

Committee(s): Economic & Cyber Crime Committee	Dated: 9/11/2023
Subject: Innovation & Growth – Update of Cyber & Economic Crime related activities	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation’s Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	1, 6, 7
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	No
What is the source of Funding?	NA
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Summary

The core objective of Innovation & Growth (IG) is to strengthen the UK’s competitiveness as the world’s leading global hub for financial and professional services (FPS). This includes promoting the strengths of the UK’s offer and enhancing the UK’s position as a leader in FPS technology and innovation.

The following report summarises the activity that has been taking place across IG in relation to cyber and economic crime, as well as cross-team working between IG and the City of London Police (CoLP) since the ECCC last convened in September 2023. The report includes examples of collaboration between CoLP and CoLC as well as updates on the Cyber Innovation Challenge.

Links to the Corporate Plan

1. The activities set out in this report help deliver against the Corporate Plan’s aim to support a thriving economy. This includes outcome 6c - to lead nationally and advise internationally on the fight against economic and cybercrime. It also supports outcome 7, positioning the UK as a global hub for innovation in financial and professional services.

Main Report

Innovation & Growth/City of London Police cross-team working

2. We continue to use this report to review those activities which demonstrate the benefits of IG and CoLP collaboration to make the UK the safest place in the world to do business. IG continues to look for ways to promote the activity of CoLP and support their work as part of our wider stakeholder engagement.

Collaboration

3. On 27th September, CoLC and the FCA hosted an economic crime themed panel at Guildhall for the joint “Authorised Push Payment (APP) Synthetic Data Launch” event. The panel was titled “A tour d’horizon of APP Fraud: Enforcement and

policing” and featured panellists including Paul Maskall, DCPCU. The panel, which explored the evolving APP Fraud landscape with a focus on typologies, enforcement and policing, received positive feedback from attendees.

4. CoLC engaged with CoLP on security requirements for the AI for Innovation Dinner hosted in partnership with the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology at Guildhall on 30th October. A senior representative from CoLP was invited to the dinner as was the Chair of the Police Authority Board.
5. IG is in the process of engaging with CoLP on a draft report on anti-money laundering and beneficial ownership. A call is being set up and is expected to be held in the coming month.

Promotion of CoLP activity

6. On 5th September Lord Mayor Nicholas Lyons addressed guests at the 40th annual Cambridge Economic Crime Symposium. The Lord Mayor referenced the role of CoLP as the national lead force as well as CoLP’s work establishing the new National Fraud Squad in partnership with the National Economic Crime Centre.

Innovation & Growth activity

Cyber Innovation Challenge 2.0

1. The Cyber Innovation Challenge (CIC) sprint ran from 20th June-2nd August. The project provided a unique opportunity for financial and professional services (FPS) and tech companies with innovative tech solutions to collaborate to develop tech solutions addressing a security priority for the FPS sector. On the 19th the CIC, which had been a partnership between CoLC and CoLP concluded on 19th September with the showcase event at Guildhall.
2. The team were delighted to welcome over 80 attendees from across the cyber tech ecosystem including cyber businesses, regulators, FPS, Big Tech and more. Guests were introduced to the Challenge before hearing first hand from participants. Key takeaways from the event included:
 - The benefits of interacting with vendors early on allows you to influence solutions at concept stage. This allows them to better reflect your business needs.
 - Valuable for the techs to gain validation of their concept from FPS sector. For startups, exposure to key players across FPS was also extremely advantageous.
 - Some Supporting Partners had not expected the wide variety of solutions to one use-case.
 - Participating “broadened the product roadmap” for techs, allowing them to incorporate considerations, solutions and steps that had not previously been considered.
3. The next step will be to evaluate the Challenge based on feedback from participating techs, FPS and Supporting Partners as well as general engagement

figures. This is currently underway, however some initial findings can be found below.

FPS participants

4. 4 of the 5 FPS participants provided feedback on the Challenge. The majority reported achieving what they'd hoped to by participating in the Challenge. This included being able to express what they wanted to see in a solution and work with the direct stakeholders of businesses to see this come to fruition as well as gaining a deeper understanding of participants capabilities and future roadmaps. We were pleased to see that all 4 respondents would recommend participating in the Challenge.

Tech participants

5. 6 of the 7 tech participants provided feedback on the Challenge. Asked if they had achieved what they'd hoped to by participating in the CIC, 3 responded yes, 1 said they had achieved aspects not initially factored in and 2 responded they had not. Reasons given by these 2 techs were that there had not been synthetic data available to properly test their solution as well as some confusion about the offer of a pilot with FPS. Feedback on the extent to which product development was accelerated varied with 3 saying the CIC had accelerated their solutions by 6 months. All 6 techs felt the CIC had strengthened their understanding of the needs of FS and would recommend participating in the CIC. Additional feedback highlighted that the CIC had been "incredibly valuable" for the "growth" of companies and that it had provided "additional steps" to "improve" customer experience.

Supporting Partners

6. We received positive feedback from Supporting Partners such as the exposure to emerging technologies had been welcomed as had the opportunity to engage directly with the techs and share learnings. Commenting on how this Challenge compared to last years, Partners said:
 - this year had a "greater number and larger variety of collaboration sessions for participants".
 - There was "deeper collaboration between the techs and the FSIs" and "stronger partnerships."
 - A "broader range of companies" participated in what was "a more accessible challenge this year."
7. Since the CIC concluded, the team has engaged with representatives from the Police Authority and CoLP to discuss next steps. These conversations have highlighted an appetite to deliver a similar project in the coming year and the IG team will explore this opportunity further.

Conclusion

The Cyber Innovation Challenge has been a collaborative effort between CoLP and CoLC and has showcased our shared objective to support industry and ensure London and the UK is a safe and secure place to do business. IG recognises the appetite for a similar project now the CIC has concluded and will work to explore opportunities in the coming months.

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