City of London Corporation Committee Report

Committee(s): Economic Security & Cyber Crime Committee – For Information	**Dated:** 23/06/2026
Subject: Deputy Commissioner's Update	**Public report:** For Information
This proposal: 1. **delivers Corporate Plan 2024-29 outcomes**	Dynamic Economic Growth, Providing Excellent Services
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	No
If so, how much?	£0
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Report of:	Deputy Commissioner Nik Adams
Report author:	DI Anna Martin

Summary

This report provides an update from the Deputy Commissioner of NLF activity since the last meeting of the Economic Security and Cyber Crime Committee.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the report.

Main Report

1. The following report outlines notable activity in the last quarter delivered by National Functions (City of London Police).

<u>Strategic Leadership and Engagement</u>

2. March saw the launch of the much awaited Fraud Strategy with Commissioner O'Doherty and Commander Shaw attending the launch event led by the Rt Hon. Lord Hanson. The CoLP Economic and Cyber Crime Policing HQ team

have commenced work to rewrite the national policing strategy for fraud, economic and cyber crime to align with the new government strategy.

3. Throughout the last quarter, significant time and focus has been devoted to preparing the CoLP submission documents in response to the government's announcement on Police Reform. This includes a draft proposal for the future of CoLP's national functions in relation to fraud. Strategic engagement activity also remains a priority as we seek to garner support from industry partners who benefit from the unique capabilities that CoLP deliver.

4. In March the Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner and other senior CoLP staff attended the Global Fraud Summit in Vienna in March, hosted by Interpol and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. A significant proportion of the planning was delivered by DSU Nick Court, the CoLP secondee into Interpol. This high-level event brought together ministers and senior representatives from across governments, law enforcement, private sector, civil society organizations and international organizations. Commissioner O'Doherty, and other senior leaders participated inpanel sessions and bilaterals which was well received.

5. The NPCC Money Laundering and Asset Recovery portfolio continues to strengthen and deliver new capabilities. Recent developments include: developing proposals in response to an increase in the Economic Crime Levy, preparation for the forthcoming Financial Action Task Force (FATF) inspection in August 2027, continued implementation of a UK Asset Management Office and leading the transformation of the Joint Asset Recovery Database via the ARIT Programme.

6. May saw the announcement of the Home Office's High Street Organised Crime Unit, a new task force focussed on cash-based money laundering and cross cutting organised criminality which is impacting on our High Streets. Commander Ollie Shaw attended a Ministerial Round Table to shape this work in line with the work previously delivered by the economic crime portfolio on Operation Machinize.

7. Our latest cohort of Police Now Direct Entry Economic and Cyber Crime detectives are currently undergoing their initial training, with several forces now signed up to and supporting the scheme. In June, CoLP will be welcoming the Rt Hon. Lord Hanson to GYE where he will learn more about the pathway and the positive impact it is having on our fraud, economic and cyber crime response nationally. Our Accredited Economic Crime Professional pathway programme has received ministerial sign off and will continue to be owned and developed by CoLP with short to medium funding fully secured.

8. The Fraud and Cyber First Responder training package has been delivered as a joint programme with the College of Policing and the Economic and Cyber Crime Academy. This online training provision, provides officer and staff first responders with a baseline knowledge of what fraud and cyber crime is, how

to respond and advise victims an overview of the Report Fraud system. Media and comms will launch this from the end of June.

Operational Highlights

9. Operation Henhouse 5 took place in February 2026 and was the most successful iteration yet of this annual intensification. Coordinated by the Lead Force Operations Room (CoLP) and the National Economic and Crime Centre (NCA), this national operation involved a month long period of coordinated activity against fraud offenders across the country, involving all Home Office police forces along with other law enforcement agencies. Results included 557 arrests, 249 cease and desist notices issued, 172 voluntary interviews, £9 million secured through Account Freezing Orders, £2.8 million in cash seizures and £15.3 million in non-cash asset seizures.

   City of London Police teams also supported Operation Henhouse operational activity. The Fraud Operations team executed a search warrant and arrest of a fraud offender in South London where they were accompanied by the Rt Hon. Lord Hanson MP.

10. Officers from the Police Intellectual Property Crime Unit (PIPCU) made eight arrests, executed 19 search warrants and carried out seven cease and desist actions. They also secured 15 account freezing orders, totalling £537,000. In addition, officers seized more than 7,000 counterfeit items, representing an estimated £700,000 loss to industry.

11. The Insurance Fraud Enforcement Department (IFED) made 11 arrests and issued 63 cease and desist orders. Five of the arrests formed part of an operation targeting ‘ghost broking’, including the arrest of a former Metropolitan Police officer. The investigation uncovered thousands of fake insurance certificates and a network selling spoof apps designed to deceive officers during roadside checks. The unit also seized £5,000 in cash and £20,000 worth of Rolex watches.

12. The Dedicated Card and Payment Crime Unit (DCPCU) carried out 31 arrests and interviews under caution and seizing more than £48,000 in cash and non-cash assets. Officers also recovered fake ID printing equipment and SMS blaster devices, each valued at approximately £10,000, preventing their further use in criminal activity. In addition, the unit secured two account freezing orders totalling £589,000 linked to money laundering. During the operation the Head of Fraud Prevention and Training at DCPCU delivered fraud prevention training to bank staff and customers across multiple branches. In total, 13 sessions were delivered to more than 800 people, reinforcing the unit’s commitment to protecting the public from financial crime.

13. Two offenders have been sentenced at Southwark Crown Court following a DCPCU investigation Operation Triton. Between June 2020 and November 2022, the offenders provided a ‘smishing service’ where they would issue mass fraudulent text messages on behalf of other criminals. These messages

would often impersonate genuine organisations such as banks and government departments and aimed to trick the receiver into clicking on a link and in putting personal details which included names, birthdays, bank details and further security information. Following a complex investigation, DCPCU were able to obtain evidence of large-scale offending from details found on the mobile phones of both offenders. On 30th April 2026 they were sentenced to 27 months imprisonment and 8 months imprisonment (suspended for 12 months) & 120 hours unpaid work for their involvement.

Media Highlights

14. Positive media coverage in several mainstream and LGBTQ+ outlets followed the sentencing of a male who defrauded three gay male victims out of nearly £30K using dating apps. This investigation, led by our Fraud Operations team, saw the offender sentenced to three years imprisonment after he targeted his victims online, pretending to be gay man seeking a long term relationship, and persuaded them to send him sums of money in the belief that they were in a relationship.

15. BBC North West reported on a series of warrants executed in Oldham by our PIPCU team, supported by the North West ROCU, also attended by representatives from the Intellectual Property Office. Several shipping containers were located containing imitation designer clothes, shoes, bags and cosmetics.

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