns for countering extremism
- Our Counter Terrorism Security Advisors (CTSAs), who provide advice and guidance on all aspects of CT protective security participated in Op Sentry which was a joint working exercise led by the Security Industry Authority involving emergency services, licensed premises and security stakeholders. Two terrorist attacks were simulated to test the on-site response. CTSAs provided feedback and learning at the conclusion of the exercises.

Local Policing Task Force

- Operation Niven continues to lower occurrences of phone snatch offences utilising a joint Protect, Prepare, Prevent & Pursue strategy under a designated command structure. Our Pro-active Crime Team are leading the way with multiple arrests and investigative leads.
- Public Order resources from our Support Group were deployed throughout London as part of Op Benbow in support of the policing operation for Just Stop Oil and XR protests.

Sector Policing

- Our latest Operation Reframe which focuses on policing our night-time economy and vulnerability was held on 25th August. 27 licensed premises were visited, and medical attention was provided to injured members of the public and two vulnerable individuals. We worked alongside several partner agencies who were visited by over 50 members of the public at our hub outside Liverpool Street Station. The introduction of a drugs dog discovered 4 persons in possession of drugs
- On Thursday 21st July officers deployed at the Beech Street/Aldersgate Street junction addressing poor road user behaviour (namely cyclists and e-scooter riders on pavements and going through the lights at pedestrian crossings) as this has been raised by residents as a concern.

- Dedicated Ward Officer's continue efforts under Op Luscombe to support homeless persons to reduce begging and associated anti-social behaviour.

Professionalism & Trust

- Work continues on the National Race Action Plan and VAWG plan.
- AC Betts is currently chairing a Gold Group in response to our heavy demand on vetting caused by recruitment in a number of areas including the national police officer uplift.
- Armed Forces Recognition - We are proud that the work we have done to date supporting and recognising our armed forces and veterans in CoLP has been recognised with the Bronze award from the Ministry of Defence Employer Recognition Scheme and we will continue to work towards the level of Silver and Gold.

Police Uplift

- CoLP headcount is currently 924. There have been 7 leavers in August (6 retirements and 1 voluntary resignation).
- The uplift continues to go well, but there are still significant challenges. The plan is being reprofiled to take account of these and the fact that we are approaching our half-way point through the year.

Notable Work

- A suspect for an attempted murder has been charged and remanded. The suspect allegedly drove a vehicle at people following an altercation in a nightclub.
- A suspect who allegedly stabbed a homeless male in the neck has been charged and remanded.
- On 5th August, a suspect was arrested who allegedly had over 6000 images of women and female children he had taken on the street. He has been charged with a number of offences. Officers worked through the night to get him charged and to court the next day where he was remanded in custody
- On 27th August, the Pro-active Crime Team (PCT) and MPS arrested a prolific offender at an address who was found in possession of 17 mobile phones, with two of these linked to phone snatches in the City. They were also charged and remanded.
- On 4th September, the PCT arrested 3 suspects at an address after tracking a stolen mobile phone, 187 further phones were recovered. Further information linked suspects to a mobile phone shop in Hackney where several hundred more phones were seized

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Public Update – National Lead Force

Notable Work/Media

National Co-Ordinator's office

- The PECTS(Proactive Economic Crime Teams based in the regions) are now well underway. Seven are up and running and there have now been 13 charges brought by the teams, with the Eastern Region being particularly productive.
- The City Police has submitted several bids alongside partners to the Economic Crime Levy, a government fund to finance work and new ideas combatting economic crime and money laundering. Amongst these bids are plans for a new anti-corruption unit, a money laundering support unit that will improve the management of seized (non-cash) assets, and a significant contribution to the anti-money laundering programme to support an uplift in the regional networks and central intelligence resources to drive and combat money mule activity. This work has also seen close collaboration with the National Crime Agency (NCA), Home Office and the NECC (National Economic Crime Centre) in order recruit, train and retain financial investigators. Whilst we await the outcome of the bids, we are working with other agencies to ensure any increases in capacity and capability will work collaboratively and improve the overall effectiveness of the system.
- The force is working with the NECC to develop a new People Strategy which is focussing on recruiting and retaining trained staff to meet the increasing demands.

National Lead Force (NLF)

- Operation Downburst, a £20million investment fraud with 400 victims has been charged and has a trial date in mid-2023. This will be a significant trial and likely to attract media attention.
- Assistance was provided to Surrey Police in relation to a case involving 180+ victims, Surrey Police could not facilitate adequate victim care and the City Police Victim Care Unit stepped in to assist with safeguarding.

Dedicated Card and Payment Crime Unit (DCPCU)

- The team successfully convicted an individual who was running an online system that was supplying criminals with the ability to harvest victim information in the course of frauds. It was believed this person was the facilitator in hundreds of frauds against individuals. They received four years and eight months custodial sentence.

Insurance Fraud Enforcement Dept (IFED)

- A male was convicted of a complex £75k insurance fraud that targeted 6 different insurance companies in a travel fraud. He received 16 months custody.

Police Intellectual Property Crime Unit (PIPCU)

- Op Stirling is a very high-profile hacking case which involved A-List global music artists and 4500 digital drop boxes being hacked and unreleased music stolen and sold. The case saw US law enforcement assist the team and large amounts of industry attention. The defendant is now awaiting sentencing.
- Op Bloxwich – World Cup 2022, engagements commence with the Intellectual Property Office (IPO), border force and brands involved in the world cup to arrange activity to protect UK brands at risk from IP crime related to the world cup.

ACTION FRAUD

- Detective Chief Superintendent Shaw is meeting with the PCC lead for Economic Crime and Fraud, Mark Shelford, to discuss Action Fraud and NFIB assessment criteria and the plans and progression of the new Action Fraud platform.
- The procurement process is now in the very final stages of reviewing the bids. A result is now expected in November at the latest.
- Action Fraud Call Handlers- Current Situation- Director of Service Delivery for FCCRAS will give a verbal update at the PAB with a fully up to date position in the Non-Public session.

National Economic Crime Victim Care Unit (NEVCU)

- The NEVCU has secured funding to expand the level 2 service (support vulnerable victims) from April 2023. Force engagement on a national basis is ongoing.

National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB)

- NFIB Cyber is moving to a daily review of allegations of crime from 12th September 2022. This will improve the delays between reporting/recording and dissemination. Reports will now be reviewed within one day instead of seven.
- NFIB Crime is baselining the volume of crimes which have a vulnerability element and then matching this to solvability criteria to prioritise cases for review, and where appropriate, disseminate for action. This also includes vulnerability assessments for Modern Slavery and Children's Act principles as a second new feature.

Notable Work/Media

- IFED has launched a travel fraud campaign to educate the public. This will end in a period of enforcement activity in September.
- Representative of IFED was interviewed on BBC One's This Morning in mid-July.
- DCPCU is soon to appear on the BBC 'Big Little Crimes' programme and also BBC Defenders having completed filming for them.

Angela McLaren
Commissioner
City of London Police