

Committee(s): Police Authority Board	Dated: 3 July 2024
Subject: Commissioner's Update	Public
Which outcomes in the <i>City Corporation's Corporate Plan</i> does this proposal aim to impact directly?	CoLP impact the following Corp Plan outcomes: Vibrant Thriving Destination- (Community Safety/ CT) Dynamic Economic Growth- (National Lead Force)
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	For Information
Report author: Pete O'Doherty, T/Commissioner	

Summary

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 – July 2024

Operations and Security

CoLP commemorates the 80th anniversary of D-Day on 6th June 2024.

Staff across the City observed a 2-minute silence to mark the 80th anniversary of the Normandy Landings that took place 6th June 1944 with a number paying respects outside Bishopsgate Police Station to mark the anniversary.

Theft conviction

Proactive Acquisitive Crime Team officers caught a suspect who was visiting licensed premises intent on stealing personal property of those enjoying the night-time economy. Their quick thinking and intervention apprehended the suspect and prevented anyone else being a victim of their crime. He was charged, remanded and convicted where he was sentenced to 21 weeks in prison having pleaded guilty due to the hard work and diligent investigation by the team.

Cycle team

The cycle team have been focusing on illegal e-bikes, a key community concern. Not only a danger to other road users and pedestrians but also a fire risk with DIY conversion kits used to charge batteries which has caused several house fires. During May, the team seized 54 illegal e-bikes/scooters, including an individual who was using an illegal e-bike to commit phone snatches who was detained and found in possession of a machete.

A road safety show took place in partnership with the Fleet Street Quarter on Farringdon Street where the team security marked 54 cycles and engaged with 200 cyclists concentrating on the engagement and education around contravening red lights and cycle safety. The team continues to focus on engagement and education but also taking swift action for those that contravene the laws and cause harm on the road.

Serious and Organised Crime Team

Focus continues on CoLP’s drive to combat organised crime, through Operation Giant, an Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) operation supported by multiple teams from Project Servator, Road Policing Unit, plain clothes officers and technology to target those looking to exploit and cause harm to the vulnerable. A recent proactive operation seized £30,000 in cash, £80,00 worth of vehicles, large quantity of drugs and around £300,000 in assets from criminal enterprise. Working together with internal and external stakeholders, making the City a hostile environment for criminals and organised crime groups.

Fraud Conviction

A victim has praised the Criminal Investigations Department's (CID) investigation into a healthcare assistant who fraudulently used her bank cards while she was fighting for her life in hospital. Officers described as ‘amazing’ ensured the victim remained at the heart of the investigation acting swiftly to apprehend the suspect and end her criminality. Following a thorough and diligent investigation, the defendant was jailed for a total of 15 months after admitting five counts of fraud, three counts of possession of articles for use in fraud and one count of money laundering. The meticulous, victim focused investigation ensured the defendant was held accountable for her crimes but also put an end to her criminality safeguarding any further victims.

Domestic Assault conviction

A woman was enjoying the night-time economy with a friend when her ex-partner turned up and began to harass her, taking photos and videos of her dancing without her permission or knowledge. He then proceeded to pull her hair and slap her, with security staff intervening and calling police. Through the support and care provided by specialist CoLP officers to the victim, the defendant was convicted and sentenced receiving a Community Order for 12 months, fine of £775 and a 10-year Restraining Order preventing him from contacting the victim or posting content about her online. Ensuring her wellbeing and safety from any further physical, emotional and online trauma.

Strategic Leadership and Engagement

On the 29th May, AC Nik Adams was interviewed by the CEO of Lloyds bank. The purpose was to highlight the important work that is undertaken by the City of London Police as the National lead force for fraud and cybercrime and how they work with the financial sector. The interview covered a wide variety of topics including, the main types of fraud, crime prevention advice, future threats and the longstanding partnership between the financial sector and law enforcement.

Operational activity highlights

An insurance broker who operated a business that insured companies in the entertainment sector has been convicted and sentenced to two years imprisonment after pleading guilty. The fraudster dishonestly altered genuine contracts from insurance companies increasing the premiums. The customers then paid the broker directly who retained the difference and passed the actual amount onto the insurance companies.

A man who sold counterfeit designer sportswear, trainers, jewellery and perfume to the public from a shop in Manchester has been sentenced. Officers from the Police Intellectual Property Crime Unit (PIPCU) at City of London Police raided a business August 2021 and seized a total of £116,200 worth of counterfeit products purporting to be from approximately 40 different brands. The defendant pleaded guilty at Manchester Crown Court on 28 March 2024 to 38 counts of distributing articles infringing trademarks. He was sentenced to a 12 month community order at the same court on 10 May 2024 and must also complete 100 hours of unpaid work.

National Support & Co-ordination

At the start of May, City of London Police’s Lead Force Operations Room (LFOR) led the coordination of a two-week intensification period on courier fraud. Across the two weeks, there were over 100 referrals from 26 forces across England and Wales. LFOR then acted as a temporary “command centre” to help support forces with the dissemination of referrals whilst also providing tactical support. This operation had excellent support from colleagues across forces and regions and was a genuine team effort. The operational activity resulted in the arrest of five members of an organised crime group (OCG) with enquiries ongoing. The majority of offences (70%) involved criminals pretending to be the police and in 22% of cases they pretended to be from their bank.

A new fraud and economic crime application giving practical guidance and advice to national law enforcement is now available for all police officers and staff. The ‘Fraud and Economic Crime App’ was designed and developed by the City of London Police Fraud Operations Team and the Economic and Cyber Crime Academy. The app will provide assistance to all frontline police officers and staff not ordinarily exposed to fraud and economic crime, ensuring they can give the very best response when serving the public and preventing repeat victimisation.

The Economic and Cyber Crime Academy (ECCA) delivered the Economic Crime Specialist Investigator Course (ESCIP) to 12 delegates from around the UK. Delegates studied the application of the fraud investigation model in economic crime investigations, where they worked on case studies to apply their learning. The course was delivered to detectives from Cambridgeshire Constabulary, City of London Police, Gwent Police, Isle of Mann Constabulary, Thames Valley Police, South Wales Police, Staffordshire Police, and Surrey Police.

Media

A coordinated media campaign was launched to coincide with the courier fraud campaign. The campaign published statistics (£28.7 million lost to courier fraud in the last year) as well promoting crime prevention advice. There was good coverage in local and national news reporting on the campaign.

T/Commissioner Pete O’Doherty