

Meeting	SPA Authority Meeting
Date	17 January 2020
Location	John McIntyre Centre, Edinburgh
Title of Paper	Brexit Contingency Planning
Presented By	DCC Will Kerr, Local Policing
Recommendation to Members	For Discussion
Appendix Attached	No

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to the Scottish Police Authority on EU Exit contingency plans.

Members are invited to discuss the content of this paper.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 On 23rd December 2019 the UK Government formally stood down Operation Yellowhammer due to the decreased likelihood of the UK leaving the EU without a deal on 31 January 2020. In response to this the Scottish Government also stood down planning and delivery work for the Civil Contingencies aspect of a 'No Deal' Exit on 31 January 2020.
- 1.2 In response to the above Government decisions Police Scotland is currently undertaking a Review of their EU-Exit contingency plans.

2. FURTHER DETAIL ON THE REPORT TOPIC

Brexit Contingency Planning

2.1 Force Reserve

- 2.1.1 In preparation for the UK's exit from the EU the Force Reserve (FR) has been deployed since 5th August 2019 and are located in 5 hubs throughout Scotland. The resources have been actively deployed across our divisions supporting front line policing. The Force Reserve have deployed to a whole manner of spontaneous incidents ranging from anti-social behaviour, search, violent persons and missing persons as well as pre-planned events such as Winter City in Edinburgh, football matches and protests. This is not to mention general patrols which have seen stop searches, drug recoveries and warrant executions. In total there have been over 1182 different deployments of the Force Reserve in the month of November and 1015 in the month of December.
- 2.1.2 The positive impact on service delivery and staff wellbeing (reduced cancelled rest days) the Force Reserve has made has been recognised and a review as to its future is currently being undertaken and will consider a range of options going forward. Upon completion of the review an options paper will be presented for consideration of the Chief Constable by the end of January 2020.

2.2 Civil Contingencies and Partnership Work Streams

- 2.2.1 In preparation for the Yellowhammer period The Brexit Co-ordination Centre (BCC) was set up within the Area Control Room, Bilston Glen to support emergency and essential services and to further gain, maintain and communicate accurate and timely

situational awareness to support sound strategic and local decision making.

2.2.2 In response to the Government's decision to stand down Operation Yellowhammer the Brexit Planning Team are currently undertaking a review of the resourcing of its command structures and supporting roles for the BCC. It is acknowledged that there would be benefit in maintaining an awareness/overview of EU-Exit activity particularly in relation to the possibility of a No Deal Trade exit on 31 December 2020 and potential requirement for the re-activation of contingency plans. Upon completion of the Review an Options Paper will be presented for consideration.

2.2.3 The Brexit Contingency Team are continuing to engage and work with the three Regional Resilience Partnerships (RRPs) and 12 Local Resilience Partnerships (LRPs) to ensure Scotland's resilience to EU-Exit and any possible disruption / impacts on business as usual.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The total spending in relation to Brexit for Police Scotland is £15,169,721 as of, 3 January 2020.

4. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Ongoing examination of options for the Force Reserve. Options will include full / part retention of FR Officers or full stand down of FR and officers returned to Division and Backfill Officers returned to base posts. This decision will be taken against the operational backdrop of a number of significant operational challenges during 2020, including EURO2020 matches and, of course COP26.

4.2 Consideration of staff on virtual stand by for the BCC. Regular communication circulated with assurances of an update upon decision making from Options Paper.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The procurement team continues to engage with suppliers to identify any risks posed to the capabilities of Police Scotland.

6. REPUTATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Any reputational implications have been considered and plans to mitigate any potential reputational risk are being compiled to reduce this risk.

7. SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Brexit is a highly contentious subject and the Brexit Contingency Planning Team are fully aware of the potential for protest activity and for civil unrest. Police Scotland's Brexit Intelligence officers continue to monitor social media sites in order that Police Scotland can prepare and respond to any potential protests.

8. COMMUNITY IMPACT

- 8.1 Police Scotland continues to monitor any community impact of EU Exit to ensure the needs of our communities across Scotland are understood and responded to appropriately. The number of incidents remains at a constant with no issues directly related to Brexit being identified.

9. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Under the process of Equality Impact Assessment, any identified inequalities will be assessed.

10. ENVIRONMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 There are no environmental implications currently identified.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are invited to discuss the content of this report.