



**Strategic Policing and Crime Board**

**19 March 2019**

**Police and Crime Plan Priority:** *Brexit & Policing*

**Title:** *Brexit & Policing*

**Presented by:** *Ch. Supt Rich Baker & Supt Phil Dolby*

**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. The purpose of this paper is to provide information and assurance to the Strategic Policing and Crime Board (SPCB) relating to policing in the West Midlands in the event of a no-deal UK exit from the European Union (EU) in March 2019.
2. This report is for discussion at the SPCB on the 19<sup>th</sup> March 2019. This report takes into account the previous reports presented to the SPCB on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2019, 20<sup>th</sup> November 2018, 19<sup>th</sup> June 2018 and 4<sup>th</sup> April 2018. It should also be read in conjunction with the paper circulated by the NPCC International Crime Coordination Centre to all OPCC's on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2018, entitled 'PCC Briefing Note – Brexit Implications (Operational Scenarios)'.

**THE INTERNATIONAL CRIME COORDINATION CENTRE**

3. The International Crime Coordination Centre (ICCC) has now opened. The ICCC is made up of a number of teams consisting of Manhunt, Missing People and Property, Police Cooperation and Judicial (appendix 1). These teams are responsible for writing guidance on the use of EU International Instruments and the fall back position following the UK's exit from the EU. The guidance is due for release in mid-February and will be disseminated through regional SPOCs for implementation at a local level.
4. In the case of a no-deal exit from the EU, the ICCC and the Home Office will be responsible for developing new ways of working with Europe and WMP will adopt the central guidance. At this stage it is unknown if the UK have no-deal, a deal with an implementation period or a deal with an extended implementation period. However, the ICCC has Home Office funding for 2019/20 to deal with any occurrence.

5. As well as centralised policy teams, the ICCC has recruited two regional SPOCs from each Regional Organised Crime Unit (ROCU) area, who will act as a liaison between the ICCC and the West Midlands Region. They will facilitate the implementation of alternative instruments into forces and disseminate communications internally within policing. For the West Midlands Region there are two Police Sergeants, both employed by West Midlands Police (WMP).
6. The ICCC has asked forces to identify staff to undertake the position of iTACs (international Tac Advisors within force). This is not a separate role for forces to recruit into, but is aimed at frontline officers and investigators who will be provided with enhanced knowledge and understanding on international instruments for onward dissemination to colleagues. iTACs have already been nominated within force.
7. Detective Chief Superintendent Richard Baker continues to represent WMP as the Force Lead, responsible for the Law Enforcement and National Security Measures (LENS) elements of BREXIT. DCS Baker attends the BREXIT Steering Group as previously outlined.

#### **WEST MIDLANDS POLICE INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS PLANNING**

8. Ahead of the national guidance being produced, WMP had identified priority international instruments to be considered for back record conversion. WMP has also begun the process of upskilling officers to ensure that full access to non-EU systems is available and begins prior to Brexit.
9. This work in relevant departments is being coordinated through the regional SPOCs and DCS Baker for local accountability and action.

#### **WEST MIDLANDS POLICE PLANNING**

10. A series of Local Resilience Forum (LRF) wide table top exercises have been conducted, exercising multi-agency readiness, contingencies and C3 (Command, Control and Co-ordination). This continues to be the basis upon which any planning is being undertaken, as the uncertainty continues to lead all agencies to need to plan for a wide and imprecise series of possibilities.
11. LRF led Strategic Coordinating Group (SCG) and Tactical Coordinating Group (TCG) meetings commenced on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2019 and take place on a fortnightly basis. These meetings will increase to take place on a weekly basis during the month of March 2019, if still required. Supt. Phil Dolby has been chairing the TCG meetings and has also been present at the SCG meetings, on which ACC Johnson is the Vice-Chair. These meetings have been positive and seen healthy engagement from across agencies serving the conurbation. An intelligence and communications network has been identified in readiness to share relevant information across agencies on behalf of the LRF.

#### **INTELLIGENCE & HATE CRIME**

12. WMP has outlined its intelligence requirement to support the planning and preparation for BREXIT. This has been approved at a strategic level through Operation Panga. WMP

Intelligence Department scans for BREXIT related intelligence on a daily basis and at this time, intelligence relating directly to BREXIT is limited, both locally and nationally.

13. WMP also monitors hate crime across the force. As a result of this monitoring, since the last SPCB report, there continues to be no increase in hate crime linked to BREXIT. Further, there is no crime attributable to the EU Exit.
14. At this time, WMP has been made aware of only one planned protest by 'LeaveMeansLeave.EU.' This was a low key and peaceful event which took place in Birmingham City Centre and assessed as being low risk based upon the information available and the open engagement between WMP and the organisers. The protest took place on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2019 after WMP helped the organisers to link in with Birmingham City Council as part of their planning.

### **FUTURE PLANNING**

15. The next BREXIT Steering Group is scheduled for 1<sup>st</sup> March 2019 and regional SPOCs and crime leads have been invited.
16. Op Panga will continue to meet on a regular basis in order to coordinate WMP resources at a strategic level. Supt. Phil Dolby has also held meetings, with more planned, to keep internal Staff Associations and Networks across the organisation briefed. Supt. Phil Dolby also continues to keep the wider organisation updated through force governance.
17. Supt. Phil Dolby has continued to work closely with the LRF to prepare for contingency planning and the impact of BREXIT, pending the outcome of national political events.

### **NEXT STEPS**

18. The Board is asked to note this report.

**APPENDIX 1**

