



**Title:** Preparing for the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games  
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## 1. Purpose of paper

1.1 This paper is an update on the ongoing planning for Operation UNITY, the policing of the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games. It follows previous papers submitted to Board members in 2019, 2020 and 2021; the latest report was presented in March 2022.

1.2 This report will update on:

- Review of Security Governance Transition in readiness for Games time
- Latest programme developments
- Latest assessment of strategic risks & issues

## 2. Security Governance Transition

2.1 The programme will imminently transition from a programme management structure to an operational planning and Games delivery structure, applying key focus on command and operational delivery. This will see some of the existing security governance structures refined to support this transition. A proposed structure has been drafted for multi-partnership approval.

## 3. Programme Developments

3.1 Since the last Board report the following programme milestones have been achieved:

3.2 **Resourcing (West Midlands Police)** – Resourcing circa 1,300 West Midlands Police officers to Games specific roles continues alongside 320 existing members of police staff to support logistical roles during Games time. In 2021 all West Midlands Police officers' rest days were cancelled and annual leave embargoed during Games time. This was to ensure sufficient resources are available to deliver a safe and secure Games *and* maintain West Midlands Police's capacity to continue preventing crime, protecting the public and helping those in need across the whole conurbation.

3.3 A review of projected demand and resource throughout the Summer has been finalised and a decision has been made to extend the majority of non-Games uniform

officers to 12 hours shifts, which will provide sufficient business as usual capacity and allow for a percentage of cancelled rest days to be re-instated.

**3.4 Resourcing (Mutual Aid)** – up to 1,700 mutual aid police officers are required from other police forces for each day of the Games. Supported by the National Police Coordination Centre (NPoCC). West Midlands Police continues to liaise with national forces and is confident that all of the required officers will be identified and suitably deployed in time for the Games. The mutual aid officers will be supported by a significant logistical & welfare plan which has been developed using national best practice.

**3.5** Over 95% of Mutual Aid resources have now been nominated and we are working closely with NPoCC and the police regions to close the remaining gap which consists of a small number of specialist resources such as police motor cyclists.

**3.6 Briefing** – Comprehensive online briefing packs are being prepared for all officers and staff deployed to the Games to ensure both local and mutual aid colleagues are properly prepared before undertaking their vital roles. In addition, West Midlands Police IT&D department are in the final stages of developing a new mobile device Briefing App which will be available to all officers and staff, including mutual aid officers. This innovative App will be the first of its kind in UK policing and will provide all officers and staff with real-time information about venues, event schedules, maps and intelligence. Development of the App will be a significant legacy benefit for the future policing of major events.

**3.7 Queen's Baton Relay** – The Queen's Baton Relay commences the “national leg” of its global journey in June 2022, before it arrives at the Alexander Stadium for the Opening Ceremony on 28 July. The “national leg” includes events between 2-6 June to coincide with the Jubilee celebrations and the West Midlands Police-led Baton Escort Team have been deployed to London to support the Metropolitan Police Service.

**3.8 Venue Risk Assessments & Plans** – West Midlands Police and the Birmingham 2022 Organising Committee have completed assessments of all Games sites, events and key venues. All police venue commanders have now been appointed and are in the process of finalising detailed venue operational plans and building relationships with the Organising Committee venue managers.

**3.9 Readiness Testing & Exercising** – Testing and exercising for the Games continues at pace with table top exercises undertaken by security partners in April. Two major testing events are scheduled for May including a two-day exercise which will test operational, tactical and strategic command, control & communications and live tests events at the Alexander Stadium and Sandwell Aquatics Centre. Formal debriefs will be conducted for all partners post exercise.

**3.10 Finance & Procurement** - The Games Security Budget, managed by West Midlands Police on behalf of all security partners, continues to be closely scrutinised. The latest Home Office led budget review was held on 1 March 2022. Whilst current financial forecasts continue to project opportunities for savings within the security budget in addition to savings already realised, it is recognised that procurement costs for fleet hire are significantly higher than initially forecast due to a national vehicle shortage.

**3.11 Legacy Benefits & Community Engagement** – The Police Engagement Team continues its impressive work regularly engaging with communities, schools,

universities and youth groups across the force area to promote the Games messaging as well as preparing neighbourhoods near to Games venues to prepare for the inevitable disruption. To date, a cohort of 24 community members have volunteered to join the policing logistical operation during the Games and, hopefully, leave a legacy of new active citizens willing to take on future roles working with West Midlands Police such as Street Watch.

#### **4. Strategic Risks & Issues**

4.1 Risks are identified across all security partners via an integrated risk register as well as strategic and tactical intelligence assessments. The following is an update on the strategic risks identified in the previous report:

4.2 **National Threat Level** – The UK national threat level remains at ‘Substantial’ - a terrorist attack is likely. The security posture for the Games remains proportionate to this threat level; a dedicated Games Joint Intelligence Cell (JIC) has now commenced. The JIC brings together local, regional and national intelligence to provide a complete assessment of all Games related crime and security threats.

4.3 **Cyber-attack** – Work is ongoing with Games Partners to review and assess all cybercrime resilience and mitigation measures in line with national guidance and best practice.

4.4 **Impact of CoVID-19** – whilst the ending of all CoVID restrictions within the UK is to be welcomed, the global scale of the Games means that future CoVID planning assumptions continue to be closely assessed. In accordance with the latest advice provided by the Organising Committee, enhanced measures (for example, testing and mask wearing) are being planned for staff and officers deployed to specific Games roles.

4.5 **Recruitment of Private Contract Security Staff** – West Midlands Police continues to work with the Organising Committee to closely monitor the recruitment, training and deployment of private contract security staff and stewards, and with the military to test the contingency plans in place in the event of any private contract security failures during the Games.

4.6 **Transport Security** – West Midlands Police continues to work closely with partners to ensure that the thousands of athletes and millions of spectators attending the Games can safely and securely travel around Birmingham and the West Midlands. Planning includes the deployment of Roads Policing resources to help minimise traffic congestion along the designated Games Route Network.

#### **5. Next Steps**

5.1 The Board is asked to note this report.

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