

## **Policing in London**

Response to the recommendation set out in the London Assembly's Budget and Performance Committee's report into the future shape of the Metropolitan Police Service *'Policing in London'*

### **Recommendation 2**

In response to this report and by the end of September 2011, the Mayor should present his commitment to increase front-line policing in 2011/12 in terms of the changes in the number of officers, special constables, PCSOs and other non-warranted staff carrying out operational, operational support and organisational support roles.

#### Response

I welcome the opportunity to respond formally to the report and its recommendations. I am determined that the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) must retain a focus on protecting operational capability as far as possible. It must also continue delivering a policing service that recognises the importance of both the visible uniformed presence on the street and the specialist policing services it provides - often working largely unseen but affecting people's lives significantly, such as tackling organised crime, firearms, drugs and child trafficking.

The MPS has stated that rather than commit more resources to understanding the 'front line', it will focus on achieving outcomes for London's communities. The strategic objectives of safety and confidence are supported when the MPS delivers outcomes for individual members of the community, investigating crime, supporting victims, responding to the community. The delivery of these service outcomes is of greater importance than the internal construction of the organisation that delivers them.

There are a number of change management programmes under way, including the TP Development Programme (focussed on local policing and operational support), the Specialist Crime Directorate realignment and Transforming Human Resources, which will ensure the most efficient use of MPS resources. From the perspective of Londoners, services will be maintained and in fact these programmes should deliver service improvements in many areas.

I am very pleased that due to the additional £42 million I provided to the MPS budget from other GLA sources, the MPS has been able to start recruiting again and police officer numbers have recently started to go up, after they fell due to a recruitment freeze. The numbers are still not at the level I would like, but they are heading in the right direction and will be around 32,500 by the end of financial year 2011/12, which is a thousand more than when I became Mayor. This is in addition to the thousands of extra Special Constables we have recruited.