

- The necessity of preventing the commission of crimes which may involve danger to the public on this occasion or in the future.
- The availability of suitably trained and equipped officers.

In any confrontation with a subject there is a potential for the risk to increase, any potential increase should however be balanced against the risk posed should the subject be allowed to continue. Any decision to utilise a given tactic should therefore be considered in light of the threat and risk assessment at the time, the ability of that tactic to mitigate, to the greatest extent possible, the risks identified and any potential for the tactics to disproportionately impact upon the risk.

Where the balance of risk identified in implementing an intervention or interception is unacceptable then other options should be considered.

Where it is not possible to arrest a subject prior to the commission of an offence, for instance a lack of evidence or opportunity to identify the subject or their whereabouts, it may be appropriate to allow the offence to take place prior to arrest. Any decision to do so would need to be taken having considered the offence and the potential risk to victims or the public should an intervention not take place.

In planning the interception/intervention phase of the operation, including where this is done dynamically, consideration should be given to the following:

- Whether any tactical parameters are in place regarding the exclusion of the subject from defined areas or a need to prevent them from coming into contact with the victim or any other person.
- Whether evidential requirements are likely to impact upon the implementation of the arrest phase.
- The platform from which the arrest is to be delivered. A small team (see content 2, below) may be closer to the subject, whereas a MASTS team may have greater capability and resources.
- Clarity regarding individual roles and responsibilities.
- How the subject is to be identified to the officers.
- How the interception/intervention is to be initiated, coordinated and communicated.

Generally, before a tactical option to intercept or intervene is instigated:

- A decision to arrest should have been made, and state amber declared, or an immediate threat to life or potential for serious injury identified.
- The subject(s) should have been identified.
- The officers should endeavour to deploy from a vehicle in close proximity to the subjects, without being seen, or drawing attention from a possible third eye.
- The officers, whenever possible, should continually keep the subject under observation when deploying.

## Content 2

### Small Team Considerations

**"Small Team"** support is an optional, additional unit which can be utilised to enhance a basic or standard MASTS team (see content 1, above and content 1 D8.3, below).

A small team operates from a suitable covert vehicle. Sensitive/irrelevant

**Sensitive/irrelevant**

Sensitive/irrelevant All of these officers must be MASTS trained.

This team can operate within the surveillance deployment at all states of the traffic light system. As a single vehicle deployment it allows for greater integration with the surveillance team and as a result reduces the risk of compromise through third party perception. This closer proximity may offer enhanced protection to the public and other officers, and the ability to rapidly deploy where required.

A small team can be utilised to deploy on foot without compromising the strength and flexibility of the MASTS team. This may include: Sensitive/irrelevant

**Sensitive/irrelevant**

It also allows for intelligence-led forward deployment of armed resources, ahead of the surveillance, where appropriate and the ability to simultaneously deal with an additional subject on foot independently of the main MASTS team. Where there is a split of resources consideration should be given to communication and command issues.

A small team also affords the TFC an expeditious range of firearms tactical options delivered by a small group. Tactical options are dependent on the competencies of the officers forming the small team, which may range from basic MASTS officers up to and including CTSFOs.

Sensitive/irrelevant it should be recognised that additional support may have to be provided in the below areas:

- first aid
- prisoner restraint
- public reassurance
- crowd control
- evacuation
- cordons and establishing RVPs
- scene preservation
- evidential/forensic issues.