

**Karibu Centre
Gresham Road
SW9 7PH**

PRESENT: CPCG BOARD: Anna Tapsell, Paul Andell, Wesley Stephenson (Your Story), Doye Akinlade (Brixton Society), Paul Andell, Canon Ivelaw Bowman, Shane Collins, Gill Kenealy, Cheryl Sealey (Ind. Membs.), Paul Reynolds (Herne Hill Forum), Abdul Sultan Virani (Lambeth Older Persons' Forum) **COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY MEMBERSHIP:** Rod Brown (Lambeth Leaseholders Forum), Wally Channon, Peggy Tyler (Clapham Old Town N'hood Watch), Jim Fairweather (W.I.E.S.A.), Lloyd Leon (Brixton Domino Club), The Most Rev'd Dr Bancroft McCarthy, Phyllis Jackson (HMP Independent Monitoring Board), Catriona Robertson, Hannah Barker (Clapham and Stockwell Faith Forum) Hazel Saunders, (Lambeth Victim Support), David Tomlinson (Stockwell Park Residents' Assoc.) **INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS:** Habiba Campaore, David Corderoy, Lena James, David Prichard-Jones, Richard Moore, Fernando Senior, Jane Warwick **STATUTORY MEMBERSHIP- LAMBETH COUNCIL:** Exec. Dir. Robert Overall, Cllr. Mark Bennett, Lorna Campbell, Cllr. Andrew Sawdon **METROPOLITAN POLICE SERVICE:** Ch. Supt. Sharon Rowe, Supt. Alistair Sutherland, Supt. Paul Wilson, Ch. Insp. Peter Beynon, Jezreal Edwards **SECRETARIAT:** Ben McKendrick **SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS:** John Frankland (Herne Hill), Ian Sweeney (Stockwell) **GUEST SPEAKERS:** Catherine Crawford (MPA), Nick Hardwick (IPCC), Ch. Supt. David George (MPS), Nick Mason, John Street (LSPT) **VISITORS SIGNING IN:** Colin Gill, Etan Fletcher (MPS), Elaine Holness, Lau Lieu (MPS), June Pilgrim (LWA), Magabi Provensal, Beryl Saunders, Mrs Lynn Thomas

APOLOGIES: Neil Flanigan, Cllr. Rachel Heywood, Robert Holden, Stuart Horwood, John Howard, Brian Mantell, Brian Parker, Cllr. Neeraj Patil, John Roberts

* Minutes in ***bold italic*** indicate action points

Introduction

1 Anna Tapsell welcomed Catherine Crawford, Chief Executive, Metropolitan Police Authority (MPA), Supt. David George, Metropolitan Police Service (MPS), Nick Hardwick, Independent Police Complaints Authority (IPCC), and Nick Mason, John Street and Sgt. Sara Tynan, Lambeth Summer Project (LSP) to the meeting.

Information from Board/Group

2 A Briefing Paper for October was tabled.

Minutes of the Meeting 3 July 2007

3 Minutes of the Meeting 4 September 2007 were accepted without amendment

Matters Arising

4 ***In relation to police station front counters, Mr Wilson said that all Lambeth police stations were being looked at in terms of their opening hours and service delivery. This, he said, included undertaking customer satisfaction surveys and analysis of rationale for opening times*** [Minute 12, 04/09/07].

- 5 Lloyd Leon questioned the need for a review, as this was simply a matter of staff numbers, though Richard Moore asked that an evaluation take into consideration the type of people involved in staffing counters, whether they be police officers, civil staff or volunteers.
- 6 ***As a start, Ms Tapsell asked Mr Wilson to provide a circular containing the opening hours of Lambeth police stations and the personnel available to them. Ms Rowe said that this would be followed by an analysis of the demand at police station front counters.***
- 7 With regard to figures for crimes against the disabled, Supt. Paul Wilson said such crimes were not a MPS performance indicator, although disability issues were included within Lambeth's generic hate crime strategy. Mr Wilson suggested that Lambeth's Hate Crime coordinator could perhaps address a Group meeting on issues around hate crime including disability matters [Minute 36, 04/09/07].
- 8 In respect of elder abuse, Ms Rowe said that Ch. Insp. Peter Beynon had suggested that a multi-agency group look all the issues and report back to the Group.
- 9 Ms Rowe said that in relation to drug dealing there was no set target, but if the Group could raise it with her if it considered the matter to be one of its priorities.
- 10 ***In relation to police custody data concerning youths and people with mental problems, Ms Rowe said that a review was being undertaken which would take about two months to conclude*** [Minute 28, 04/09/07].
- 11 Ms Rowe said that a review of police statistics presented to the Group would be undertaken and provided at the next Group meeting.
- 12 Ms Rowe said that results from a dip sampling of reports of police investigations showed Lambeth police to be 97% compliant. David Tomlinson who had sat in on a Kennington police daily management meeting to review the previous 24 hours crime, said he was impressed by the data and statistics available and that he felt positive that the police started the day "knowing which way they were facing." Ms Rowe offered similar invitations to take part in management meetings at Brixton and Streatham.
- 13 In relation to the police raid at the Rastafarian Temple, Ms Rowe said that out of 23 arrested

- there were four individuals outstanding who needed to be processed through the Criminal Justice System. Ms Rowe said that she would talk with Sister P of the Ethiopian World Federation (EWF), who was not present, on this matter.
- 14 Cllr. Mark Bennett said that the Council was working with the EWF to find administrative accommodation, while locating premises for use as a temple was an issue apart. Nevertheless, he said that dialogue between the Rastafarian community and the Council was ongoing and he would report back. On the matter raised at the last Group meeting of an elderly gentleman without accommodation, Cllr. Bennett said that this had now been settled.
- 15 In response to David Prichard-Jones comments about assertions that the Rastafarian Temple was habitually used for the sale of Class A drugs, Supt. Alistair Sutherland said that as a result of the raid on the Temple no one had been charged with possession of Class A drugs but charges had been preferred in relation to Section 1 Firearm Ammunition that had been found.
- 16 With regard to the perception of the lack of policing at Gipsy Hill, Ms Rowe said that the Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNT) had been spoken to and they were aware of the issue.
- 17 ***In response to June Pilgrim, Ms Rowe said that she could not include statistics for every category of crime but said if the Group wanted information on domestic violence she would bring some to the next meeting. Ms Pilgrim commented that two out of three murders were the result of domestic violence issues.***
- (SNT); 26.7% increase in gun crime, equivalent to 28 more victims, although 22 guns had been recovered.
- 20 In response to Mr Leon, Supt. Sutherland said that illegal firearms recovered by police were submitted for forensic tests, part of which was to identify the source of origin. He added that if the Group wanted an agenda item on the matter he would report back, as far as he could, on the type of guns recovered and to where they had been traced.
- 21 Paul Andell asked if there were any criteria by which to measure success of Section 44 Stop and Searches (eg the proportion resulting in arrest) or failure (eg by the dissatisfaction felt by Muslim communities).
- 22 Supt. Sutherland said that he received quarterly returns from New Scotland Yard on the number of intelligence reports submitted as result of stops, those followed up, arrests made and local value information. However, he said that he would have to check whether how much he could divulge in a public forum.
- 23 With every London borough being different, Richard Moore said that the comparison between each of the boroughs in terms of the number of Section 44 stops was unfair, with more perhaps being required in the inner boroughs, where there were more potential terrorist targets, than the outer boroughs. Mr Moore added that while a Section 44 Stop may not result in an arrest, there was a preventative element to it which could not be demonstrated on paper.
- 24 In relation to the balance between protecting the public and retaining individual liberties, a central issue with Stop and Search, Jim Toohill said that there might never be accurate measures of the value of success. However, he said that the community needed to assertive in maintaining law and order but also clear and accountable to the community for their actions. He added that while it was sometimes difficult to accommodate that process, shared scrutiny, challenge and response were important parts of that.
- 25 ***Two young persons, who said they accepted the reality of the need for stop and search, raised the issue of the disproportionality of Stop and Search and the manner in which police officers treated young people, particularly using racist comments against them, which they had experienced. Ms***

Lambeth Police Report

- 18 Supt. Sharon Rowe gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Lambeth police performance for the previous month (attached)
- 19 Highlights of the report included: the seizure of eleven dogs following the execution of search warrants executed in relation to ferocious dogs at addresses in Clapham Town and Bishops Wards; the closure of a number of crack houses in Oval, Stockwell and Vassall wards, and the closure of a brothel; half a kilo of heroin and 40 rocks of crack cocaine seized at Clapham Common; twelve detections of motor vehicle crimes at Brixton Hill following a crime initiative involving the Safer Neighbourhood Team had

- Rowe said that she would talk to the young persons following the meeting.**
- 26 **Ms Rowe said that Stop and Search had to be intelligence led and linked to where crime was taking place. She added that she would also report back on the number of complaint police received about Stop and Search.**
- 27 Gill Keneally said that Stop and Search was crucial to policing and most youngsters agreed with it. The previous evening she said that she had attended a CCTV control centre where she had seen intelligence led policing with local officers identifying suspects. However, she said that she had spoken to police in Coldharbour Lane a week earlier who told her that they had been ordered to be robust in the area and to stop as many people as they could.
- 28 Supt. Paul Wilson said he would like to assure the Group that the trajectory of Stop and Search was heading in the right direction with Stop and Account rising and searches falling, while the correlation between stops and arrests was narrowing. The extent of the improvement had led, he said, to Lambeth being invited to a New Scotland Yard conference to discuss its Stop and Search practices, as it was the lead borough in London in terms of reducing disproportionality.
- 29 Lena James said that if police talked better to young people and learned to get round them they would get better results, as not all young people were criminals.
- 30 Wesley Stephenson said that while there were officers using CCTV for the purpose of intelligence led Stops, it was another set of officers who attended the scene without all the information of the CCTV operator. With regard to police dealing with young people, Mr Stephenson said that he had witnessed police officers reacting heavy handedly with a group of youths. He added that he wondered what would have happened had he not been there and spoken with the officers.
- 31 In respect of Stop slips, Mr Stephenson said young people did not get a response as to why they were Stopped and Searched and given a bail slip without ever being charged. Furthermore, he said police never apologised for fear of being sued.
- 32 Fernando Senior said that he was concerned about the racist abuse of police officers raised by the young people present. He said that the MPS had supposedly moved on, particularly in light of the all the racial awareness training, yet there still seemed to be a problem. Mr Senior said he was aware of other incidents and wonder how many other black people had been abused.
- 33 Canon Bowman said young people did not complain about police officers' racist abuse because they feared being victimised and targeted.
- 34 **Mr Andell said many young people didn't make complaints about the police because they saw the process as too long winded. At the Stop and Search sub-Group he said there had been discussions around a form of mediation so that when such issues occurred they could be addressed quickly and effectively. Ms Rowe said she was in agreement with that point.**
- 35 **Mr Stephenson asked for an update on the inquiry into the murder of Victoria Abu Mensah in March 2003.**
- 36 Ms Tapsell congratulated the police for their action on removing firearms from the community.

Lambeth Summer Project

- 37 Mr Mason explained that the LSP was a voluntary organisation and registered charity which had had a successful twenty year relationship with local police and communities in the borough. The LSP had no statutory income, assets or regular income and was entirely dependant on the generosity of donations from large charitable organisations, corporate business sector and private individuals.
- 38 Mr Mason said that the LSP's aims were to break down barriers, real and imagined, between the police, young people and the wider community by promoting good citizenship and reducing the potential for young people to either become involved in criminal activity or fall victim to it. The LSP also aimed to promote partnership between statutory, voluntary, private sector and other organisations to encourage their active involvement in local youth initiatives.
- 39 The Summer Projects had been operating between the months of July and August for the past twenty years on crime diversion projects lasting over a three or four week period. Using four sites in Brixton, Clapham and Kennington,

- Streatham and West Norwood, the LSP catered for between 500 and 600 young people from a multi-cultural background, some from very disadvantaged circumstances.
- 40 Mr Mason said the LSP aimed to give young people access to a very diverse programme of recreational and educational activities with an underlying theme of crime prevention and good citizenship. The intended outcome was to give them the opportunity to enjoy, achieve, keep healthy, stay safe, become involved in decision making, increase self-esteem, meet new friends and to pursue new interests and activities.
- 41 The LSP also benefited the community by keeping young people away from activities they should perhaps not be encountering and the temptation to become involved in crime. Mr Mason said that there was also the matter of young people coming into contact with police officers in a non-confrontational situation that would hopefully improve the building of relationships, harmony and help diffuse any situation that that may occur beyond the duration of the projects.
- 42 The LSP's principle partners were the MPS, whose ongoing support had helped keep the projects going, the community volunteers and schools, two of which let the LSP use their premises free of charge. Staff and funding for the projects came from local businesses and organisations, and Lambeth Council which provided up to ten workers for each of the four projects, as well as two key workers, including Gill Keneally, who very successfully had ran the Norwood project.
- 43 John Street gave a breakdown of this year's four Summer Projects for youths aged between 9-16 years: Brixton (Minet Road School), 96 girls, 76 boys; Clapham and Kennington (Alley Edward's) 42 girls, 62 boys; Streatham (Streatham and Clapham High) 152 participants; Norwood (Elm Court) 73 participants.
- 44 In terms of activities provided for the young people, Mr Street said that there had been over 150 trips out of borough to participate in canoeing, skiing, rock climbing, wind-surfing, ice-skating, tenpin bowling, sailing and horse riding. On site, young people had participated in over 350 activities including fencing, football, music, photographic and workshops, hair-braiding, drama, yoga workshops and cooking.
- 45 Sgt. Sara Tynan, one of eleven officers in the Safer Schools Team set up five years ago, said that police officers in schools worked in partnership with education services, school staff and other agencies to prevent offending and to create a safer schools environment. Having set information protocols, she said that the police had looked at what schools expected of them and what they could offer.
- 46 On a day to day basis, Sgt. Tynan said that police offered a high visibility patrol to and from school, investigated crime, mentored pupils and offered role models. Amongst other things, Schools Officers also offered weekly surgeries, facilitated restorative justice meetings, made home visits with school staff to speak to parents about a pupil's behaviour and undertook truancy patrols.
- 47 In response to Cllr. Lorna Campbell, Mr Mason said that he could report back at the next meeting with statistics pertaining to age and ethnicity of Summer Project participants for this year. From self-identified participants recorded in the 2006 review, he said that 198 were from the Caribbean community, 69 African, 29 other black background, 62 white British, 1 white Irish, 2 black British, 2 Asian with 44 declining to say. With regard to age, Mr Mason said that had been 62 nine-year olds, 73 ten-year olds, 100 eleven-year olds, 82 twelve-year olds, 76 thirteen-year olds, 55 fourteen-year olds, 34 fifteen-year olds and 5 sixteen-year olds.
- 48 In response to Lena James, Mr Mason said that the LSP would like to run projects for a longer periods of time but funding was an issue.
- 49 Canon Ivelaw Bowman commented on the persistent bad behaviour of young people on buses and criticised the LSP for having no black or Asian trustees.
- 50 Gill Keneally, however, said that the majority of the volunteers working with predominantly black children were themselves from the black community.
- 51 Fernando Senior congratulated all those involved with the LSP for the tremendous work they had done over twenty years in empowering young people.

Stockwell Two – IPCC Investigation

- 52 Ms Tapsell reminded the Group that the trial of the MPS on Health and Safety charges had begun the previous day at the Old Bailey, and the Gorpu therefore needed to be mindful of the *sub judice* issue.

- 53 Stockwell Two was the result of an investigation following complaints made to the IPCC by Mr de Menezes' family about the MPS handling of information made following the shooting at Stockwell tube station on 22 July 2005. Ms Tapsell said that many who had read it had found it very disturbing as a shocking portrayal of most senior police officers during a time of national crisis.
- 54 Nick Hardwick, who had attended Group previous meetings to give updates on the various stages of investigations concerning Mr de Menezes, said that people had waited a long time to find out what had happened on the day Mr de Menezes was killed, and now only had to wait a little longer as the full story unfolded in court. Then, he said, people could make up their own minds on the facts presented rather than rely on newspaper headlines.
- 55 Mr Hardwick said that the death of Mr de Menezes was a subject about which emotions ran high, which to some extent needed to be avoided as there was a danger of becoming disrespectful. Somebody had died, he said, but there were also other victims, including Mr de Menezes family, police officers and staff in other situations whose lives had been affected by the events.
- 56 Mr Hardwick said that in October, 2005, Mr de Menezes family had made a complaint to the IPCC about what senior police officers were alleged to have said about the circumstances leading up to Mr de Menezes death, which were deliberately inaccurate. While not as serious as Mr de Menezes' death, Mr Hardwick said that to some extent it was more complicated to investigate, particularly in trying to piece together what people had said and to whom as people's memories faded, which could lead to varying accounts.
- 57 Mr Hardwick said that a lot of care went into the Stockwell Two report and the IPCC stood by everything that was in it, and that summarising it could lead to misinterpretation.
- 58 The first part of the report set out to remind people what July 2005 was like, which was a frightening time, and therefore it tried to spell out the demands upon the police at the time.
- 59 With regard to the accounts that Mr de Menezes was seen wearing a padded jacket and running through Stockwell station, Mr Hardwick said that these were given by civilian witnesses who mistook two police officers as one man chasing another. In good faith, Mr Hardwick said that these witnesses later gave interviews to the media stating what they had seen, which later became incorporated into the accounts of the police and others.
- 60 What followed, Mr Hardwick said, was a dawning realisation over a period of time amongst different people in the MPS that things were not quite as they first appeared.
- 61 After the trial, Mr Hardwick said that there would still be an inquest which would give the de Menezes family the opportunity to put the questions they wanted answering. Mr Hardwick added that at some point decisions had to be made about whether any police officers would have to face disciplinary charges, which would have to wait until at least the end of the trial.
- 62 Catherine Crawford said she agreed with Mr Hardwick with the respect that was owed to someone who had lost their life in tragic circumstances, which was the touchstone when talking about Stockwell One and Two.
- 63 Ms Crawford said that the MPA had two roles in IPCC investigations, and that she had to be careful about what she said while there was the potential that the MPA could take disciplinary action against a senior MPS officer.
- 64 Ms Crawford said that the MPA held the MPS to account to deliver an efficient and effective police service on behalf of the people of London. And in terms of the IPCCs investigation, she said that a full Authority meeting had taken place on 6 September where questions were put to the MPS Commissioner, Sir Ian Blair. Ms Crawford said that the minutes of the meeting could be seen at the MPA website.
- 65 As a result of concerns expressed by MPA members regarding the events of 22 July 2005, Ms Crawford said that Len Duval, MPA Chairperson, had announced that he would personally lead a further review with a view to producing some concrete products such as putting on record the processes involved in identification and the avenues that police pursue more generally.
- 66 Ms Crawford said that it had to be intensely and immensely frustrating for people closely concerned with the de Menezes tragedy that investigations and reviews took so long but they were complicated and it was important that they be thoroughly carried out. In this respect, Ms Crawford said that the MPA's commitment was absolute.

- 67 Ch. Supt. David George reiterated that the death of Jean Charles de Menezes was a tragic incident for which the MPS had apologised.
- 68 ***Mr George said that once Stockwell One was published he would make himself available to the Group to discuss the reports findings.***
- 69 Mr George said that July 2005 the MPS was an unprecedented time for London and the MPS, who were placed under significant pressure in dealing with people from the community prepared to kill other Londoners and themselves.
- 70 Mr George said that the MPS accepted that the internal and external communications systems in place at that time did not work properly, which had understandably increased the distress and suffering of the de Menezes family, for which again the Commissioner had personally apologised.
- 71 As a result of the communication failings, the MPS had since established a Knowledge Management Centre (KMC) and Mr George explained that a Crisis Management Team (CMT) would be set up when serious incidents occurred, such as the de Menezes tragedy. Mr George said that the KMC identified information as it came in from the police, media, public and other sources which would be considered for its authenticity. Once ratified, the information, which was auditable, would feature in a briefing for the CMT so that they should be aware of what had happened, what was thought to have happened and what was just speculation.
- 72 Mr George said that the system had been tried during several live incidents such as the attempted night club bombing in the West End in June as well as in training exercises. Mr George said that Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabularies (HMIC) had deemed the system fit for purpose. Mr George added that although he was unable to speak about Stockwell One, there had been raft of recommendations from that report already taken up, which had moved the MPS forward.
- 73 In response to a member of the public, Mr George said that the speed and reliability of assessing information depended on drawing people together and the time at which an incident occurred. For example, Mr George said that following the attempted night club bombing in June a CMT was drawn together within half an hour. In terms of reliability, Mr George said that the KMC allows to identify the
- stage at which information can be deemed reliable so that unreliable information is not given out.
- 74 In response to Fernando Senior's questioning of the IPCC's credibility as result of Stockwell Two report, Mr Hardwick said that he had promised the de Menezes family that he would tell the truth about what happened to their son, which he said he had done. Therefore, he said that while judgements could be made about the report and roles of people involved in it, he had delivered on the commitments he had made to the de Menezes family and the Group. Without the existence of the IPCC, Mr Hardwick said that information in its reports and coming out of the trial would not have been heard.
- 75 In response to Paul Andell's query about the MPA's internal capacity to conduct its core function of hiring and firing senior police officers, as well as the operation of information sharing protocol in the police, between agencies and between agencies and the community, Ms Crawford said that, in the first instance, she would like to have more resources and staff. However, she said that she was confident in the calibre and expertise of the 23 members who understood policing and who were fully in touch with what local people were telling them.
- 76 In terms of a two way flow of information, Ms Crawford said that it was absolutely essential and that there was a political push for local involvement. Ms Crawford said that she made a distinction between local engagement and answerability. whereby a local borough commander and MPA Link Member feed into the community and feedback into the system. This, she said, was distinct from accountability which the MPA exercised in holding to account the MPS Commissioner, who in turn held his officers to account.
- 77 Mr George said that the MPS did not underestimate the rigour in which the MPA and the IPCC undertook in their respective rolls and the police felt that they were being properly scrutinised and managed.
- 78 Mr Leon said that he did not think the IPCC could have produced a better report, which he said he found honest and straightforward. However, as result of reading it, Mr Leon said that he couldn't understand how the Commissioner could still be in post. Referring to Stockwell Two, paragraph 16.13.12, Mr Leon said that he could not comprehend how a police

- constable knew that the wrong man had been killed and the Commissioner did not.
- 79 In response, Mr Hardwick said that he was quite sure that the evidence showed that it would be wrong to say that the Commissioner had 'selective amnesia' and the report did not support that view. Mr Hardwick said that the communication system at the time was not sufficient.
- 80 In response to Mr Leon, Ms Crawford said that the MPA committee looking into the IPCC's recommendations had not yet concluded its findings.
- 81 Jim Toohill said that without the de Menezes family's complaint the Stockwell Two report would not have existed, Mr Toohill commended the thoroughness of the report and said that a veil had been lifted on what had gone on behind the scenes. Mr Toohill said that the report was an education in terms of how an organisation like the MPS operated at such a time (perhaps quite differently from how one expected) and also of how the MPA functioned in that situation.
- 82 Mr Toohill highlighted two issues of concern. Firstly, the culture within the MPS which, for example, led to people not speaking up in meetings because they did not want to contradict their superiors, reducing possibly salient points to whispered asides. Mr Toohill said that he did not know how police could reassure the public that it had recognised the problem and had put it right.
- 83 Secondly, in talking to the community whilst establishing the identity of Jean Charles de Menezes, Mr Toohill said that the police repeatedly said, into the night, that they could not say anything until they were absolutely sure. Yet, unfiltered, untested witness statements from the scene of the shooting were relayed unquestioned, which gave a kind of protective bias.
- 84 Mr Toohill said that an astonishing element of the report concerned DAC Andy Hayman stating at a MPS management meeting that the press were possibly going to run a story that the police had shot the wrong man. At this point, the community would have expected the MPA to have asked when the police would be sure of the dead man's identity, what they were going to do about if he was innocent and what the implications were, but that didn't happen.
- 85 Mr Toohill said that this came on the back of a succession of events, particularly where the MPA had asked the Attorney General to drop the Health and Safety trial and then offered financial support to police officers who were seeking judicial review of the IPCC's report. Though the latter point was understandable from a good employer's point of view, Mr Toohill said that the MPA had to beware of putting itself in a position where people could say that when things went wrong the MPA would close ranks with the police.
- 86 Mr Toohill said that in reading the report one could not help but question either the Commissioner's honesty or competence. It was also worrying, he said, that a man could run such a large organisation yet his people did not feel compelled to tell him as soon as the balance of judgement (of the identity of the man shot at Stockwell) was going the way it did.
- 87 Wesley Stephenson said that as defenders of justice there was a duty to hold the line, which he believed had been breached, leaving the police damaged. Mr Stephenson said that a man in his position, the Commissioner seemingly had no accountability, which was deplorable, and that the MPS suspension policy needed to be reviewed because the MPA didn't seem to be able to regulate the MPS. He added that the Group would continue to challenge processes as long as the services that it actually supported didn't hold the line.
- 88 In response to Archbishop Bancroft McCarthy, Mr Harding said that he was 100% satisfied that he had collated all the relevant information he needed for the report.
- 89 Ms Crawford said that anyone who had attended the Authority meeting on 6 September and witnessed the extensive three hour or so grilling of the Commissioner, which was extremely thorough and uncomfortable for him, would not be under the impression that the MPA had closed ranks. Had there been a finding that the Commissioner had lied, deliberately misled, misrepresented or spun information, Ms Crawford said he would have had no alternative but to resign straight away. She said the Commissioner had taken the view that it was his responsibility to stay and ensure that such a thing could never happen again, that systems were put in place and that the overall performance of the MPS as a whole was what his legacy must be.
- 90 Ms Crawford said that she was confident that the stance of Len Duval, supported by the MPA

- members, would demonstrate that the Authority did properly fulfill the roll of holding the Commissioner and his senior officers to account across a range of performance indicators and performances.
- 91 Ms Crawford said that the issue of changing police culture was something that everyone needed to look at and in recognising that in an organisation that large it was a huge challenge for management.
- 92 Paul Reynolds said that he was present at the MPA management meeting on 6 September and that he came away very confident in the process they had determined there and then to look into the deficiencies surrounding management systems. He added that there was very robust questioning of the Commissioner and at least half of the MPA members spoke on the subject.
- 93 Richard Moore commented that if the head of a large organisation in the corporate business world was found not to be fit for purpose there would be no option for that person to decide whether to stay or go and he or she would be sacked.
- 94 In response to Mr Stephenson in respect of restoring confidence and trust in the police, Mr George said that there was more transparency in the organisation that there ever had been, with rigorous scrutiny from the MPA, IPCC, HMIC and organisations like the Group. In a situation such as the Stockwell incident, Mr George said it could knock confidence but the MPS continued to be a learning organisation.
- 95 David Tomlinson proposed that when the time came for the MPA to recruit a new Commissioner, they should appoint a natural leader who could talk to all MPS staff and change the prevailing culture, whether it was the challenge was counter-terrorism or police racism. While certain boxes needed to be ticked, such as experience, knowledge and professional expertise, Mr Tomlinson said that above all the MPA should stand back and look at the next Commissioner in terms of qualities of leadership that were rare which the MPS needed now.
- 96 Ivelaw Bowman thanked Mr Hardwick and his staff for keeping faith with the Group, and being open and transparent. He added that the IPCC's credibility in Lambeth had been enhanced. On the matter of accountability, Canon Bowman quoted Lord Denning: "Be ever so high. Be ever so mighty. The law of this land is above you." He said that someone had to be brought to book and account for their actions.
- 97 Mrs Lynn Thomas said that Mr de Menezes' death was a disgrace to the country and that the police had killed people before and had got away with it.
- 98 Habiba Compaore said that emotions were running and that people had to watch what they were saying. She said that we needed to wait till the end of the trial with respect, understanding and empathy.
- 99 In answer to Ms Tapsell, Mr George said that in broad terms the communication systems between the MPS and British Transport Police did work because they both came under the auspices of the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), which in turn was overseen by HMIC. He said that work addressing the incompatibility of radio systems (between MPS and BTP) was being pushed ahead..
- 100 Ms Crawford said that the improvements to communication was quite advanced and the radios used by MPS officers were currently being rolled out across the underground, and in six months there would be complete integration. Presently, she said there was an alternate system in place to ensure communication was possible.
- 101 Ms Tapsell said that one of the most distasteful things about reading Stockwell Two was the speed of which an officer relaying information wrongly categorised Jean Charles de Menezes as an Asian and then a Pakistani, thereby stereotyping him and making huge assumptions. For Muslims, she said that issue was particularly chilling.
- 102 Mr George said that not wanting to stray into discussing Stockwell One, work had been done in terms of surveillance and identification, while the KMC was now established to authenticate information. Mr George reiterated that he would return to discuss the Stockwell report and its recommendations once it had been placed in the public domain.
- 103 In response to Wesley Stephenson, Mr George said that in a terrorist hostage situation the ACPO guideline was to ensure the preservation of life.
- 104 Jim Fairweather said that the police's job was to look after the community and any organisation could make mistakes in the present circumstances and everyone was wise after the event. He therefore said that people should

reserve their judgement and not be so severe at a time when the country was under a terrorist threatening and the police were in no win situation.

105 Ms Rowe thanked Catherine Crawford, Nick Hardwick and David George for attending the meeting and closed the discussion saying that Sir Ian Blair had her full support as the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police. Under his leadership, she said that local community relations had been improved through Safer Neighbourhoods while the MPS was recognised throughout the world and was called upon to help in investigations. Ms Rowe said that through its expertise of the MPS's counter-terrorist command was day in and day out preventing people being killed.

Any Other Business

106 Canon Bowman said that the Peace Month debate on guns, knives and gangs had been a great success which was very well attended by young people.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

6. 00 p.m. TUESDAY, 6 November 2007