

Committee(s): Police Authority Board	Dated: 4 th September 2024
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?	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: 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.

T/ACC Alex Goss from Merseyside Police is the NPCC lead for retail crime to recognise the particular challenges that sector faces; the NBCC supports 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 February 2024.

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 February 2024 Police Authority Board.

Current Position

3. Following the publication of the Retail Crime Action Plan (RCAP) in November 2023 the NBCC continues to support its implementation with police forces. New strands of work include engagement with the CPS to design template statements for retailers as well as looking how data sharing could be improved with retailers to help identify offenders.
4. The NBCC plays an important role nationally in relation to the RCAP and in April Supt. Holdaway attended a meeting held by the policing minister at 10 Downing Street, where the NBCC was central to much of the activity discussed.
5. On the 17th April, Supt. Holdaway represented the NBCC by giving evidence at the Home Affairs Select Committee on Violence and Abuse Towards Retail Workers. The attendance was reported by the CoLC's Parliamentary Team. The NBCC also submitted written evidence to the Committee on its role and successes.
6. In the last paper mention was made of the Safer Business Action Month being planned for March 2024. The month of action was a great success with 40 police forces supporting the activity with the following results:

Number of SaBA Days - **442**

Arrests - **459**

Police officers and staff involved - **2943**

The initiative demonstrates the impact the NBCC has nationally in the mobilisation and coordination of police forces and businesses to work together to reduce crime.

7. The NBCC are now working on the coordination of their third national week of action to support businesses. Planned for the week of the 14th October the week will see police forces and business working together nationally to highlight the impact of business crime.

[NBCC launches 2024 national Safer Business Action Week to target business](#)

8. July saw the publication of a report focussing on how the HMRC owned Tobacco Track and Trace initiative can be used to help reduce the theft of tobacco; the

NBCC commissioned Professor Emmeline Taylor, from City, University of London to do the report using funding from the Home Office. The report highlights how the use of QR codes can be used to help identify stolen goods and provides a template for the traceability of other valuable commodities e.g. alcohol and fragrances, which are often the products of choice for organised crime groups.

[NBCC release report and recommendations to tackle illicit trade in stolen tobacco](#)

9. The NBCC plays a critical role nationally in connecting people, resolving issues and influencing change. Here are a couple of recent examples where this has taken place.

This is from the Petrol Retailers Association in a communication to its members. The NBCC has influenced a change of approach by the DVLA how it will support fuel retailers in the pursuit of those who don't pay for fuel, which sees an estimated 500,000 offences each year.

"I would also like to mention the invaluable support of Forecourt Eye and Superintendent Patrick Holdaway from the National Business Crime Centre who helped us to convince the government."

This is from the UK investigations lead of an international retailer following concerns around the investigation of a fraud submitted to Action Fraud.

"Aaron has had a teams meeting with Chris today and has had nothing but positive vibes from him and we would both like to thank you for connecting us. We both feel positive about not just this investigation now being progressed through Chris to the local ROCU but also Aaron is now better trained and comfortable on how to progress cases through AF."

10. The NBCC's safe spaces initiative, Operation Portum, continues to gain interest with 10 national retailers now signed up providing over 13,000 safe space locations. The scheme has recently been extended to Business Improvement Districts with 16 now championing the scheme across their membership. The scheme has also recently extended to private security with 12 national companies including the likes of Mitie, Bidvest Noonan and OCS supporting the scheme. The NBCC has been liaising with Safer Business Network and Don Randall to link it with the Safe Havens work taking place within the City.

[Private security industry backs the national Safe Spaces Scheme \(nbcc.police.uk\)](#)
[NBCC's Safe Spaces Scheme: OCS Pledgees Commitment](#)
[Security industry backs NBCC's national Safe Spaces Scheme - Facilities Management Forum | Forum Events](#)

Conclusion

11. 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

Recent newsletters



Parliamentary Brief -
19 April 2024.pdf



Written Evidence -
NBCC - HASC - April ;



July 2024 Issue
20.pdf

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