

## RESTRICTED

### **Develop a Working Strategy**

- 7.17 A working strategy may start to be developed once information is received and can be formalised once a threat assessment has taken place.
- 7.18 The strategy and the rationale behind it, as well as any revision or amendments, should be recorded and will form an audit trail. The strategy should be regularly reviewed, particularly where a change or handover of command occurs.

### **Consider Powers and Policy**

- 7.19 In determining what action should be taken, consideration is required as to what powers and policies are applicable in the circumstances and necessary to achieve the objectives set out within the tactical plan.
- 7.20 Considerations should include;
- Under what common law or statutory provision the proposed action is being taken;
  - Implications of any action under the Human Rights Act 1998, and potential infringements of ECHR articles. Are the powers PLANL compliant;
  - Whether a warrant is required;
  - Whether the criteria for deployment of armed officers is met;
  - Whether the desired objective could be met in a less intrusive manner;
  - Whether the operation involves surveillance and what level of authority is required under RIPA 2000;
  - How closely the proposed action meets the SFCs strategy.
- 7.21 Consideration should also be given to whether there are any ACPO or MPS policies, guidance or procedures relating to the proposed actions.

### **Identifying Tactical Options and Contingencies**

- 7.22 As soon as the first information is received, generic tactical options may be considered and selected. This may include the deployment of AFOs as a contingency, or to carry out an investigative assessment and take whatever action is deemed appropriate. As more information becomes available, tactical options should be further considered in light of the evaluated intelligence and the relevant powers and policies.
- 7.23 Generic tactical options set out the different ways in which a particular objective can be undertaken in a manner which minimises risk and harm. Generic tactical options are broad descriptions of the options the police may have available to them when dealing with incidents which requires the deployment of armed officers. Along with the primary aim of securing public safety, consideration

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should be given as to whether it is possible to identify, locate and contain the subject and take appropriate action to neutralise the threat posed.

7.24 Generic tactical options to consider include;

- Wait;
- Take mitigating action;
- Keep the subject under observation;
- Carry out an investigative assessment;
- Contain the area around the subject, thereby minimising the opportunity for harm;
- Communicating with the subject;
- Decisive action.

7.25 The selection of appropriate tactical options is a consideration from the first receipt of information. As more information becomes available, tactical options should be further considered in the light of evaluated intelligence and the relevant powers and policies.

7.26 In considering the tactical options, the Tactical Adviser and the Commander should consider whether:

- A given tactic or combination of tactics will achieve the strategic aim;
- The tactics are proportionate to the potential threat posed;
- The tactics are within any tactical parameters set.

### **Contingencies**

7.27 Operational planning should identify contingencies at an early stage. These should address what are often referred to as the 'what ifs'. They should be reviewed as the situation develops and take account of emerging and/or changing circumstances. Contingencies should take account of potential changes in:

- The subject's intention, actions or behaviour;
- Information and intelligence;
- The environment;
- The actions of others involved.

7.28 The potential for intelligence failures or gaps in the information known should also be considered.

7.29 While it is impractical to identify every possible outcome to a given situation, Commanders should identify appropriate contingencies based on the: