

**DMPC Decision – PCD 1091**

**Title: Home Office Grant Funding Operation Orochi Uplift 2021**

**Executive Summary:**

This paper seeks approval for the acceptance of £4,700,000 of unconditional Home Office (HO) grant funding in support of Operation Orochi and County Lines activity. The funding can be spent across 2021/22 and future years. The funding will be used in the main for additional officers including three additional operational teams, vehicles and equipment. The paper also seeks approval for the use of £950,000 of the grant to acquire vehicles in support of County Lines activity.

**Recommendation:**

The Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime is recommended to:

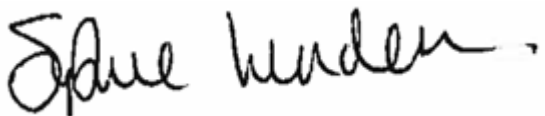
1. Approve Home Office unconditional funding grant of £4.7m to undertake a range of activities to combat County Lines drugs supply and its associated threat, risks and harm.
2. Approve utilisation of up to £950k of the £4.7m grant funding to purchase fleet vehicles needed to undertake County Lines activity, and
3. Approve the initiation of procurement for the base vehicles required for the fleet augmentation as Fleet Services do not have sufficient manufacturer contracts in place for the acquisition of the necessary vehicles.

**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**

**10/12/2021**

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

### **1. Introduction and background**

- 1.1. MOPAC approved receipt of Home Office grant funding of £6.6m for 2021/22 for the continuance of the then existing Operation Orochi County Lines activity in June 2021 [PCD990].
- 1.2. The Home Office has now identified additional funding of £4.7m for further investment in this activity.

### **2. Issues for consideration**

- 2.1. The Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) states that accepting this grant funding contributes to the MOPAC Police & Crime Plan 2017-2021 as 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.
- 2.2. The grant will be used to fund an additional 49 officers and staff for a 12 month period. In addition, the grant will fund the acquisition of additional vehicles, laptops and licences and support a digital forensics hub.
- 2.3. In addition to this £4.7m grant funding the Home Office has also allocated a further £1.36m funding to the Roads Police Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) function in support of County Lines.

### **3. Financial Comments**

- 3.1. The acceptance of the HO funding of £4,700,000 does not require any match funding by MOPAC.
- 3.2. If HO funding ceases in the future then the posts this grant funds would be absorbed across the MPS. County Lines remains referenced in all recent communications as a key pillar of the UK's drug strategy and future investment.

### **4. Legal Comments**

- 4.1. Under Schedule 3, paragraph 7 (1) Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) MOPAC has incidental powers to "do anything which is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to, the exercise of the functions of the Office." Paragraph 7 (2) (a) provides that this includes entering into contracts and other agreements. The Met assure that these powers are sufficiently broad to permit MOPAC to enter into the grant agreement.
- 4.2. Para 4.8 of the MOPAC Scheme of Consent and Delegation provides the DMPC with delegated power to approve all offers made of grant funding, and to approve business cases for revenue or capital expenditure of £500,000 and above.

4.3. Para 4.13 of the MOPAC Scheme of Consent and Delegation provides the DMPC with delegated power to approve all requests to go out to tender for contracts of £500,000 or above, or where there is a particular public interest.

## **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. Previous approvals for Operation Orochi have noted 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. 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 Paper MPS Op Orochi – County Lines

**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:

**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

<b>ORIGINATING OFFICER DECLARATION</b>	<i>Tick to confirm statement (✓)</i>
<b>Financial Advice:</b> The Strategic Finance and Resource Management Team has been consulted on this proposal.	✓
<b>Legal Advice:</b> The MPS legal team has been consulted on the proposal.	✓
<b>Equalities Advice:</b> Equality and diversity issues are covered in the body of the report.	✓
<b>GDPR/Data Privacy</b> GDPR compliance issues are covered in the body of the report.	✓
<b>Drafting Officer</b> Alex Anderson has drafted this report in accordance with MOPAC procedures.	✓
<b>Director/Head of Service:</b> The MOPAC Chief Finance Officer and Director of Corporate Services 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 9/12/2021



MOPAC

MAYOR OF LONDON  
OFFICE FOR POLICING AND CRIME

## MPS Op Orochi – County Lines

**MOPAC Investment Advisory & Monitoring meeting – Extremis Submission****Report by Det. Supt. Rick SEWART 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 £4.7m from an unconditional Home Office grant to expand and enhance the MPS County Lines Task Force – Operation Orochi for FY 21/22 and FY 22/23.

The grant will be utilised to fund an additional thirty three police officer posts, and will comprise of three additional operational teams in addition to a support team and associated leadership roles. These posts are in addition to the existing strength of Operation Orochi, which is funded by a separate £6.6m Home Office County Lines grant.

The grant funding will also enable posts to be funded within Met Operations for the purpose of providing dedicated analytical and technological support (ANPR).

In addition to staffing costs, the grant will also provide funding for officer overtime, equipment and a vehicle fleet augmentation requirement generated by the additional operational teams.

The core aims of Operation Orochi are:

1. To reduce county lines-related violence across London and County Forces; driven by intelligence and determined by levels of threat, risk and harm.
2. To increase public confidence that police are taking action against Gangs and county lines networks.
3. 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.
4. To enhance and develop existing operational partnerships with County Forces.

**Recommendations**

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

- Acceptance of Home Office unconditional funding grant of £4.7m to undertake a range of activities to combat County Lines drugs supply and its associated threat, risks and harm.
- Utilisation of up to £950k of the £4.7m grant funding to purchase fleet vehicles needed to undertake County Lines activity, and approve the initiation of procurement for the base vehicles required for the fleet augmentation as Fleet Services do not have sufficient manufacturer contracts in place for the acquisition of the necessary vehicles.

### **Time sensitivity**

A decision is required from the Deputy Mayor by 06/12/2021. This is because progressing vehicle acquisition is key to operational delivery.

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

### **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 funding is in addition to a £6.6m Home Office grant approved for FY 21/22.
- 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 expand and enhance the capability of Operation Orochi under the NPCC banner, building on the lessons learnt from Operation Orochi and other exporting police 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 2017-2021<sup>1</sup>**

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 additional posts will be fully funded by the Home Office grant of £4.7m for a 12 month period from commencement in FY 21/22, to include staff and associated running costs. Detailed information is contained in the restricted section of the report.

Uplifting the MPS County Lines ANPR Capability is a key pillar of the Home Office and MPS strategy to disrupt County Lines. This will be achieved through funding of 2 police officer posts and 2 police staff (ANPR engineer) posts within MO2 Met Intelligence. This supports continuance of this capability, which will initially be created/established utilising the £1.36m Road Policing Grant, but then funded via this £4.7m Grant from 1st April 2022 – 31st March 2023 (as the £1.36m Grant ends on 31st March 22).

### **Legal Comments**

No significant legal issues have been identified but will be kept under review.

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**

This business case has undergone an initial equality screening. Due regard has been taken to the Equality Act's Public Sector Equality Duty. Real consideration has been taken to assess equality impact caused by the proposed business changes. As a result no positive or negative impact has been identified to any individual and/or group safeguarded by a protected characteristic and those who are not.

### **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.

---

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

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.

### **Real Estate Implications**

The uplift in staffing has been acknowledged by Property Services, Shared Support Services & Met Transformation who are working with Specialist Crime and Central Specialist Crime Chief Officers regarding the ongoing & future SC/CSC Estates Strategy. In the short term it has been agreed that any estates pressures can be managed locally at SC Hubs by implementation of blended working agreements in accordance with the MPS Estates Strategy.

### **Environmental Implications**

There are no additional Environmental implications in relation to this operational PIB.

### **Background/supporting papers**

Enclosed with submission.

Report author: **Det. Supt Rick SEWART**

### **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.

Part 2 will be reviewed on 06/12/2022 with a view to consideration regarding publication. For the reasons outlined above, publication is not currently appropriate.



