

## Role

The purpose of a Strategic Co-Ordinating Group (SCG) is to take overall responsibility for the multi-agency management of an incident and establish a strategic framework within which lower levels of command and co-ordinating groups will work. Its guiding objectives are:

- Protect and preserve life
- Contain the incident: mitigate and minimise its impacts; maintain critical infrastructure and essential services
- Create conditions for recovery: promote restoration and improvement activity in the aftermath of an incident to return to the new normality

It will normally be the role of the police to co-ordinate activity with other organisations and therefore to chair the SCG. The police will usually chair the group where:

- There is an immediate threat to human life
- There is a possibility that the emergency was a result of criminal or terrorist activity
- There are significant public order implications

In other types of emergency, for example certain health or maritime scenarios, an agency other than the police may initiate and lead the group.

## Responsibilities

To ensure that a co-ordinated effort is achieved a working strategy should be developed by the first responding commanders before the SCG first meets to prioritise actions. When the SCG meets and gains a full understanding of the situation, it should then review and amend the working strategy and adjust objectives and priorities as necessary.

The SCG should be based at an appropriate location away from the scene. The location where the group meets, with its supporting staff in place, is referred to as the Strategic Co-ordination Centre. This will usually, but not always, be at the headquarters of the lead service or organisation.

The SCG will:

- a) Determine and share clear strategic aims and objectives and review them regularly;
- b) Establish a policy framework for the overall management of the event or situation;
- c) Prioritise the requirements of the tactical level and allocate personnel and resources accordingly;
- d) Formulate and implement media handling and public communication plans, potentially delegating this to one responder agency; and
- e) Direct planning and operations beyond the immediate response to manage the recovery process.

The SCG does not have the collective authority to issue executive orders to individual responder agencies. Each agency retains its own command authority and defined responsibilities, and exercises command of its own operations in the normal way. However, the co-ordinated direction and instructions generated by the SCG will be translated by each responder into appropriate commands, passed on through their respective command structures and transmitted directly to all subordinate tactical co-ordinating groups.

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# Joint Doctrine Supporting Document

## Strategic Co-ordinating Group Role & Responsibilities

The SCG may take some time to set up and obtain a clear picture of unfolding events. As a first priority, it should formulate a strategy with key objectives that encompass and provide focus for all the activities of the responding organisations.

### SCG Standing Agenda

Preliminaries: Pre-notified seating plan by organisation and name plates for attendees

Item	Item Lead
Introductions (by exception and only where deemed necessary)	Chair
Declaration of items for urgent attention	Chair
Confirmation of decisions on urgent items	Chair
Adjourn as necessary to action urgent issues	
Situational briefing (including any clarifications or recent updates from chief of staff/ information manager/attendees by exception only)	
Review and agree strategy and priorities	Chair
Review outstanding actions and their effect	Chair
Determine new strategic actions required	Chair
Allocate responsibility for agreed actions	Chair
Confirm date and time of next meeting and required attendees  (alongside an established meeting rhythm)	Chair
Post Meeting: Distribute record of decisions, ensure decision log is updated and complete	Sec/Chair