

Committee(s): Economic & Cyber Crime Committee	Dated: 19/11/2024
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?	Driving Economic Growth
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	No
What is the source of Funding?	NA
Report of: Damian Nussbaum, Executive Director Innovation and Growth	For information
Report author: Elly Savill, Senior Policy and Innovation Adviser	

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 2024. The report focusses on examples of collaboration and promotion with CoLP, as well as the AI Innovation Challenge.

Links to the Corporate Plan

The activities set out in this report help deliver against the Corporate Plan’s outcome to support dynamic economic growth. Specifically, ensuring that the City has the safest, most secure business environment in the world and promoting the UK as a place that is open, innovative, and sustainable.

Main Report

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

1. 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.

Promotion

2. Following engagement with the SME Strategy Team, IG met with Inspector Charlie Morrison, City of London Police. Charlie provided an update on Cyber Griffin and IG offered promote the scheme to stakeholders and to make an introduction to the City Development Investment Unit.

Collaboration

3. On 8th October, the Police Authority Board hosted a roundtable on the UK's Financial Action Task Force (FATF) evaluation, alongside the Joffe Charitable Trust. The roundtable was attended by the key stakeholders who will be involved in the 2027 evaluation of the UK, including representatives from HM Treasury, the Home Office, HMRC, the FCA and the National Crime Agency, as well as private sector and civil society participants. The primary focus of the meeting was to discuss how engagement with the FATF process could make the UK's fight against economic crime more effective. As such, participants gave their views on the UK's potential vulnerabilities (in particular, relative to comparable jurisdictions) ahead of the 2027 evaluation. A representative from IG attended the roundtable. There will be follow-up activity between IG and the Police Authority Board, to scope a potential workstream to support key stakeholders in the run-up to the 2027 FATF evaluation, to help ensure a positive outcome in the evaluation and improve the efficacy of the UK's fight against economic crime.
4. As part of the AI Innovation Challenge, participants benefit from exclusive access to a variety of collaboration sessions. These sessions support the Challenge objective to develop and accelerate solutions to the use case. Alternatively, the sessions provide support and advice to help the technology firms scale. As the National Lead Force for fraud and NPCC lead for economic and cyber-crime, CoLP were well placed to share their expertise. IG recognised this opportunity and engaged with CoLP to finalise their theme and arrange the session. The AI Innovation Challenge received interest from National Economic Crime Centre (NECC) and it was agreed that a joint session for participants would be delivered in partnership with CoLP on 8th October. The session provided "a perspective from UK law enforcement on the use of AI created content within fraud and cyber-crime".

AI Innovation Challenge

5. At the previous Committee meeting, Members received an update on the AI Innovation Challenge. The Challenge will bring together innovative technology companies and FPS to collaborate across a 7-week sprint. Participants will engage 1:1 to develop and accelerate solutions which answer: *How can AI prevent online fraud at the earliest possible stage by identifying and tracking fake identities – including synthetic identities and image or audio deepfakes?* Participants will also benefit from input and expertise from Supporting Partners Microsoft, Department of Business and Trade (DBT), and London and Partners.
6. The sprint commenced with the opening presentations at Guildhall on 23rd September. The technology participants presented their solutions to the use case and the financial services provided initial reflections and questions. Based on feedback, the technology and financial services participants were partnered up

for the sprint 1:1. These meetings commenced the following week and follow specific themes to guide discussions. They are:

- W/C 23rd September Week 1: Opening Presentations from tech companies
 - W/C 30th September Week 2: Use case exploration and product limitations to overcome
 - W/C 7th October Week 3: Data and Security
 - W/C 14th October Week 4: AI Governance
 - W/C 21st October Week 5: Performance and Scalability Design
 - W/C 28th October Week 6: preparation for closing presentations
 - W/C 4th November Week 7: Closing Presentations by tech companies (7th November)
7. Since the last Committee, IG have been pleased to confirm NayaOne as an additional Supporting Partner on the Challenge. NayaOne have provided participants with exclusive access to a sandbox environment and variety of relevant data. This includes driving licenses, bank statements, utility bills, audio files, videos and images. The technology participants have the option to test their solutions in this environment and using this data.
8. In preparation for the public showcase event at Guildhall on 4th December, IG is continuing to engage with the COLC marketing and media teams. This includes working with a videographer for interviews with participants which can be used across social media and the Global City website.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

9. Strategic implications – This work supports the Corporate Plan outcome to drive dynamic economic growth.
10. Financial implications – All budgets are contained within existing departmental budgets and business planning.
11. Resource implications – All resourcing requirements are scoped as part of departmental business planning.
12. Legal implications – None identified for this paper.
13. Risk implications – None identified for this paper.
14. Equalities implications – The stakeholder work as part of this work is mindful of balancing the needs to have the right stakeholders identified while also supporting the City of London Corporation's EDI commitments.
15. Climate implications – None identified for this paper.
16. Security implications – None identified for this paper.

Conclusion

17. The AI Innovation Challenge sprint is well underway and the team are preparing for the Public Showcase this December.

Elly Savill

Senior Policy and Innovation Adviser
Innovation & Growth

T: +44 (0) 7500 785073

E: eleanor.savill@cityoflondon.gov.uk