



Strategic Policing and Crime Board

Date of meeting – 21<sup>st</sup> January 2020

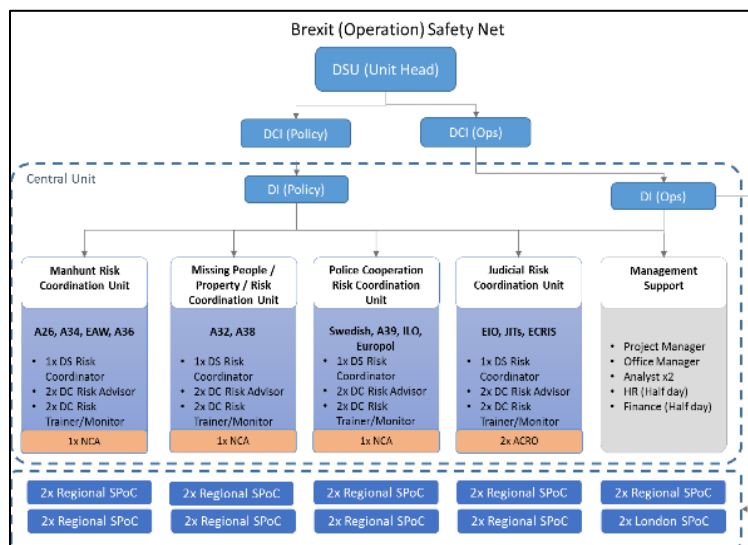
**Police and Crime Plan Priority:** Emerging Items  
**Title:** EU Exit (Op CARVEN III)  
**Presented by:** Supt Sean Kent and Det Chief Supt Rich Baker

**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 activity that occurred in the West Midlands in the event of a No Deal UK exit from the European Union on October 31st 2019, and on-going preparations in the event of a No Deal exit occurring on or after 31st January 2020. It is an update paper to the previous submission of 17<sup>th</sup> September 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. The likelihood of a no deal exit from the EU has diminished but is still not completely negated; it would appear that the most likely scenario is a deal with an implementation period until December 2020. It is accepted that a No Deal Exit is still possible after the implementation period has concluded. The ICCC and the Home Office have developed and are developing new ways of working with Europe counterparts. West Midlands Police (WMP) will adopt the central guidance upon EU exit. Through work with the ICCC, staff are being up skilled around international enquires, and WMP have been able to use the opportunities to exchange police to police intelligence for quick time, high risk cases, directly with Police attaches within London embassies – both for EU and non EU cases, and primarily for high risk crime.
4. In relation to the tragic incident in Essex recently, West Midlands Police has been and will continue to be actively involved with the regional response to Op Rulles – a nationwide operation led by Immigration enforcement and targeting clandestine entry of the UK in refrigerated lorries. 4 significant encounters were made in the region during the week long operation where 20 illegal immigrant have been found. Police are working with Immigration staff to investigate the circumstance of incursions and increase the intelligence picture nationally.
5. 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**

6. General use of EU tools within force has remained as business as usual with the abandonment of the October deadline. In addition to points reported to the board previously, the force has received hits on the Prum exchange of DNA. Prum exchange is providing intelligence hits against crimes scenes and nominals, having been washed against the DNA databases of Germany, France, Spain, Austria, Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands. These details will be retainable and usable post EU exit. Through the FIB intelligence function, a tracking process has been instigated to track hits and meet our obligation to report back to the EU via the ICCC.
7. EU exit will likely see the end to the UK's access to current EU law enforcement instruments – whether that be immediately in a no deal scenario, or post implementation period with a deal. The systems that are use are used but likely to be lost are the Schengen Information System (SIS II) and European Arrest Warrant (EAW) with an implementation period providing time negotiations to take place to re-obtain access to Europol before exit.
8. In the run up to the October deadline for EU exit, supported by the ICCC, WMP undertook a process of 'Back Record Conversion' from SIS alerts to the use of Interpol notices and diffusions. All SIS alerts were reviewed for dissemination using Interpol mechanisms. Double keying of SIS alerts and Interpol channels is now being incorporated into daily business to mitigate the need for any subsequent back record converting at the EU exit point.
9. 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 EU Exit and, in line with ICCC guidance, WMP have not made any alterations to processes.
10. 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 EU Exit is subject to negotiations that can only take place post leaving. 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**

11. WMP has continued to plan for the impact of EU Exit at a strategic level. Operation CARVEN (II) has run from August to November 2019. ACC Johnson has strategic command of the planning and was supported by Superintendent Phil Dolby who, as the Tactical Lead, was responsible for the preparedness of WMP and working with partners in the Local Resilience Forum (LRF). The change in both tempo and timelines caused by the General Election has created the opportunity to refresh this approach with Operation CARVEN III. Superintendent Sean Kent has now assumed the support role.
12. WMP continues to work closely with the LRF in order to prepare for the impact of EU exit on local communities. The force is 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 EU exit however, WMP continues to work with local and national partners to enable us to respond to the changing picture.
13. 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 Coordination). This continues to be the basis upon which any planning is being undertaken. This work highlighted areas of potential stress, and allowed for preparatory work that was carried over and built upon into October 2019 and beyond.
14. A debrief was held soon after March 2019 to capture the learning from the LRF processes in the lead up to that deadline, and in preparation for a future potential set of similar circumstances. This learning was assessed and featured as part of the planning for October 2019. A debrief cycle occurred at the end of November, which will once again help inform preparations going into Op CARVEN III.
15. LRF led Strategic Coordinating Group (SCG) and Tactical Coordinating Group (TCG) meetings commenced on 24<sup>th</sup> 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 was stood up for October / November 2019. WMP will continue to have representation at both meetings during the new round, commencing January 2020.
16. 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**

17. WMP has outlined its intelligence requirement to support the planning and preparation for EU exit. This has been approved at a strategic level through Operation CARVEN (III). WMP Intelligence Department scans for EU exit related intelligence on a daily basis and at this time, intelligence relating directly to EU exit is limited, both locally and nationally.
18. WMP also monitors Hate Crime across the force. In the lead up to March 2019, there was minimal Hate Crime related to EU exit. This monitoring continued throughout the year and remains in place. There continues to be low numbers of Hate Crimes that can be specifically attributed to EU exit alone, rather than a change in public discourse.
19. WMP Intelligence Department continues to share and receive intelligence at a national level. As well as a focus on the direct impacts associated with cross border arrangements, this includes reporting on and tracking all aspects of human trafficking and

exploitation. Every effort is made by forces with a physical land or sea border to be proactive at the earliest opportunity to identify and assist those being trafficked. Our Partnership with Birmingham Airport has seen on-going activity in this area. WMP is also working with other Intelligence Departments at a regional level in order to ensure a consistent approach in intelligence reporting.

## **PROTESTS**

20. 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 impact on force resources. These primarily took place in Birmingham, but also small gatherings/public meetings took place in other parts of the force area. This pattern was repeated in anticipation of the revised date of 31<sup>st</sup> October, and prior to the calling of the General election. The start of campaigning changed the emphasis of protest to "Brexit" in a wider social context. Protest locally remained small.
21. 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**

22. 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. In September 2019, there was a growing recognition by forces covering Ports outside of the South East Region that they too may require Mutual Aid in a No Deal scenario. Whilst scoping was being undertaken nationally, the dissolution of Parliament meant that such requests were not forthcoming.
23. 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.
20. The period of the end of March and/or beginning of April presented different policing challenges to the end of October and/or late January. The force is currently working through different scenarios and planning assumptions including the necessity to restrict or embargo annual leave.
21. 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.
  - c) Staffing of the RICC on a continuous basis over weekend periods, commencing October 2019. This department provides a regional support to the coordination of police resources.
  - d) The table below relates to direct costs for the provision of mutual aid. The very limited number of requests for October / November, coupled with the subsequent suspension of activity due to the General Election incurred no additional cost.

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**

22. Op CARVEN III Gold Group will continue to monitor the developing EU exit process to coordinate WMP resources at a strategic level. Supt KENT will lead through his Silver (tactical) planning process. This will include briefings to internal staff associations and networks across the organisation. Vigilance during what could be a timeline throughout 2020 will be key.
23. The Silver Lead and force Operations Department will continue to work closely with the LRF to prepare for contingency planning and the impact of EU exit, pending the outcome of national political events.
24. It is extremely difficult to predict with any accuracy the financial implications upon WMP as a result of the political exit on 31<sup>st</sup> January in accordance with the Prime Minister's plans, or indeed any other scenario. It is a possibility that the impact of EU exit will not be fully realised until the end of 2020, with the end of the Transition period. This will prolong the need to remain watchful, and push financial implications into 2021. The Silver planning process will accurately capture any costs incurred to provide real time monitoring and support post incident review.
25. A review was previously undertaken of key suppliers for WMP and any associated Brexit impact. There were no identified issues in October 2019 and the same assurance processes are underway in preparation for January 2020.
26. 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**

27. The Board is asked to note this report.

### **Author(s):**

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