

Chief Constables' Council

Operational Requirements Board and Information Management Coordination Committee: Alignment of Functions.

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 (OCiP)
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Portfolio:**
Attachments @ paragraphs: Annex A @ paragraph 3.1

1. INTRODUCTION/PURPOSE

- 1.1 Chief Constables have received updates on the development of the Operational Requirements Board (ORB) and related governance issues at recent Council meetings. Now that a Strategic ORB has been established with Chief Constable level membership, it is timely to review the relationship of ORB and the Information Management Coordination Committee (IMCC). This paper proposes that the two forums should in effect merge to ensure one powerful oversight body on behalf of Chiefs. This will ensure clear direction and escalation processes in relation to operational requirements, development, and application of information assets across the police ICT landscape.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Information Management Coordination Committee (previously Information Management Business Area (IMBA)) has existed for some years. The first listed responsibility within its original terms of

reference was, “To ensure that the use of information, communications and technology is exploited within policing in an efficient and effective way and that it makes the best possible contribution to achieving policing objectives”.

- 2.2 It is fair to say that at the time of the establishment of IMBA, technology was not seen to be as central to policing as it is now, as is clear from the original terms of reference as cited. The aspiration was to coordinate all aspects of technology requirement and usage through a single Business Area. As police use of ICT has grown, this ambition is quite clearly not met: all Coordination Committees have responsibilities in relation to ICT development of one sort or another, and very rarely, if at all, refer matters to IMCC.
- 2.3 This new reality was in part acknowledged with the formation of Operational Requirements Board in 2011. The intention of this body was to articulate and prioritise police requirements of technology *from across all police Business Areas*, thereby recognising that no single Business Area could aspire to do so on its' own.
- 2.4 Over recent years the two boards have co-existed with some overlap of membership and function (although not entire duplication: the area of information assurance, for example, has remained the preserve of IMCC). ORB has developed into a Strategic body of Chiefs and a supporting Tactical body. IMCC meetings have become less frequent, with an acknowledgement that the function and format of the meeting requires review.
- 2.5 Over the past year, the chairing of both Strategic ORB and IMCC has fallen to CC Michael Barton, providing opportunity to recognise the synergies between the two. With CC Barton's election to the chair of Crime Committee and the election of Ian Dyson, Commissioner of the City of London Police, to the chair of IMCC, it is timely to acknowledge more formally the commonality between the two forums and to plan an effective way forward.

3. **PROPOSAL**

- 3.1 It is suggested that the Strategic ORB and IMCC should merge into a single forum, comprising senior level membership predominantly at Chief Constable level. Fresh terms of reference should be produced to support the simple statement of purpose attached at Annex A. The new forum should retain the status of a Coordination Committee, but with the over-arching ambition, and strategic stakeholder relationships, of the S/ORB. The chair would retain the role of Senior Information Risk Owner (SIRO) for the Service.

- 3.2 There are a number of 'feeder' forums which could and should continue in their current format, overseen by the new strategic body. Examples include the Police Information Assurance Board (PIAB) and the Information Management Communications portfolio (IM Comms). These meetings can escalate issues to the strategic body as required. The proposal also provides clarity on escalation and governance to the Police Technology Council, with both S/ORB and IMCC currently referenced (in different documentation) as oversight bodies for that forum.
- 3.3 Soundings have been taken within the membership of both bodies and with some key stakeholders. Should the proposal meet with the broad approval of Council, a more formal consultation will take place around membership, terms of reference and, indeed, the name of the new body.

4. DECISIONS REQUIRED

- 4.1 Chief Constables are asked to agree in principle to the merging of the Strategic Operational Requirements Board and Information Management Coordination Committee. Subsequent work to formalise terms of reference and membership can then take place. Chief Constables with a particular interest in participation should contact Commissioner Ian Dyson or DCC Richard Morris.

IAN DYSON

COMMISSIONER, CITY OF LONDON POLICE

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT COORDINATION COMMITTEE

ANNEX A

Overall Purpose of Strategic Forum

- ²¹ Oversee and drive the development of a single, current and authoritative set of police operational requirements for ICT;

- 2] Act as the primary decision making body for the Police Service to input into national ICT investment deliberations;
 - 2] Ensure that the Police Service is engaged effectively in ICT-related national programmes;
 - 2] Provide guidance, direction and oversight to Tactical ORB and to Police Technology Council, and be a source of escalation for decision-making for those bodies;
 - 2] Operate as the primary conduit for the Police Service into the Police ICT Company on behalf of NPCC.
- Act as Senior Information Risk Owner (SIRO) for the Police Service;
 - Fulfil the requirements of an NPCC Coordinating Committee, including overseeing chief officer-led portfolios of national work where applicable.