

Committee(s): Economic & Cyber Crime Committee	Dated: 27 January 2023
Subject: Communications & Strategic Engagement: Quarterly Update	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	1
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N
If so, how much?	£-
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Joint report of: Commissioner of Police & Town Clerk & Chief Executive Pol 10-23	For Information
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Summary

This report sets out a summary of key strategic meetings and events that have taken place between November 2022 and January 2023 which support the Policing Plan's operational priority of protecting the UK from the threat of economic and cyber crime. This report also produces a list of planned upcoming events over the next quarter and moving into 2023 for Members' information.

This update report follows the Stakeholder Engagement Plan approved by this committee at its last meeting, which aims to achieve the following:

- a. Recognition of the value of City of London Police's role as the national policing lead for economic and cyber crime
- b. Improved confidence in the national fraud and cyber reporting service and understanding of the roles of Action Fraud, policing and other organisations in improving outcomes for victims
- c. Prevention of economic and cyber crime through legislative and regulatory reforms and security measures undertaken by industry and the public
- d. Improved policing capacity and capability to tackle economic and cyber crime.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.

Main Report

Background

1. Following the launch of the City of London Policing Plan 2022-2025, the Police Authority Board requested a communications and engagement plan to underpin the operational priorities. Alongside this, a commitment was made to the Economic & Cyber Crime Committee for a stakeholder plan for that particular area.
2. Members of the Economic & Cyber Crime Committee approved this communications and engagement plan at its last meeting on 13 May 2022. As a reminder, the strategic outcomes of this engagement plan are to achieve the following:
 - e. Recognition of the value of City of London Police's role as the national policing lead for economic and cyber crime
 - f. Improved confidence in the national fraud and cyber reporting service and understanding of the roles of Action Fraud, policing and other organisations in improving outcomes for victims
 - g. Prevention of economic and cyber crime through legislative and regulatory reforms and security measures undertaken by industry and the public
 - h. Improved policing capacity and capability to tackle economic and cyber crime.

Current Position

3. Listed below are the key strategic meetings and events which have helped to contribute towards the strategic outcomes listed above. These events are highlighted in the table below with a short summary of key thematic outcomes.

Engagement, Date	Which strategic outcome (see para 2) did this engagement link to?	Key outcomes
Fraud Briefing to PCC nationally (online). 22 November	A, B, C	Briefing to PCC nationally outlining the fraud threat and response.
Strategic Policing Partnership Board 23 November	A, B, C, D	Joint paper with the NECC presented to strategic policing partners outlining fraud threat and plans under the fraud strategy.
Visit to CoLP by Nicky Aikin MP 24 November	A, B, C	Briefing to MP highlighting work of CoLP
Commissioner visit to New York Elderado Taskforce and DA Office 27 November	A	Visit to NY to secondees and also to stakeholders in New York.
SOCEX Economic Crime Conference, 28 November	A, D	Opened and hosted by NLF and partners. Briefings given to LE audience regarding fraud threats and response and upcoming strategy.
Public Accounts Committee – AC O’Doherty, 1 December	A, B, C	AC O’Doherty joined NCA DG and Director of Economic Crime HO for a PAC Hearing on fraud response.
National ROCU Executive Board 14 December	A,D	Briefing ROCU leads on fraud threats and uplifted response
FCCRAS Executive Partnership Board – first meeting	B	Initial board with selected suppliers.

Strategic Parliamentary Engagement

4. **Online Safety Bill** – After a long break, proceedings resumed on 5 December 2022 following an announcement that controversial measures regulating “legal but harmful” content online were to be dropped. In their stead, a “triple shield” will be introduced to tackle harmful content, where online platforms should remove content that is illegal, should remove content that violates the online platform’s terms of service and will be placed under an obligation to offer users the functionality to control their exposure to content such as legal forms of abuse and hatred. The City’s main interest in the Bill, provisions relating to online scams and fraudulent advertising, remain unchanged given they are illegal content.
5. **Economic Crime and Transparency Bill** - The Bill has progressed through committee stage in the Commons quickly with MPs keen to see the Bill on the

statute books soon, given concerns illegal activities by Russian entities in light of the country's invasion of Ukraine. It is yet to be seen whether further reforms, including a "failure to prevent" economic crime offence for businesses, will be brought forward. Assistant Commissioner Pete O'Doherty of met with Dame Margaret Hodge (Lab), a member of the Bill Committee, in November to discuss economic crime and expressed the City Police's support for the Bill. The City Police also submitted evidence to the Bill Committee in support of the proposed legislation. The Bill is being reported separately to the Police authority Board, for information.

6. **National Security Bill** – The Bill is currently in Committee. The breadth of Elements of the Bill covering a new Foreign Interference Registration Scheme have prompted some concern among City businesses.
7. **Financial Services and Markets Bill** – the Opposition tabled amendments to the Bill calling for a new fraud strategy. The amendments were never expected to make it into the Bill and were only ever intended as a vehicle for the Opposition to press for more Government action. Ministers were able to rebut the amendments by saying a new Fraud Strategy is due very soon.
8. **Public Accounts Committee** - Assistant Commissioner Pete O'Doherty's oral evidence given to the Public Accounts Committee on 1 December. AC O'Doherty spoke alongside Matthew Rycroft CBE, Permanent Secretary at the Home Office, Graeme Biggar CBE, Director General at National Crime Agency and Duncan Tessier, Director for Economic Crime at the Home Office. The oral evidence session was prompted by the findings of the National Audit Office report "Progress combatting fraud" which highlighted the "increasing and evolving" nature of fraud but expressed disappointment with the Home Office that the "number of frauds resulting in a charge or summons is falling" and questioned the department's understanding of the extent of fraud and the resources committed to tackling the problem.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

9. Strategic implications – The City of London Policing Plan aligns with the City Corporation's Corporate Plan objectives 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12. The development of this strategic stakeholder plans underpinning the objectives of the Policing Plan allows for better strategic and coordinated engagement with key stakeholders by the Force and plugs into the work being undertaken by the City of London Corporation.
10. Financial implications – None.
11. Resource implications – This work has shown that there are resource gaps within the Force to be able to fully manage the stakeholder engagement work. A Strategic Engagement Officer has started within CoLC but vacancies remain on the CoLP side.
12. Legal implications – None.

13. Risk implications – Implementing this strategic stakeholder engagement plan helps to mitigate against the Corporate Force Risk of “Loss of public confidence in professionalism and trust with Force”.
14. Equalities implications – This report complies with the Public Sector Equality Duty 2010 and has no negative impact on people protected by existing equality legislation. Arguably, stakeholder work with communities should allow for a positive impact on people protected by the Equality Act.
15. Climate implications – None.
16. Security implications – None.

Conclusion

17. This report sets out the key highlights of the communications, engagement and parliamentary progress to support the Policing Plan operational priority of protecting the UK from the threat of economic and cyber crime. It also sets out a list of upcoming and planned events over the next quarter for Members to note.

Appendices

- None

Background Papers

- Stakeholder Engagement Plan – Economic & Cyber Crime Committee (for decision) – 13 May 2022

Media Coverage

- The Metropolitan Police announced that it had taken down an international scam website in the UK’s biggest fraud operation with support from partners including CoLP. The press announcement included a statement from Cmdr Nik Adams, which was published in the [Independent](#), [City AM](#) and [Police Professional](#). Cmdr Adams was interviewed on [Sky News](#) and [Times Radio](#) (from 13 min 55 sec), while Metropolitan Police Commissioner Sir Mark Rowley named CoLP as one of the operation’s supporting partners on [BBC Radio Four](#).
- Officers from PIPCU seized counterfeit football shirts worth an estimated loss to the industry of £500,000 in a series of raids across the country. A press announcement, which included a quote from PIPCU’s DS Matthew Hussey, received coverage in [BBC News](#), [Sky News](#), [ITV](#), [Telegraph](#), [Independent](#), [World IP Review](#), [The Times \(print\)](#), [Mirror \(print\)](#) and others.
- Advice issued by Action Fraud to help the public shop online safety during the festive period was circulated in the [Independent](#), [Daily Mail](#) and [LBC](#).
- [Mail Online](#), [Daily Express \(print\)](#), [Wales Online](#), [Yahoo!](#), [MyLondon](#) and others reported that a romance fraudster who conned four women out of £320,000 was sentenced to 12 years imprisonment following an investigation by the DCPCU. A/DCI David Vint was quoted.

- PIPCU raided a factory responsible for mass-producing counterfeit designer goods under what officers believe to be exploitative conditions. A statement from DCI Gary Robinson was published in [Manchester Evening News](#), [MyLondon](#), [BBC News](#) and [ITV News](#).
- This week, a man who tried to fraudulently claim £600,000 in life insurance payments was jailed following an investigation by IFED. A press announcement, featuring a quote from DC Ian Cambridge, received coverage from [BBC News](#), [ITV News](#), [Mail Online](#) and several trade publications.
- A statement issued by AC Pete O'Doherty around CoLP's work to help the public protect themselves against fraud was printed in the [Mirror](#).
- Cmdr David Lawes was awarded an OBE in the King's New Year Honours for his services to policing. News of the award featured in [BBC News](#), [Metro](#), [i News](#), [The Times \(print\)](#) and [Telegraph \(print\)](#).
- AC Pete O'Doherty issued a statement in response to an article published in the [Telegraph](#), on comments made by a deputy High Court judge alleging that the majority of crimes perpetrated by "professional fraudsters" were not investigated. AC O'Doherty's statement, which said that fraud remains our policing priority and highlighted CoLP's response to fraud, was added to the article.
- A press announcement, issued by CoLP after a former Premier League footballer was jailed for seven-and-a-half years for defrauding family and friends out of £15 million, received widespread coverage including [BBC News](#), [Sky News](#), [ITV News](#), [Guardian](#), [Telegraph](#), [Independent](#), [Daily Mail](#) and several regional titles. DC Claire Sandford-Day, from Fraud Operations, was quoted.
- PIPCU's DCI Gary Robinson was quoted in [ITV News](#), [Independent](#), [Express](#), [The Sun](#), [Mirror](#), [Daily Star](#), [Daily Mail](#), [Metro](#), [LADbible](#) and several others after CoLP contributed to a partner agency's press announcement on the risks associated with using illegal streaming services.

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