

Committee(s): Police Authority Board	Dated: 6 March 2024
Subject: Commissioner's Update	Public
Which outcomes in the <i>City Corporation's Corporate Plan</i> 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 38-24	For Information
Report author: Peter O'Doherty, T/Commissioner	

Summary

It was agreed that the Commissioner's verbal updates would be presented to the Board as formal written updates.

The *public* updates for Operations and Security and Economic and Cyber Crime are attached.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to note the report.

Police Authority Board – Commissioner’s Update – 6 March 2024

Operations and Security

PAB Updates

Major Incident Exercise

On 23rd January 2024, City of London Police led a Major incident exercise. The Strategic Coordination Group chaired by Assistant Commissioner Betts was attended by the London Resilience Group and a number of key partners including the City of London Corporation, business community, fire brigade and ambulance service. The exercise tested resilience, resources and inter agency collaboration reassuring CoLP are ready to respond to a major incident in the City.

Race Equality Week

From Monday 5th to Sunday 11th February, City of London Police (CoLP) supported Race Equality Week, an annual UK wide movement uniting hundreds of thousands of organisations and individuals to address the barriers to race equality in the workplace. This years theme ‘Listen Act Change’ encouraged officers and staff to undertake the 5 day challenge which included watching short videos, reading articles and undertaking challenges giving colleagues an opportunity to learn, self-reflect and commit to action that will drive change, promoting CoLP’s continued commitment to inclusivity and equality. Fuller updates on this are provided to your Professional Standards and Integrity Committee.

Cycle Team

On 30th January 2024, BBC showcased CoLP’s Cycle team’s drive tackling illegal e-bikes often used by criminal gangs to commit phone snatches and anti-social behaviour which has seen a reduction in phone snatches from January 2023 by 35%.

The Cycle team continue to concentrate on engagement, education and enforcement which has seen in January 2024

Fixed Penalty Notices	140
Cycle warnings	227
Intel reports	21
Seized e-bikes/scooters	35

Theft Arrest

Plain clothes officers swiftly apprehended a male who had committed a theft from Sainsburys. Following a diligent and expediate investigation, CID officers linked the defendant to 9 other City burglaries/thefts and 3 in the Metropolitan police area resulting in his charge and remand in custody.

Serious Assault Arrest

A female victim returned to her hotel room after being out in the City where she has reported being raped by 3 males she had met earlier in the evening. Officers have quickly deployed to the hotel in response to this extremely serious allegation, safeguarded the victim and apprehended the suspects. The victim focused approach by multiple different teams within CoLP led to all 3 suspects charged for Rape and remanded in custody. The victim continues to be supported by specially trained officers.

Shoplifting arrest

Officers on patrol around Liverpool Street Station spotted a male wanted by police for a number of thefts committed in the Moorgate area. He was quickly apprehended identifying he had recently committed a theft from a store within the station. Officers were able to link him to a number of crimes allowing him to be charged and remanded in custody, safeguarding retailers from further thefts.

Strategic Leadership and Engagement

On 23rd January 2024, Tom Tugendhat the Security Minister visited the City of London Police to receive a briefing on Fraud & Cyber Crime. Minister Tugendhat was given a tour of National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) and the operational fraud teams which was well received.

On 12th February 2024, the Stop Think Fraud national campaign launched. The national campaign against fraud supports the delivery of the UK Government’s Fraud Strategy. It has been created to empower a mass audience, and help people take action that will prevent them falling victim to fraud. The campaign will drive the public to a new website, where they can find advice and guidance on how they might be at risk, how to spot fraud, how to report it to Action Fraud and how to protect themselves. The City of London Police is a strategic partner of the campaign and committed to its success. T/AC Nik Adams completed media interviews with LBC Radio and ITV Lunchtime news promoting the new campaign.

Operational activity highlights

Op Downburst – A complex fraud investigation that started in 2019 resulted in a suspect being sentenced to five years imprisonment after being convicted as the architect of a twelve-million-pound boiler room scheme. Victims were offered investments in either commodities, traditional share dealing, binary options, cryptocurrency, and/or initial public offerings. Some were told that large returns were guaranteed, and that money can be withdrawn at any time. The suspect used the proceeds of the investment fraud to purchase high-end luxury cars, as well as gold bullion and luxury jewellery and watches – all of which were seized by officers. Confiscation proceedings are ongoing to compensate victims.

DCPCU filmed with BBC One’s ‘Moment of Proof’ discussing OPERATION EVE and our successful prosecution of an offender, who was initially identified trying to open bank accounts in the names of others, using fraudulent documentation. Evidence also showed that the offender was part of a gang that laundered the fraud funds. He was tutoring others in scam techniques and arranging for money mules to be used as part of the fraud. The total fraud was £290,889 with some of the victims being charities. The suspect received six years and six months imprisonment for his offending.

National Support & Co-ordination

Operation Henhouse 3 launched in February with executive action planned across England and Wales in addition to Northern Ireland and Scotland. All 43 forces and 9 regions are participating. OP Henhouse is funded through National Economic Crime Centre (NECC) and the police element coordinated through the Lead Force Operations Room (LFOR).

Week 1 has seen 77 arrests and 35 voluntary interviews completed, with 41 Cease & Desist notices issued. 19 Asset Freezing Orders have resulted in £1.4m of frozen funds. Additionally South Wales Police has seen a restraint order for £1.2m, 49 Seizures/Disruptions have resulted in £906k of cash seizures, Crypto restraint and assets.

T/AC Nik Adams opened the Team Cyber United Kingdom conference on the 13th February 2024. This is the largest law enforcement conference in the UK focusing specifically on the threat of cybercrime. It is hosted by the City of London Police, National Crime Agency & National Police Chief Council. The conference was attended by over 350 representatives from across the UK and law enforcement representative from around the world. The City of London Police as the lead for cyber-crime took a central role providing input to colleagues across a diverse range of topics from investigational case studies and strategic inputs.

International Support & Co-ordination.

DCI King attended a Cyber Security conference in the Grand Cayman Islands as a subject matter expert. She is also the chair of the City of London Police Women’s network which is twinned with the Grand Cayman Police’s women network.