

# Subject: Question and Answer session with the Deputy Mayor for Policing and the Commissioner for the Metropolitan Police

**Report to: Police and Crime Committee**

**Report of: Executive Director of Secretariat**

**Date: 2 February 2012**

**This report will be considered in public**

## 1. Summary

- 1.1 This report serves as a background paper to the question and answer session with the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime and the Commissioner for the Metropolitan Police Service.

## 2. Recommendations

### 2.1 That the Committee:

- (a) **Notes as background to the question and answer session with the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime and the Commissioner for the Metropolitan Police Service:**
- (i) **The monthly report from the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime attached at Appendix 1; and**
  - (ii) **The summary of recent reports on the August 2011 disturbances in paragraphs 4.1 to 4.7; and**
- (b) **Notes the answers given by the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime and the Commissioner for the Metropolitan Police Service to the questions asked by Members.**

## 3. Background

- 3.1 The Committee has agreed that it will meet twice monthly and that one of its monthly meetings will be used principally to hold a question and answer session with the statutory Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime. The Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis will also be invited to attend. This meeting will be the first of these sessions since the establishment of the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPC) and the Police and Crime Committee on 16 January 2012.
- 3.2 The MOPC will produce a monthly report providing an update on the activities and decisions of the MOPC and performance against its objectives and budget. This will inform the question and answer session. The first of these reports is attached at Appendix 1 to this report.

## 4. Reports on the August 2011 disturbances

- 4.1 The Committee has also agreed that the question and answer session on the MOPC report should include questions on a specific issue of topical interest. For this meeting it is proposed that the topic should be the MOPC response to the recent reports on the August disturbances.
- 4.2 Following the fatal shooting of Mark Duggan on 4 August 2011, disturbances spread across London and then in other locations across England for four nights. 22 London boroughs were affected by the riots, suffering from organised looting, attacks on police and property, arson and physical violence.<sup>1</sup> It is estimated that 13,500-15,000 people were actively involved across England and nine out of ten offenders were already known to the police.<sup>2</sup>
- 4.3 Various investigations into the riots were quickly established in order to examine what led to the disorder and to help enable the police to respond to the changing nature of public order challenges. The Committee will use part of its question and answer session to discuss the response of the MOPC to the initial findings of these reports and any action taken as a result. The reports under consideration will include the work of the cross-party Riots, Communities and Victims Panel; the joint London School of Economics and Guardian research, *Reading the Riots*; the report of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC), *The rules of engagement: a review of the August 2011 disorders*; and the MPS's interim strategic review of Operation Kirkin.
- 4.4 The Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition established the Riots Communities and Victims Panel.<sup>3</sup> The Panel was asked to consider a number of issues including what motivated those engaged in the disorder; why the disturbances happened in some areas and not others; how public agencies engaged with communities before, during and after the riots to what could be done differently to prevent or manage the riots. The Panel launched its call for evidence on 16 September 2011. It has published an initial report and will publish its final report in March 2012.
- 4.5 The London School of Economics and Guardian newspaper carried out a collaborative social research inquiry (funded by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and the Open Society Foundations). The study interviewed 270 rioters to try to understand who had been involved in the disturbances and what their motivations were.<sup>4</sup> The report, *Reading the Riots*, was published on 14 December 2011.
- 4.6 The HMIC report, *The rules of engagement: a review of the August 2011 disorders*, responded to the Home Secretary's request for "further work to support clearer guidance to forces on the size of deployments, the need for mutual aid, pre-emptive action, public order tactics, the number of officers (including commanders) trained in public order policing and an appropriate arrests policy".<sup>5</sup> The report was published on 20 December 2011.
- 4.7 The MPS's interim strategic review of Operation Kirkin considers the MPS response to the riots and the findings of other reviews and inquiries in order to identify opportunities for learning and

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<sup>1</sup> HMIC (2011) *The rules of engagement: A review of the August 2011 disorders* <http://www.hmic.gov.uk/publication/rules-engagement-review-august/>

<sup>2</sup> Riots, Communities and Victims Panel (2011) *5 Days in August Executive Summary and Recommendations* <http://www.5daysinaugust.co.uk/PDF/downloads/Executive-summary-UK-Riots.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.5daysinaugust.co.uk/report/ex-summary/why-this-report-is-being-published>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/interactive/2011/dec/14/reading-the-riots-investigating-england-s-summer-of-disorder-full-report>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.hmic.gov.uk/publication/rules-engagement-review-august/>

improvement.<sup>6</sup> The main areas of focus in the ongoing review are: critical incident management; engagement; intelligence; resources; tactics; investigation; and criminal justice. The interim report was published on 30 November 2011. A final report was expected in early January 2012.

## 5. Legal Implications

5.1 The Committee has the power to do what is recommended in this report.

## 6. Financial Implications

6.1 There are no financial implications to the GLA arising from this report.

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**List of appendices to this report: Appendix 1** - Report of the MOPC.

<b>Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985</b>
List of Background Papers: None
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<sup>6</sup> August Disorder – Police Interim Report, 30 November 2011 <http://content.met.police.uk/News/August-Disorder--Police-Interim-Report/1400005002176/1257246745756>