



PCC

Office of the Police and
Crime Commissioner
Devon and Cornwall

The path to developing a Final Business Case to consider a Merger Between Devon and Cornwall Police and Dorset Police



Merger Process

There are a number of key steps that will need to take place to implement a merger proposal:

- ▶ Development of a strong local business case with local support
- ▶ Secure precept alignment agreement with MHCLG
- ▶ Ministerial consideration of business case against assessment criteria
- ▶ Lay order under section 32 of the Police Act 1996 in Parliament
 - ▶ As this is a voluntary merger, subject to the negative procedure
- ▶ Implementation period (including shadow state)

Timeline and Deadlines



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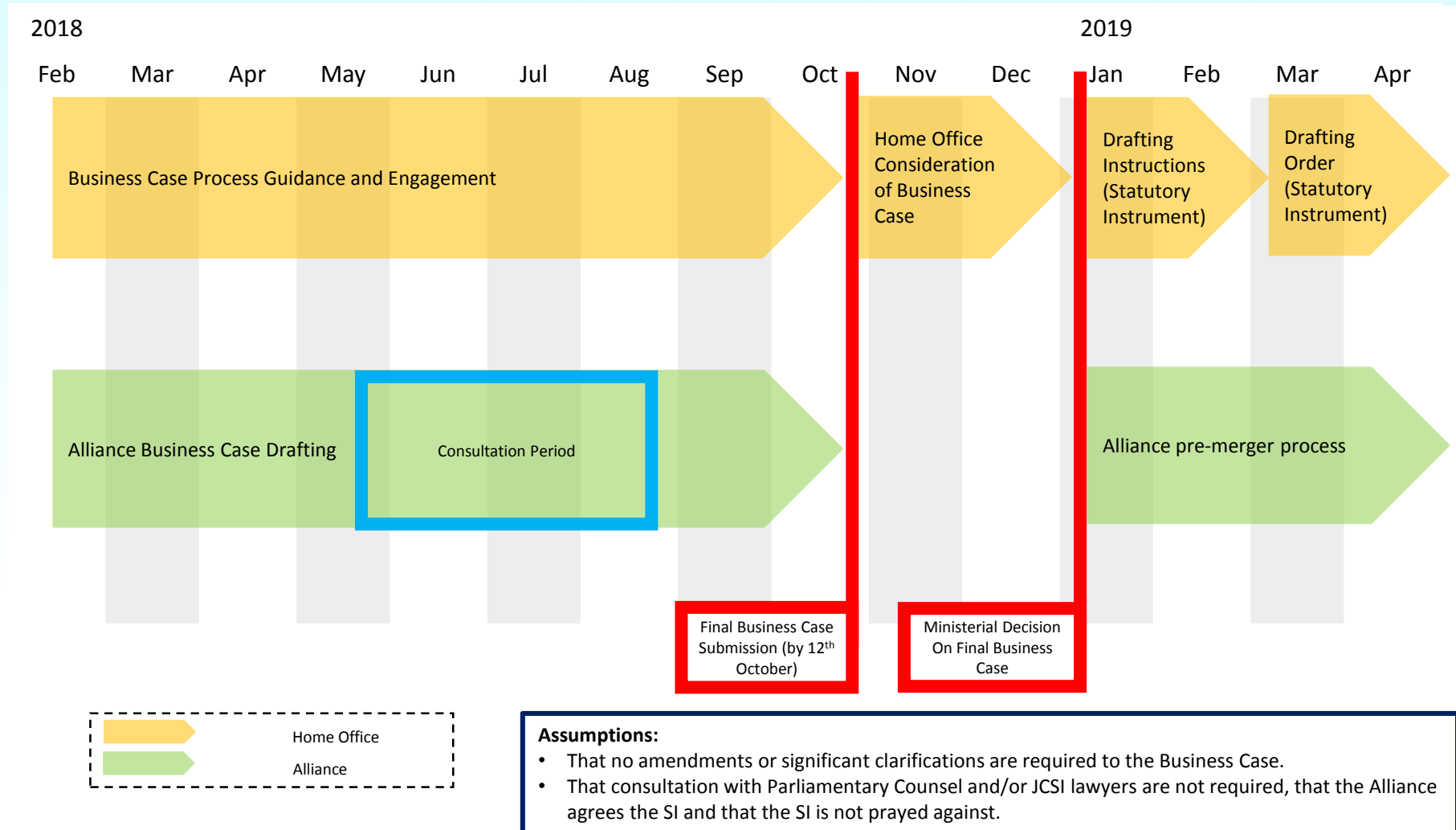
Section 32 order must be laid by 7th November 2019 at the very latest

- ▶ To comply with Electoral Commission guidelines ahead of May 2020 PCC elections
- ▶ Plan to table in early September 2019 to allow some contingency

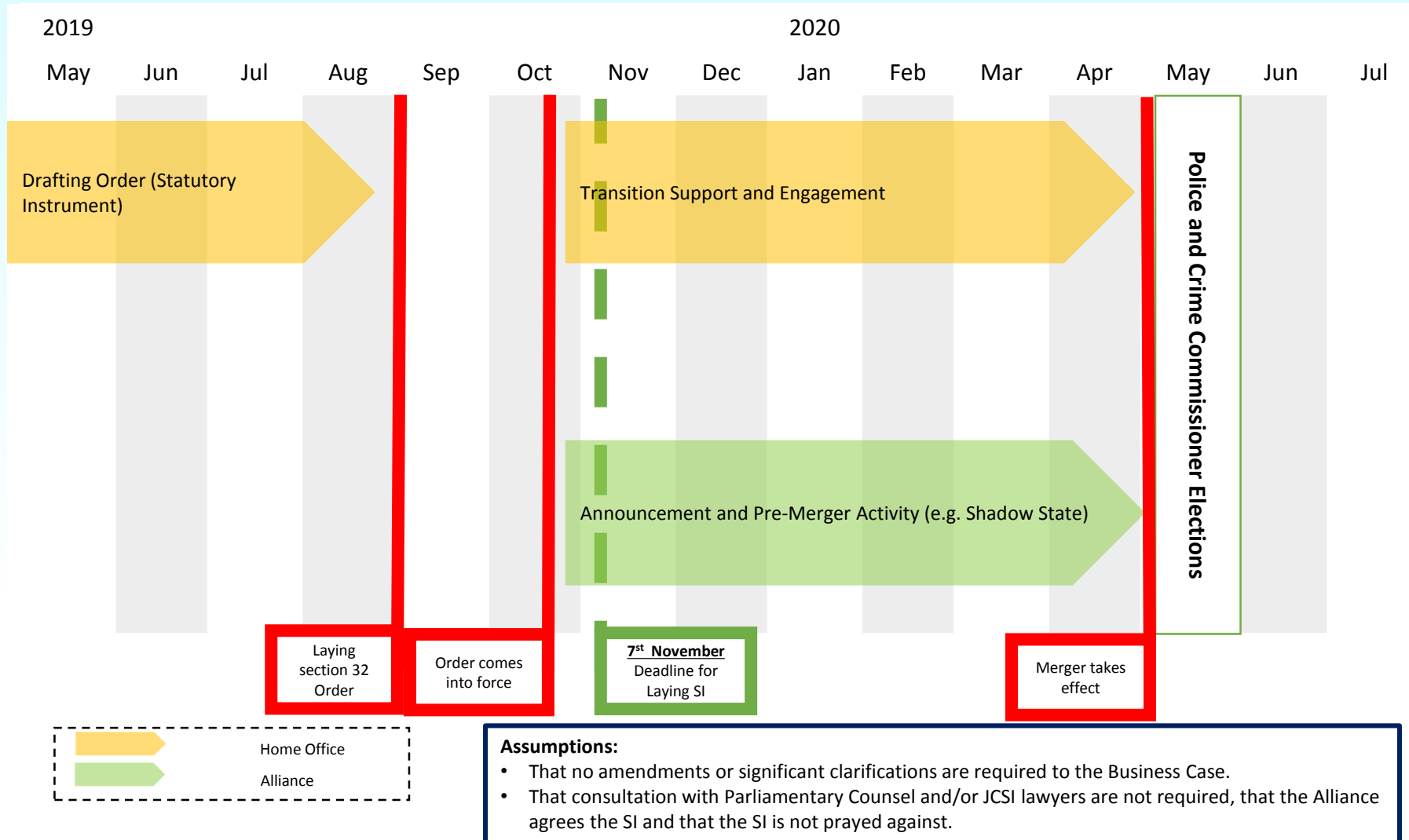
Home Office to receive Full Business Case by 12th October 2018

- ▶ This provides sufficient time to draft legislation, including minimum contingency time

Timeline 2018



Timeline 2019/20



Assessment Criteria



Criteria for assessing the merger proposal will mirror the criteria used for fire mergers and PCC-FRA proposals:

- ▶ Does the merger proposal have a clear **economic** basis? (including a clear and viable path for precept equalisation)
- ▶ Will the merger improve the **efficiency** of the police?
- ▶ Will the merger improve the **effectiveness** of policing in the area?
- ▶ Will the merger have an impact on **public safety**?
- ▶ Does the proposal have sufficient **local support**?

These are not statutory tests (as this is a voluntary merger).

Assessment Criteria: Local Support



Groups from which we would need to see sufficient support;

- ▶ The local public
- ▶ Local Members of Parliament
- ▶ Local Authorities
- ▶ Staff and Unions

In addition, we would expect there to be no clear objection from key policing bodies. This would include;

- ▶ HMICFRS
- ▶ NPCC
- ▶ The College of Policing
- ▶ The PCPs

Key Considerations



Agreement by all four corporations sole

- ▶ Once the Final Business Case is complete, then the four corporations sole need to decide whether or not the case is made for a full merger
- ▶ Only if all four corporations sole agree will the Final Business Case be submitted to the Home Office

Precept Alignment

- ▶ Business Case must show a clear and viable path for precept alignment
- ▶ Will need to liaise with MHCLG on plans

Succession planning

- ▶ What leadership plans are in place to enable a smooth transition?

Shadow State plans

- ▶ What plans are there for a shadow authority, particularly for matters such as precept and planning?