

Committee(s): Economic & Cyber Crime Committee	Dated: 11/05/2023
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	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

2. 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.
3. 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:
 - 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.

Current Position

4. 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 SGG meet. The main Economic Crime Policing Board. 24/1/23	A, B, C	Briefing to forces nationally outlining the fraud threat and response.
Association of Police and Crime Commissioners	A, B, C	Update and engagement with PCCs
National Cyber Awards – Commissioner, 28/4/23	A, B, C	Visible leadership and recognition of cyber work across the UK.
Global Cyber Alliance advisory Group 31/1/23	A, B, C	Engagement with crucial private sector cyber stakeholders.
Electoral Fraud reduction seminar. 3/2/23	A, B, C	Engagement for the Electoral fraud and security NPCC portfolio
NCRCG Ambassador group meeting.10/2/23	A, B, C	Routine engagement with the ambassador group.
National Cyber Crime Unit deputy director visit with Cmdr Adams.16/2/23	A,B, C	Vital partnership building visit with NCCU.
Heads of ROCU tactical meeting. 22/2/23	A, B, C	Leadership and updates with ROCU heads for fraud issues.
TCUK conference, Cmdr Adams 28/2/23	A, B, C	Cyber conference organised by NPCC cyber team.
Strategic Asset Recovery Group – 8/3/23	A, B, C	A mostly Police national group with leadership by Cmdr Adams under his portfolio leadership.
Australian Federal Police visit, AC O’Doherty, high level engagement. 13/2/23	A, B, C	High level visit from Australian police, general engagement and learning.
Visit to Ghana to cement cross learning and intelligence sharing. Cmdr Adams – 13/3/23	A, B, C, D	Especially relevant to ongoing academy courses.
Keynote speech, OECD illicit trade conference. AC O’Doherty, 16/2/23	A, B, C, D	Paris, large speaking event.

FCCRAS Executive Partnership Meeting, Chris Bell, 23/2/23	A, B	Routine stakeholder for FCCRAS
All NLF COT – DCPCU 21 st Anniversary – 29/3/23	A, B, C	Large informal event with stakeholders and funders.
Economic Crime Congress, keynote speech.	A, B, C	Large event with CoLP key speaker to stakeholders, private and public sector.
Cmdr Adams, attend launch of global elections security report. 4/4/23	A, B	Event for networking for NPCC elections lead.
AC O’Doherty speaks at Crime prevention Association 20/4/23	A, B,	Keynote speaking at stakeholder event.
SOCSOG fraud meeting	A, B, C	Fraud SOCSOG – Presentation to the Security Minister
‘City Breakfast’ speech to influential City finance group with Sir Jeremy Fleming.	A, B, C	Community engagement event

Note: The Home Secretary has asked for a monthly update from PAB and CoLP to report on policing successes, challenges, and ideas. This is currently being formulated by the PA and CoLP team and once finalised, will be included in the next engagement list.

Strategic Parliamentary Engagement

5. **Financial Services and Markets Bill** - The Bill has finally completed Committee stage in the House of Lords, having begun in January. Committee stage saw repeated attempts by peers on all sides, most prominently by former DExEU Minister Lord Bridges of Headley (Con), to introduce greater scrutiny of financial services regulators. In Bridges’ case this was through the introduction of an ‘Office for Financial Regulatory Accountability’. All such moves were successfully resisted by the Government. It remains open to Bridges and others to make a further attempt at the next Lords stage, Report, but the Bill’s ultimate passage to the Statute Book is unlikely to be impeded. Attention will shortly turn towards the implementation of the Bill’s provisions through statutory instruments once completes its parliamentary stages.
6. **Economic Crime and Transparency Bill** – The Bill is currently in Committee in the House of Lords. Despite assurances that measures will be brought forward to address the need for a “failure to prevent” economic crime offence for businesses, this has yet to materialise at the time of writing. However, this may be attributed to procedural considerations, rather than a change of policy.
7. **National Security Bill** – The Bill, which replaces existing counter-espionage laws with a framework for countering hostile state activity, faced resistance regarding provisions introducing a foreign influence registration scheme (FIRS) and the potential impacts of this on business. Government amendments introduced in the Lords to place a new requirement for the registration with the Home Office on a

public register of any “political influence activities” by or on behalf of a “foreign principal” came as a surprise to many in the financial and professional services sector. Following engagement between the Home Office and sector representatives, the Government brought forward amendments at Report stage to reduce the scope of the scheme. The Home Office minister, Lord Sharpe of Epsom (Con), explained that the amended approach to FIRS is to “...clarify the intent of the enhanced tier” of the scheme “...to ensure the tier remains proportionate, while achieving its national security objectives.” He confirmed that “...the enhanced tier of FIRS is a targeted regime, allowing the Secretary of State to require the registration of arrangements with specified foreign Governments or entities subject to foreign power control where she believes it is necessary to protect the safety or interests of the United Kingdom”. The amendments, granting the Home Secretary power to make regulations specifying which activities or specified persons are subject to the provisions of the Bill, were then agreed by Peers.

8. **Data Protection and Digital Information (No. 2) Bill** – This Bill was introduced in the Commons on 8 March and is scheduled for Second Reading on 17 April. It replaces the Data Protection and Digital Information Bill, which was introduced in July last year but made no further progress. There are no fundamental changes in policy approach. The Bill aims to make data protection legislation easier for businesses to navigate by reducing the administrative burden of compliance.
9. **Online Safety Bill** – A victim of legislative congestion, the Bill has made no progress since the last update, however Committee stage in the Lords has now been scheduled for 25 April.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

10. 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.
11. Financial implications – None.
12. 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.
13. Legal implications – None.
14. 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”.
15. 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.

16. Climate implications – None.

17. Security implications – None.

Conclusion

18. 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

- Action Fraud's prevention advice on money mule scams was shared by [The Times](#), while further advice on ticket fraud was circulated by the [Sun](#).
- 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.
- DI David Vint, from the DCPCU, discussed the unit's investigation into a man who provided criminals with access to computer software for fraudulent purposes on BBC One's [Big Little Crimes](#).
- DCI Gary Robinson was interviewed on [Defenders UK](#) (BBC One), where he discussed the DCPCU's work to identify a man involved in sending large-scale 'smishing' text campaigns to members of the public.
- Several publications including the [Mirror](#), [Standard](#) and [Coventry Telegraph](#), featured the sentencing of a Clint Canning, a fraudster who ran a £2.7million investment scam and has been jailed for nine years. DI Gareth Dothie, from the Fraud Operations team, was quoted in the articles.
- Commander Nik Adams was featured in a [Sunday Telegraph](#) piece on the £30million drive to fight fraud, a crime making up 30 per cent of offences. This story was also published in the [Daily Mail](#).
- PIPCU and its partners executed a series of raids across the country as part of a crackdown on the supply of illegal streaming services. A press announcement, which included a quote from DCI Gary Robinson, received coverage in the [Sun](#), [Express](#), [Independent](#), [Police Professional](#), [Advanced Television](#) and others.

- DCI Gary Robinson was quoted in [The Mirror](#) in relation to a nationwide operation by PIPCU, with the cooperation of Sky, which shut down a number of illegal streaming providers who were broadcasting Sky content without permission.
- DI Philip Corcoran was quoted in the [Daily Mail](#), the [Independent](#), [ITV](#), and [Evening Standard](#) discussing the dangers associated with 'clip for cash' scams. IFED and the Insurance Fraud Bureau (IFB) have recently said they have seen a rise in the scam as criminals clip wing mirrors and demand cash up front to cover the damage. The quote was also used extensively in regional coverage nationwide.
- AC Pete O'Doherty featured in Panarama on 13 March [BBC One - Panorama, Cops, Cash and Fraudsters](#)

Media interviews in progress

- It is anticipated that there will be a high number of media engagement interviews following the launch of the National Fraud Strategy on 3 May.

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