

Committee(s): Police Authority Board	Dated: 25 October 2023
Subject: National Business Crime Portfolio- National Business Crime Centre	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation’s Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	1- People are safe and feel safe
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 109-23	For Discussion
Report author: Supt Patrick Holdaway, National Business Crime Portfolio	

Summary

The City of London Police (CoLP) has held the responsibility for the National Police Chief’s Council (NPCC) Business Crime Portfolio since January 2020. Assistant Commissioner Paul Betts is the NPCC Lead and the National Business Crime Centre (NBCC) falls under his portfolio.

In September 2023 a new NPCC lead for shop theft was appointed, T/ACC Alex Goss from North Wales Police, to recognise the particular challenges around retail crime; the NBCC will support T/ACC Goss with his portfolio.

The National Business Crime Centre (NBCC) represents UK policing when engaging with business. Its primary purpose is:

1. Partnership – Improve partnership with business and Police nationally
2. Intelligence – Improve business crime intelligence and information exchange
3. Prevention – Assist business to protect themselves from crime

The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an update of the work of the NBCC since its last paper in June 2023.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to note the report.

Main Report

Background

1. The City of London Police (CoLP) has held the responsibility for the National Police Chief's Council (NPCC) Business Crime Portfolio since January 2020. Under the portfolio, the National Business Crime Centre (NBCC) was launched in October 2017. The National Business Crime Centre (NBCC) represents UK policing when engaging with business
2. The NBCC update was last provided to Members at the June 2023 Police Authority Board.

Current Position

3. Since the last report, the NBCC has been working to develop its second national week of action. Delivered under the heading of Safer Business Action Week, the week will run from the 16th October 2023 and will see police forces from across the country deliver a range of activities to prevent crime and target offenders.
4. Activities include police forces running Safer Business Action Days, which is a joint approach by police, business, private security, Business Crime Reduction Partnerships (BCRPs) and Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) working in partnership to focus resources into designated location to create a significant impact to reduce crime. Other activities include targeting outstanding retail crime suspects and delivering crime prevention events.
5. The week will be supported by a number of videos from senior police and retailers highlighting the importance of the week of action. The NBCC has also worked the Association of Convenience Stores to run the ShopKind campaign the same week, providing an opportunity for retailers to play a role.
6. Retail crime as a topic has featured heavily in the media with calls for a stronger police response to shop theft and violence against shopworkers. The NBCC has already designed a wide range of guidance and training to support retailers, which is freely available on our website.
7. In support of the call for action the NBCC has been involved in various meetings with the policing minister, senior retailers and police to develop solutions. The NBCC are currently working with the College of Policing to develop new guidance for both police and retailers, setting expectations, raising standards all with the aim to improve the response to business crime and protect businesses and their staff.
8. One of the other initiatives the NBCC is working on is around creating safe spaces in retail. Unlike the night time economy there is no formal safe spaces programme yet many retailers wanted to support their local communities to protect those who at times feel vulnerable.

9. The NBCC has reviewed all the various safe spaces schemes across different sectors and developed a best practice guide. The document has been peer reviewed by various business groups from frontline practitioners to health and safety groups, to create a one stop guide for retailers who wish to set up their own safe space scheme.
10. The NBCC has then worked with Tesco to develop a short video and branding under the title of 'Operation Portum – creating safe spaces in retail. The objective is to extend the initiative into other areas such hotels, hospitality, banking etc.
11. The point of Operation Portum is that the NBCC want to ensure that retailers are prepared to deal with incidents where someone feels vulnerable, it is up to the retailer if they wish to publicly declare themselves a safe space, although many wish to. By way of example, Tesco have updated the screens on their ATM machines to say that all their stores are now safe spaces.
12. In addition to Tesco Operation Portum has the support of Sainsbury's, Asda, Boots, Morrisons and Next, providing over 10,000 safe space locations across the UK. The Scheme will be officially launched in October where that number is expected to increase.
13. The guidance is attached at Appendix A and the video is available on the NBCC website - [Safe Spaces \(nbcc.police.uk\)](https://www.nbcc.police.uk)
14. Also attached at Appendix B is the September Issue of the NBCC Newsletter for Members information and interest.

Conclusion

15. The NBCC continues to demonstrate its importance in supporting the response to Business Crime nationally in what is an area of increasing threat. The City of London Police as national portfolio lead is key to promoting this asset to stakeholders in the City of London.

Appendices

Appendix A -Operation Portum Guidance

Appendix B- NBCC Newsletter

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