

DMPC Decision – PCD 990

Title: Home Office Funding County Lines Operation Orochi 2021/22

Executive Summary:

This decision seeks approval to accept the Home Office offer of grant funding for 2021/22 of up to £6,600,000. The funding will support the on-going work of the MPS County Lines Task Force – Operation Orochi. The operation is designed to reduce county-lines related violence across London and County Forces driven by intelligence and determined by levels of threat, risk and harm.

Decisions:

The Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime is requested to:

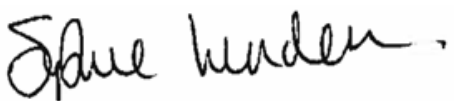
1. Approve Home Office funding grant of £6,600,000 for 2021/22 to undertake a range of activities to combat County Lines drugs supply and its associated threat, risks and harm.
2. Approve the continuation of 59 MPS officers and one police staff in the funded posts, with additional posts of 11 officers and one police staff post, commensurate with the additional funding awarded.
3. Approve utilization of up to £825,000 of the £6,600,000 grant funding to purchase fleet vehicles needed to undertake County Lines activity.

Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime

I confirm I have considered whether or not I have any personal or prejudicial interest in this matter and take the proposed decision in compliance with the Code of Conduct. Any such interests are recorded below.

The above request has my approval.

Signature



Date

01/06/2021

PART I - NON-CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE TO THE DEPUTY MAYOR

1. Introduction and background

- 1.1. This is a continuation of funding previously approved by MOPAC decisions [PCD 785](#) and [PCD 726](#).
- 1.2. The current grant funding ceased on 31/03/2021 and the grant offered for continuation will be for financial year 2021/22 only in line with the Chancellor of the Exchequer's decision of a one-year spending review.

2. Issues for consideration

- 2.1. The proposed grant funding will support the MOPAC Police and Crime Plan by focusing on investigation, enforcement and disruption work against serious violent crime and the criminality of urban street gangs/Organised Crime Groups. It will also seek to reduce the exploitation of young people, seen through the running of county lines.
- 2.2. The 2021/22 grant funding of £6,600,000 is an increase of £1,000,000 above the approved funding for 2020/21. The additional funding will enable the recruitment of an additional 11 police officers and one police staff.
- 2.3. The funding will enable the acquisition of fleet vehicles to support the county lines activity.

3. Financial Comments

- 3.1. This proposal seeks approval to accept up to £6,600,000 of Home Office grant funding for 2021/22. The grant will support the funding of staff and officers as well as acquisition of vehicles.
- 3.2. The grant funding will fully meet the costs of the Operation Orochi unit in 2021/22. If funding does not continue beyond 2021/22 staff and officers will be re-deployed to other roles within the MPS.
- 3.3. If the funding does not continue beyond 2021/22 the grant agreement makes arrangement for either the retention of the vehicles by the MPS or return to the Home Office. If the vehicles are to be retained the MPS has made arrangements for the integration of the vehicles into the wider MPS fleet.

4. Legal Comments

- 4.1. This grant will be paid to MOPAC by the Home Office in the exercise of power conferred upon the Secretary of State pursuant to section 169 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 and section 48 of the Police Act 1996 to make awards of grant funding.

- 4.2. The proposed acceptance by MOPAC of the grant funding is permitted under Schedule 3, Paragraph 7 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011.
- 4.3. Paragraph 4.8 of the MOPAC Scheme of Delegation and Consent provides that the DMPC has delegated authority to approve all bids for grant funding made and all offers made of grant funding.

5. GDPR and Data Privacy

- 5.1. MOPAC will adhere to the Data Protection Act (DPA) 2018 and ensure that any organisations who are commissioned to do work with or on behalf of MOPAC are fully compliant with the policy and understand their GDPR responsibilities.
- 5.2. MPS assure that a DPIA is not required as the activity undertaken by Operation Orochi uses conventional investigation methods already available to all Law Enforcement (LE) and used in investigations for drug supply.

6. Equality Comments

- 6.1. MOPAC is required to comply with the public sector equality duty set out in section 149 (1) of the Equality Act 2010. This requires MOPAC to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations by reference to people with protected characteristics. The protected characteristics are: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.
- 6.2. The MPS assure that an equality screening exercise was carried out which identified no negative impact towards protected and non-protected characteristic groups.

7. Background/supporting papers

- Appendix 1 MPS Report MPS Op Orochi – County Lines
- [PCD 726 National County Lines Co-ordination Centre and County Lines Funding for MPS](#)
- [PCD 785 MPS County Lines Operation Centre](#)

Public access to information

Information in this form (Part 1) is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and will be made available on the MOPAC website following approval.

If immediate publication risks compromising the implementation of the decision it can be deferred until a specific date. Deferral periods should be kept to the shortest length strictly necessary.

Part 1 Deferral:

Is the publication of Part 1 of this approval to be deferred? No

If yes, for what reason:

Until what date: N/A

Part 2 Confidentiality: Only the facts or advice considered as likely to be exempt from disclosure under the FOIA should be in the separate Part 2 form, together with the legal rationale for non-publication.

Is there a **Part 2** form - Yes

ORIGINATING OFFICER DECLARATION

*Tick to confirm
statement (✓)*

Financial Advice

The Strategic Finance and Resource Management Team has been consulted on this proposal.

✓

Legal Advice

The MPS legal team has been consulted on the proposal.

✓

Equalities Advice:

Equality and diversity issues are covered in the body of the report.

✓

GDPR/Data Privacy

GDPR compliance issues are covered in the body of the report.

✓

Drafting Officer

Alex Anderson has drafted this report in accordance with MOPAC procedures.

✓

Director/Head of Service:

The Chief Finance Officer has reviewed the request and is satisfied it is correct and consistent with the MOPAC's plans and priorities.

✓

Chief Executive Officer

I have been consulted about the proposal and confirm that financial, legal and equalities advice has been taken into account in the preparation of this report. I am satisfied that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime.

Signature



Date 21/05/21



MAYOR OF LONDON
OFFICE FOR POLICING AND CRIME

MPS Op Orochi – County Lines

MOPAC Investment Advisory & Monitoring meeting 30th June 2021

Report by D/Supt Mike West on behalf of the Chief of Corporate Services

Part 1 – This section of the report will be published by MOPAC. It is classified as OFFICIAL – PUBLIC

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this document is to seek approval to draw down funding of £6.6m from a bid approved by the Home Office to continue the MPS County Lines Task Force – Operation Orochi for 2021/22. This will include an additional £1m to uplift the Unit police officer numbers and provide an additional covert / proactive team.

The staffing for Op Orochi will continue from 20/21 and the additional team will come from across MPS business groups and the funding awarded is required to pay staffing costs along with equipment, vehicles and overtime.

The core aims of Operation Orochi are:

- To reduce county lines-related violence across London and County Forces; driven by intelligence and determined by levels of threat, risk and harm.
- To increase public confidence that police are taking action against Gangs and county lines networks.
- To increase Criminal Justice System (CJS) outcomes with increased operational effectiveness and productivity. Use of all appropriate legislation such as modern slavery will be considered.
- To enhance and develop existing operational partnerships with County Forces.

Recommendations

The Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, via MOPAC's Investment Advisory and Monitoring meeting (IAM), is asked to approve:

- Home Office funding grant of £6.6m for 2021/22 to undertake a range of activities to combat County Lines drugs supply and its associated threat, risks and harm.
- The continuation of 59 MPS officers and 1 police staff in the funded posts and outlined at Section 5 below; with additional posts of 11 officers and 1 police staff post, commensurate with the additional funding awarded.
- Utilization of up to £825k of the £6.6m grant funding to purchase fleet vehicles needed to undertake County Lines activity.

Time sensitivity

A decision is requested from the Mayor at the earliest opportunity. This is because the operational delivery for FY 20/21 needs to start in as soon as practicable to ensure desired outcomes are reached.

Non-confidential facts and advice to the Mayor

Introduction and background

County Lines is a drug supply business model, predominately of Class A, and is an industry believed to be worth in excess of £800m UK wide. This in turn stimulates the activity within the middle market drugs supply linked to organised crime.

The scale of the current complex threat posed by county lines in relation to the exploitation of children and other vulnerable persons to facilitate drug dealing is extensive and affects every police force area.

The NCA and National County Lines Co-Ordination Centre 2019 assessments provide evidence that London is the biggest exporter of county lines, with 50% of all lines with a known origin coming from the MPS.

Issues for consideration

- This is a continuation of funding previously approved by Sophie Linden Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime in 2020/21.
- The scale of the current complex threat posed by county lines in relation to the exploitation of children and other vulnerable persons to facilitate drug dealing is extensive and affects every ROCU area and police force area.
- The exploitation of children and vulnerable people is a fundamental factor in how the business model works. An increase in serious violence linked to

young persons and the drugs market has been noted across the country and the increase is significantly impacted by the county lines 'business model'.

- This grant funding is to enable the continuation of Operation Orochi under the NPCC banner, that seeks to build on the lessons learnt from Operation Orochi FY 20/21 and other exporting Forces; and service wider demands across larger UK metropolitan forces. Op Orochi is focused on reducing the harm caused by County Lines, both in the MPS and the County Forces (CF).

Contributes to the MOPAC Police & Crime Plan 2017-2021¹

The work this unit will undertake directly impacts upon serious violent crime and the criminality of urban street gangs/Organised Crime Groups. It will also seek to reduce the exploitation of young people, seen through the running of county lines.

Financial, Commercial and Procurement Comments

The unit will be fully funded by the Home Office grant of £6.6m for 2021/22 only, to include staff and associated running costs. Detailed information is contained in the restricted section of the report.

The grant agreement will provide authority for expenditure against the delivery plan submitted to the Home Office for the MPS County Lines Taskforce. This grant is conditional and for capital spend during FY21/22

If funding does not continue beyond FY21/22, grant agreement states that any assets purchased will require an end of programme decision by the Home Office on if the MPS retain the asset or if it should be returned to the Home Office. With regards to staff, they will be redeployed across the MPS taking with them new investigative skills and apply these against MPS priorities. There is no ongoing risk to the MPS as asset and staff are ring fenced for the county line taskforce.

Legal Comments

This grant will be paid to MOPAC by the Home Office in the exercise of power conferred upon the Secretary of State pursuant to section 169 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 and section 48 of the Police Act 1996 to make awards of grant funding.

The proposed acceptance by MOPAC of the grant funding is permitted under Schedule 3, Paragraph 7 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011.

Paragraph 4.8 of the MOPAC Scheme of Delegation and Consent provides that the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime (DMPC) has delegated authority to approve all bids for grant funding made and all offers made of grant funding.

Equality Comments

¹ [Police and crime plan: a safer city for all Londoners | London City Hall](#)

To ensure that MPS met the requirements and obligations under the Public Sector Equality Duty, Section 149 Equality Act 2010 an Equality screening exercise was carried out which identified no negative impact towards protected and non-protected characteristic groups negating the need to complete a full EIA.

Privacy Comments

The MPS is subject to the requirements and conditions placed on it as a 'State' body to comply with the European Convention of Human Rights and the Data Protection Act (DPA) 2018. Both legislative requirements place an obligation on the MPS to process personal data fairly and lawfully in order to safeguard the rights and freedoms of individuals.

Under Article 35 of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Section 57 of the DPA 2018, Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIA) become mandatory for organisations with technologies and processes that are likely to result in a high risk to the rights of the data subjects.

DPIAs support the accountability principle, as they will ensure the MPS complies with the requirements of GDPR and they demonstrate that appropriate measures have been taken to ensure compliance. This will remain under constant review and any new activity within Operation Orochi will be considered against the DPIA principles.

A DPIA is not required. Op Orochi does not undertake activity beyond conventional investigations using methods already available to all Law Enforcement (LE) and used in investigations for drug supply.

Real Estate Implications

This information is contained in the restricted section of the report

Environmental Implications

There are no identifiable benefits to the London Environment Strategy

Background/supporting papers

This information is contained in the restricted section of the report

Report author: **D/Supt Mike West**

Part 2 – This section refers to the details of the Part 2 business case which is NOT SUITABLE for MOPAC Publication.

The Government Security Classification marking for Part 2 is:
OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE [OPERATIONAL]

Part 2 of MPS County Lines – Operation Orochi is exempt from publication for the following reasons:

- Contains police tactics and other issues for consideration of an operational nature that if published would hinder the criminal justice process and effectiveness of the unit.
- Contains estates information that may reveal the location of the unit

Part 2 will be exempt from the Freedom of Information Act under;

Sec 31 Law enforcement

(1) Information which is not exempt information by virtue of section 30 is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice—

- (a) the prevention or detection of crime,
- (b) the apprehension or prosecution of offenders,
- (c) the administration of justice,

The paper will be exempt until at least 31/05/2022.