



Strategic Policing and Crime Board
Date of meeting – 17th September 2019

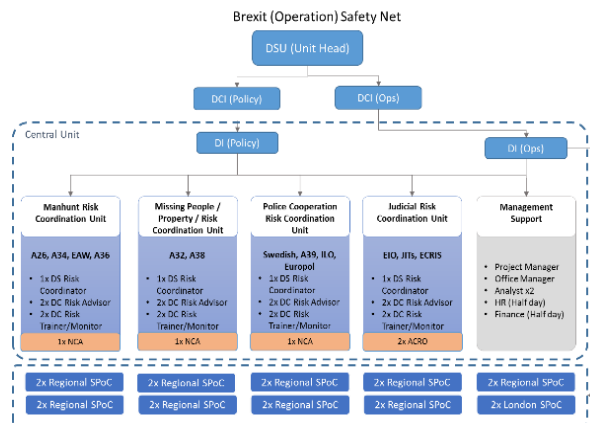
Police and Crime Plan Priority: Emerging Items
Title: Brexit (Op CARVEN II)
Presented by: *Supt Phil Dolby and Det Chief Supt Rich Baker*

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 on October 31st 2019. This report is for discussion.

THE INTERNATIONAL CRIME COORDINATION CENTRE

- 2. The International Crime Coordination Centre (ICCC) remains open since its establishment in March 2019 following the potential of a No Deal EU Exit. Guidance has been written centrally by the ICCC teams (consisting of: Manhunt, Missing People and Property, Police Cooperation and Judicial) addressing the use of EU International Instruments and the fall back position. The guidance was released earlier in 2019 and disseminated through regional SPOCs for implementation at a local level.



3. In the case of a No Deal UK Exit, the ICCC and the Home Office will be responsible for developing new ways of working with Europe and West Midlands Police (WMP) will adopt the central guidance. At this stage, it is unknown if there will be a No Deal, a deal with an implementation period, or a deal with extended implementation period. However, the ICCC have Home Office funding for 2019/20.
4. 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 and attends the BREXIT Steering Group.

WEST MIDLANDS POLICE INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS PLANNING

5. In the event of a no deal Brexit, access to current law enforcement instruments with European counterparts will cease, including access to the Schengen Information System (SIS II) and European Arrest Warrant (EAW). Work is well underway through the ICCC and the Home Office to ensure new processes are developed and embedded prior to the 31st October to mitigate any vulnerability.
6. As an example, in anticipation of a No Deal Brexit and in line with the NPCC's ICCC directive to start the conversion of Schengen Information System (SIS II) alerts to Interpol notices, WMP is reviewing existing alerts and the process to create Interpol Diffusions. A governance structure has been instigated to monitor and manage the conversion on a departmental basis. A communications plan is in place to compliment procedural alterations to ensure that officers use Interpol Notices and Diffusions from September onwards.
7. The use of the ACRO Criminal Records Office to obtain conviction details from abroad (for both EU requests and worldwide), remains part of daily business and investigation toolkits. It has been established that the front end mechanism within forces for ACRO checks will not be affected immediately by Brexit and, in line with ICCC guidance, WMP have not made any alterations to processes.
8. WMP has been well supported by the NPCC's ICCC, both at a strategic and tactical level. It is acknowledged that access to Europol post Brexit is subject to negotiations that can only take place post-Brexit. On a case by case basis, investigation and intelligence exchange via Europol, Eurojust and extradition processes have been supported and guided by the ICCC.

WEST MIDLANDS POLICE PLANNING

9. WMP continues to plan for the impact of Brexit at a strategic level under Operation CARVEN (II). ACC Johnson has strategic command of the planning and is supported by Superintendent Phil Dolby who, as the Tactical Lead, is responsible for the preparedness of WMP and is also working with partners in the Local Resilience Forum (LRF).
10. WMP continues to work closely with the LRF in order to prepare for the impact of Brexit on local communities. The force are well prepared for issues that could potentially arise in the event a no deal EU exit, including the impact of delays at borders and ports, potential

for protest and disorder, and civil contingencies. It should be noted that due to the current lack of certainty, it is difficult to predict and plan for the impact of Brexit however, WMP continues to work with local and national partners to enable us to respond to the changing picture.

11. A series of LRF wide table top exercises were conducted in preparation for March 2019, 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. This process is going to be repeated through the LRF partnerships in preparation for October 2019.
12. A debrief was held soon after March 2019 to capture the learning from the LRF processes in the lead up to that last deadline, in preparation for a future potential set of similar circumstances. This learning has been assessed and is featuring as part of the planning for October 2019.
13. LRF led Strategic Coordinating Group (SCG) and Tactical Coordinating Group (TCG) meetings commenced on 24th January 2019 and took place on a fortnightly basis. These meetings then increased to take place on a weekly basis during the month of March 2019 and the same rhythm is being stood up for October 2019. WMP will continue to have representation at both meetings.
14. These meetings were positive and seen as healthy engagement from across agencies serving the conurbation. An intelligence and communications network was identified in readiness to share relevant information across agencies on behalf of the LRF and these will both be re-introduced.

INTELLIGENCE & HATE CRIME

15. WMP has outlined its intelligence requirement to support the planning and preparation for Brexit. This has been approved at a strategic level through Operation CARVEN (II). 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.
16. WMP also monitors Hate Crime across the force. In the lead up to March 2019, there was minimal Hate Crime related to Brexit. This monitoring continued throughout the year and remains in place. There continues to be no increase in Hate Crime linked to Brexit.
17. WMP Intelligence Department continues to share and receive intelligence at a national level. WMP is also working with other Intelligence Departments at a regional level in order to ensure a consistent approach in intelligence reporting.

PROTESTS

18. During the build-up period to the potential EU Exit in March 2019, there were a small number of protests (with attendees in very low numbers) by different groups such as '*LeaveMeansLeave.eu*' and '*Stand Up To Racism*'. No offences were committed and there was limited impacted on force resources. These primarily took place in Birmingham, but also small gatherings/public meetings took place in other parts of the force area.

19. Largely, protests attracting significant numbers took place in London and national intelligence suggests people from across the country travelled to the capital to do so. There is no current intelligence or information to suggest that anything different will take place, and the force is continually scanning these horizons in a proportionate manner.

IMPACT ON RESOURCES

20. The National Police Coordination Centre (NPoCC) is the responsible body for ensuring national policing resilience and it also oversees the national Mutual Aid between police forces. In March 2019, Mutual Aid requests from both the Ports of Dover and Hampshire Police were received and fully complied with by WMP including the deployment of both Police Officers and the Special Constabulary.

21. Part of the planning process was to scan the force for other impact factors such as key events in force, to ensure the appropriate resource was in place to effectively respond to business as usual. Whilst some forces chose to restrict or embargo Annual Leave, WMP were confident in their operational plan to meet both national and local requirements and existing minimum staffing levels were in line with business as usual.

22. The period of the end of March and/or beginning of April presents different policing challenges to the end of October and/or early November. The force is currently working through different scenarios and planning assumptions including the necessity to restrict or embargo annual leave.

23. The costs incurred previously were:

- a) Officers being mustered to deploy on Mutual Aid and then being stood down.
- b) Enhanced reassurance patrols at Birmingham Airport.

Service Area Description	Account	Account Description	May-20	Jun-20	Jul-20	Grand Total
Airport	51052	Officer Overtime - Time and a half	168.86	168.86		337.72
Mutual Aid	51052	Officer Overtime - Time and a half	506.57			506.57
Mutual Aid	53302	Vehicle Hire	158.90			158.90
Operations Resilience Unit	53001	Travel Expenses			18.86	18.86
			834.33	168.86	18.86	1,022.05

FUTURE PLANNING AND IMPACT UPON RESOURCES

24. Op CARVEN II Gold Group will continue to meet on a regular basis to coordinate WMP resources at a strategic level. Supt DOLBY will lead through his Silver (tactical) planning process. This will include briefings to internal staff associations and networks across the organisation.

25. The Silver Lead and force Operations Department, continue to work closely with the LRF to prepare for contingency planning and the impact of Brexit, pending the outcome of national political events.

26. It is extremely difficult to predict with any accuracy the financial implications upon WMP as a result of a No Deal or other form of EU Exit on 31st October. The Silver planning process will accurately capture any costs incurred to provide real time monitoring and support post incident review.
27. A review was previously undertaken of key suppliers for WMP and any associated Brexit impact. There were no identified issues in March 2019 and the same assurance processes are underway in preparation for October 2019.
28. As the lead force in our policing region for the co-ordination of regional mutual aid, there will once again be the requirement to ensure additional capability is available outside of normal office hours and this forms part of the regional plan.

NEXT STEPS

29. The Board is asked to note this report.

Author(s):

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