

DMPC Decision – PCD 1048

Title: National County Lines Co-ordination Centre Home Office Funding

Executive Summary:

The Home Office have announced additional spending for police forces and other law enforcement agencies to enhance the way they tackle County Lines criminality. The Metropolitan Police is the recipient of some of these funds as the host force of the National County Lines Co-ordination Centre. This paper outlines the money allocated, how it will be spent and highlights the time frame in which that will occur. This funding has been allocated for the financial year 2021/22.

Recommendation:

The Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime is recommended to:

1. Approve the MPS to accept £4,403,246 Home Office grant bid funding as the host force and appointed budget holder for national activities relating to the continuation of the National County Lines Co-ordination Centre. The grant funding is for expenditure and is for the financial year 2021-2022.
2. Approve provision of Grant Payments to the Third Parties outlined in Appendix B (within restricted part of report) to be paid under delegated authority.
3. Approve the MPS to accept £2,000,000 Home Office grant bid funding as the host force and appointed budget holder for national activities in the continuation of a “surge” funding provision for forces outside the MPS which the National County Lines Co-ordination Centre oversees. The grant funding is for expenditure and is for the financial year 2021-2022.
4. Approve provision of Grant Payments to Third Parties who successfully bid against the £2,000,000 “surge” funding provision to be paid under delegated authority.

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

24/09/2021

PART I - NON-CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE TO THE DMPC

1. Introduction and background

- 1.1. All of the funding and activity described in this paper is as a result of the funding that the Home Office have allocated after the Home Secretary's announcement of £40m to combat County Lines was launched.
- 1.2. The National County Lines Co-ordination Centre (NCLCC) is funded by the Home Office and is focused around delivering an accurate analysis of the current threat posed by county lines, producing an effective operational response and developing and disseminating relevant strategy derived from best practice and from subject matter experts for national compliance.
- 1.3. The continuation of the NCLCC is reliant on funds to produce beneficial outputs and give additional support for policing and wider law enforcement given the enhanced priority of County Lines in recent times. This will assist with the objective set by the Home Secretary to "roll up" County Lines.
- 1.4. The NCLCC has maintained its current business design with some additional functionality to address operational gaps identified. The introduction of a separate "surge" funding provision has been bid for to ensure all police forces in England and Wales have an opportunity to access Home Office funds, to complement the wider funding of the MPS, West Midlands and Merseyside who are separately receiving funding for operational teams dedicated to County Lines.

2. Issues for consideration

- 2.1. The NCLCC will enable the MPS across all boroughs (and other forces) to have an enhanced response to keeping children and young people safe through safeguarding strategies and best practice. The NCLCC will also enable the MPS to benefit from national collaboration to tackle and combat organised criminality and its impact on serious violence, use of weapons, drugs and trafficking.
- 2.2. Detailed information is contained in the restricted section of the report.

3. Financial Comments

- 3.1. The NCLCC costs are £4.4m for financial year 2021/2022.
- 3.2. The MPS hosts the majority of posts with national responsibility, and the Regional Organised Crime Units host the roles with regional responsibility. The MPS retains approximately £1.4m of this Grant to fund posts resourced by the MPS. The cost of the posts from other Agencies and Forces which are hosted and funded through the grant is approximately £3.1m. Reimbursed Third Parties are outlined at Annex D of the restricted part of the report.

- 3.3. The funds will be received by Lead Forces for ROCU, BTP and NCA by Grant Agreement where necessary.
- 3.4. Surge funds of £2m will be managed by the NCLCC. Reimbursement to Third Parties will be done via the grant and will be identified through a set bidding process.

4. Legal Comments

- 4.1. In accordance with paragraph 4.8 of MOPAC's Scheme of Consent and Delegation the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime may approve the bids for grant funding made and all offers made of grant funding; and/or where appropriate a strategy for grant giving.
- 4.2. If approved, the terms of the grants will be formalised between the relevant parties overseen by MPS Commercial Services. MOPAC has the legal powers to enter into Grant arrangements with Third Parties under Schedule 3, Paragraph 7 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 which provides that,
 - 7(1) The Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime may do anything which is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to, the exercise of the functions of the Office.
 - (2) That includes—
 - (a) entering into contracts and other agreements (whether legally binding or not);
- 4.3. MOPAC has an obligation to publish any grant agreement entered into pursuant to Schedule 1, Paragraph 3(g) of the Elected Local Policing Bodies (Specified Information) (Amendment) Order 2012.
- 4.4. The Grant Agreement is legally binding and the acceptance of the Grant is legal. There have not been any legal issues that arise from the proposal, bid or development of the NCLCC.

5. GDPR and Data Privacy

- 5.1. 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.
- 5.2. 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.
- 5.3. The Information Assurance and Information Rights units within MPS will be consulted at all stages to ensure the project meets its compliance requirements.

- 5.4. The acceptance of the grant does not use personally identifiable data of members of the public, so there are no GDPR issues to be considered.

6. Equality Comments

- 6.1. The design and implementation of the NCLCC has undergone initial equality screening. Due regard has been taken to the Equality Act's Public Sector Equality Duty under Sec 149 of the Equality Act 2010. Real consideration has been taken to assess equality impact caused by the proposed business change including effective engagement and analysing relevant equality information. As a result no negative impact has been identified to any individual and/or group safeguarded by a protected characteristic and to those who are not. Further reviews will be conducted (if necessary) and process monitoring completed. If as a result of the continual development of the NCLCC Equality Impact is identified, a full Equality Impact Assessment will be initiated.

7. Background/supporting papers

- 7.1. The funding for NCLCC and operational surge funding previously have been authorised by MOPAC under PCD 861 (£4.4m for 2020/21), PCD 726 (£1.2m surge funds 2020/21) and PCD 386 (£3.6m for 18 months across FY 2018/2019/2020).

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.

✓

Commercial Issues

Commercial issues are not applicable.

✓

GDPR/Data Privacy

- GDPR compliance issues are covered in the body of the report.
- A DPIA is not required.

✓

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 24/09/2021



National County Lines Co-ordination Centre Funding

Report by Brittany Clarke 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 Home Office have announced additional spending for police forces and other law enforcement agencies to enhance the way they tackle County Lines criminality. The Metropolitan Police is the recipient of some of these funds as the host force of the National County Lines Co-ordination Centre. This paper outlines the money allocated, how it will be spent and highlights the time frame in which that will occur. Please note this funding has been allocated for the financial year 2021/22.

Recommendations

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

1. **To approve the MPS to accept £4.4m Home Office grant bid funding as the host force and appointed budget holder for national activities relating to the continuation of the National County Lines Co-ordination Centre. The grant funding is for expenditure and is for the financial year 2021-2022.**
2. **To provide Grant Payments to the Third Parties outlined within the Appendix B (within restricted version of report).**
3. **To approve the MPS to accept £2m Home Office grant bid funding the host force and appointed budget holder for national activities in the continuation of a “surge” funding provision for forces outside the MPS which the National County Lines Co-ordination Centre oversees. The grant funding is for expenditure and is for the financial year 2021-2022.**
4. **To provide Grant Payments to Third Parties who have successful bids against the £2m “surge” funding provision.**

Time sensitivity

A decision is required from the Deputy Mayor by 30th August 2021. The time

sensitivity is because the funding received is for this financial year and expectation of continuity has been confirmed. This was to ensure the National County Lines Co-ordination Centre could continue to function throughout the rest of Financial Year 20/21 by retaining staff who may otherwise seek alternative jobs in the instance that funding may be not continued. Additionally, to accrue funds and confidently distribute them to other forces and agencies, the security of ensuring all commercial procedures have been adhered to, is vital. The date of the announcement for the amount of funding was March 2021. The process from then has been to design the functionality of the NCLCC, agreeing the Terms of Reference for the “surge” funding provision, incorporating key stakeholder agreement and expertise within Law Enforcement, and then the subsequent sign off from the two Heads of NCLCC.

Non-confidential facts and advice to the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime

Introduction and background

1. All of the funding and activity described in this paper is as a result of the funding that the Home Office have allocated after the Home Secretary’s announcement of £40m to combat County Lines was launched.
2. The National County Lines Co-ordination Centre is funded by the Home Office and is focused around delivering an accurate analysis of the current threat posed by county lines, producing an effective operational response and developing and disseminating relevant strategy derived from best practice and SME’s for national compliance.
3. The continuation of the NCLCC is reliant on funds to produce beneficial outputs and give additional support for policing and wider law enforcement given the enhanced priority of County Lines in recent times. This will assist with the objective set by the Home Secretary to “roll up” County Lines.
4. The NCLCC has maintained its current business design with some additional functionality to address operational gaps identified. The introduction of a separate “surge” funding provision has been bid for to ensure all police forces in England and Wales have an opportunity to access Home Office funds, to complement the wider funding of the MPS, West Midlands and Merseyside who are separately receiving funding for operational teams dedicated to County Lines.

Issues for consideration

5. Information is contained in the restricted section of the report’.

Contributes to the MOPAC Police & Crime Plan 2017-2021¹

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

6. The NCLCC will enable the MPS across all boroughs (and other forces) to have an enhanced response to keeping children and young people safe through safeguarding strategies and best practice. The NCLCC will also enable the MPS to benefit from national collaboration to tackle and combat organised criminality and its impact on serious violence, use of weapons, drugs and trafficking.

Financial, Commercial and Procurement Comments

7. The NCLCC costs are £4.4m for financial year 2021/2022. A breakdown of costs is in Appendix B of the restricted part of the report, and an overview of the distribution of the funds nationally is in Appendix C.
8. The MPS hosts the majority of posts with national responsibility, and the Regional Organised Crime Units host the roles with regional responsibility. The MPS retains approximately £1.4m of this Grant to fund posts resourced by the MPS. The cost of the posts from other Agencies and Forces which are hosted and funded through the grant is approximately £3.1m and reimbursed Third Parties are outlined at Annex D.
9. The funds will be received by Lead Forces for ROCU, BTP and NCA by Grant Agreement where necessary.
10. Surge funds of £2m will be managed by the NCLCC. Reimbursed Third Parties will be done so via the grant and will be identified through a set bidding process.

Legal Comments

11. The Grant Agreement is legally binding and the acceptance of the Grant is legal. There has not been any legal issues that arise from the proposal, bid or development of the NCLCC.
12. In accordance with paragraph 4.8 of MOPAC's Scheme of Consent and Delegation the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime may approve the bids for grant funding made and all offers made of grant funding; and/or where appropriate a strategy for grant giving. If approved, the terms of the grants will be formalised between the relevant parties overseen by MPS Commercial Services. MOPAC has the legal powers to enter into Grant arrangements with Third Parties under Schedule 3, Paragraph 7 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 which provides that,
 - 7(1) The Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime may do anything which is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to, the exercise of the functions of the Office.
 - (2) That includes—
 - (a) entering into contracts and other agreements (whether legally binding or not);

MOPAC has an obligation to publish any grant agreement entered into pursuant to Schedule 1, Paragraph 3(g) of the Elected Local Policing Bodies (Specified Information) (Amendment) Order 2012.

Equality Comments

13. The design and implementation of the NCLCC has undergone initial equality screening. Due regard has been taken to the Equality Act's Public Sector Equality Duty under Sec 149 of the Equality Act 2010. Real consideration has been taken to assess equality impact caused by the proposed business change including effective engagement and analysing relevant equality information. As a result no negative impact has been identified to any individual and/or group safeguarded by a protected characteristic and to those who are not. Further reviews will be conducted (if necessary) and process monitoring completed. If as a result of the continual development of the NCLCC Equality Impact is identified, a full Equality Impact Assessment will be initiated.

Privacy Comments

14. 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.

The Information Assurance and Information Rights units within MPS will be consulted at all stages to ensure the projects meets its compliance requirements.

The acceptance of the grant does not use personally identifiable data of members of the public, so there are no GDPR issues to be considered.

Real Estate Implications

15. There are no changes to real estate arrangements and therefore no issues arising from current assessments.

Environmental Implications

16. There will be no impact on the Mayor's Environment Strategy.

Background/supporting papers

17. Please see the supporting documents in Part 2 which outline the business design of the NCLCC and breakdown of costs.

Report author: (DCI Brittany Clarke, National County Lines Co-ordination Centre)

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:
SECRET

Part 2 of National County Lines Co-ordination Centre is exempt from publication for the following reasons:

The paper overtly discusses methodology of law enforcement strategy and tactics in the response to organised criminality

- The methodology is sensitive and not in the public interest or interests of security for it to be disclosed publicly.
- It is exempt under Article 2(2)(a) (b) and (c) of the Elected Local Policing Bodies (Specified Information) Order 2011
- It is also exempt from disclosure under the FOIA sections:
 - Commercial Interest Section 43
 - Section 31 Law Enforcement

The paper will cease to be exempt until the NCLCC has closed down and/or until such time that a release of any information or material related to the methodology could no longer compromise operational security and effectiveness.