

Specialist Capability Review – Operations Coordination Committee

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Overview

At the **September 2025** Chief Constable's Council, Chief's gave permission for the Operations Coordination Committee to explore further work in the following areas:-

Mounted

That the Portfolio explores mitigating work to safeguard this capability and explore whether there could be further work or model changes to support this. The proposals are attached and within this presentation.

Marine & Underwater Search

Work has been completed on “defining marine” policing and for further model work around Underwater Search – This will be presented at July's Council.

Dog

Work is underway but is yet to be brought forward.

Mounted Capabilities

At the September 2025 Chief Constable's Council, Chief's recognised :

- **Mounted policing is still required nationally**
- **Current provision is declining**
- **There was strong appetite to explore future models**

Since the conversation around national mounted capabilities began back in September 2025. The Government has published their White Paper on Policing and therefore there has been a significant shift around thinking of National Capabilities.

This presentation and accompanying paper explores further Chiefs Appetite for change and asks for further recommendations to be agreed.

Mounted Capabilities

Overview

- Mounted policing remains a critical national capability
- There are currently 13 mounted forces, including Police Scotland
- Budgeted position of 209 horses (as of Jan 2026), a 24% reduction in the last 2 years.
- Several forces operating at or below minimum viable level
- Gloucestershire have disbanded and West Midlands have re-established a mounted capability
- Demand is rising, and there is a need to stabilise the capability.
- Without coordinated decisions now, the capability will likely continue to erode



Decisions

The decisions in the paper have been set out in **two** key area's

Immediate Impact Decisions

Those decisions and/or work that can be completed imminently to safeguard the capability over the short term.

Longer Term Decisions

Those decisions and/or work for the long-term that can be agreed IN PRINCIPLE ONLY that can be further explored.

Immediate Impact Decisions (Set out in Paper)

- 1) Chief Constables are asked to support a review and reform of mutual aid charging - Introducing differential rates for mounted and non-mounted forces.
- 2) Chief Constables are asked to support and strengthen national co-ordination and resilience through the National Mounted Working Group.
- 3) Chief Constables are asked in the short term to consider and explore local collaboration within regions where it is operationally and financially beneficial.



Longer Term Decisions (Set out in paper)

- 1) Chief Constables are asked to understand whether they want this work to be and done whether they support the inclusion of mounted policing within the police reform programme and indicate their preferred longer-term direction?
 - a) **A New Model Aligned to Reformed Boundaries (Regional Forces)**
 - b) **A National Police Service (NPS) Model**





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National Police Chiefs' Council

