



Title: Final Review of the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games

Presented by: ACC Matt Ward and Superintendent Nicholas Rowe

Purpose of paper

1. This paper will provide an insight into the findings from Operation UNITY, the policing of the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games, which took place in the West Midlands region, and other Force areas, from July to August 2022. This paper follows previous papers submitted to Board members in 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022. The latest report was presented to the Board in November 2022; which reported the initial findings since the Games concluded.

2. The Operation UNITY team, in collaboration with the College of Policing (CoP) and the National Police Coordination Centre (NPoCC), has progressed a number of reviews following the events. This report will look to summarise these reports.

B2022 Commonwealth Games Post Event Executive Summary

3. Following the conclusion of the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games, key Operation UNITY resources have remained in situ allowing for the appropriate reviews and assessments to take place; these reviews have now concluded and formalised reports developed. The Operation UNITY Programme structure was formally closed at the end of March 2023.

4. Operation UNITY are in the process of finalising the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games Safety and Security Post Games Report. This report provides an assessment of the planning phase and operational delivery covering all elements of the Games. The report alludes to key risks associated with the Games, such as Private Contractor Security

(PCS) and the use of Military Personnel, key financial information, legacy and benefits and draws out key national learning, as reflected within the formal structured debrief reports. This report has been shared with the Operation UNITY partnership and with counterparts in Victoria, Australia as part of the knowledge sharing exercises that have taken place.

Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games Formal Structured Debrief

5. The College of Policing (CoP) has conducted a multitude of formal structured debrief sessions covering 22 individual elements associated with Games planning and operational delivery. Key areas include; Planning, Resourcing (including specialist), the Command Structure, Enabling Services, Partnership Working and Communication. All organisations within the Security partnership has had the opportunity to input into this process. The final reports were shared with West Midlands Police in January 2023.

6. Approximately 270 recommendations have been identified as part of the structured debriefing process for West Midlands Police, other Police forces, Security partners and National authorities. The Structured Debrief Report has been shared with Operation UNITY, National bodies and counterparts in Victoria, Australia.

7. West Midlands Police are currently in the process of assessing the recommendations to progress forward with appropriate action plans to be identified. The Strategy, Delivery and Assurance Department within West Midlands Police will hold these recommendations centrally, managing the response to deliver at the appropriate governance forums. The Organisational Learning and Risk Board is the overarching governance forum in which recommendations will be progressed to closure.

The Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games Formal Structured Debrief Summary Report has been submitted as Annex A.

Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games Freedom of Information Strategy (Fol)

8. Operation UNITY published a Freedom of Information (Fol) Strategy in the anticipation of a significant number of requests of information in respect of the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games.

9. The Publication Strategy detailed the process with regard to how information relating to Operation UNITY would be proactively published and the timescales involved (see Annex A).

Annex B

Type of Information	Relevant Information	Publication Strategy
Commercial Information	Procurement Contract Information Tendering Approach/Route to Market	October 2022
Operational Statistics	Games Time Crime Data	October 2022
Resources	Operational Workforce Mix Police Planning Team	October 2022
Governance	Governance Diagram Terms of Reference Stakeholder Management	October 2022
Financial Information	Financial Summary Funding	March 2023

Economic Evaluation of the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games

10. The Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport have produced an independent evaluation report which provides an interim assessment of the impact of the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games events on Birmingham, the West Midlands and the wider UK.

11. The report focuses on the outcomes and impacts generated up to the end of September 2022 as a result of £668.7 million of spending incurred between April 2018 and September 2022 to deliver the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games.

12. The reports also alludes to the longer-term legacy and benefits that the Games platform has created. The full breadth of activity associated with the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games, including the impact of delivery Games events and the wider legacy programme activity, will be evaluated as part of the one year-post Games evaluation, anticipated to be reported late 2023 into early 2024.

13. The report and subsequent reporting are publicised on the Government website.

The Interim Evaluation of the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games Report has been submitted as Annex C.

Conclusion

14. The Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games was a huge success not only for UK Policing but the wider West Midlands region, putting Birmingham and the West Midlands on the global stage. The Games platform has created a lasting legacy for the region and generated a variety of benefits in the years to come.

15. Operation UNITY have conducted knowledge transfer briefings with counterparts in Victoria, Australia; who will be hosting the XXIII Commonwealth Games in March 2026. This engagement will continue and the appropriate reports will be shared with Victoria Police and their wider partnership.

16. The Board are asked to note this as the final report for the Safety and Security of the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games.

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