

## **Committee:** Overview and Scrutiny Commission

**Date:** 16<sup>th</sup> July 2013

Agenda item:

Wards: All

## **Subject:** Civil unrest – Cabinet’s action plan for implementation of task group recommendations

Lead officer: Annalise Elliott Head of Safer Merton

Lead member: Councillor Edith Macauley

Contact officer: Annalise Elliott Head of Safer Merton

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### **Recommendations:**

- A. That the Overview and Scrutiny Commission notes the work undertaken in respect of the Civil Unrest Action Plan.
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## **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1 A task group was set up in order to investigate and identify lessons learned from the civil unrest that took place in parts of Colliers Wood, Wimbledon and Mitcham in August 2011. This report highlights the recommendations that were made by cabinet and provides an update on progress made on these recommendations, as of May 2013.

## **2. DETAILS**

- 2.1 Over five days in August 2011 around 15,000 people rioted, looting and damaging town centres in 66 different areas across England. The government established the Riots, Communities and Victims Panel, to investigate the causes of the riots and to consider what more could be done to build greater social and economic resilience in communities.
- 2.2 The Council, at its meeting on 23 September 2011, discussed the civil unrest that took place in parts of Colliers Wood, Wimbledon and Mitcham in August 2011. Council resolved that the Scrutiny Commission and/ or relevant Panels should receive and consider a report of events in Merton, and discuss any consequent initiatives, which might usefully be pursued for the benefit of the authority, its partners and the wider community.
- 2.3 From the outset, task group members agreed that they wished to keep the review as evidence based and focussed on Merton as possible. The task group had six meetings at which a wide range of evidence was considered including national, regional and local reports as well as discussion with the police, Safer Merton, youth service and emergency planning.

- 2.4 At Cabinet on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of October 2012 the implementation of the recommendations were agreed.
- 2.5 A preliminary update on the Action Plan was taken to Overview and Scrutiny in November 2012
- 2.6 Cabinet requested that they note the update to the action plan prior to Overview and Scrutiny, so the timetable was altered accordingly and can be noted below.
- 2.7 The update on the action plan was taken to Cabinet on the 10<sup>th</sup> of June. Cabinet did not request any changes, however the key message given was that criminality should not be rewarded and our response to the unrest should reflect this.

### 3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 3.1 Not to undertake a review, however potential lessons may not be learnt to prevent similar problems in the future.

### 4. CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

- 4.1 This report will go to Cabinet to note the progress on the recommendations.

### 5. TIMETABLE

13 <sup>th</sup> Sep 2011	Council discussed the Civil Unrest and resolved that a Scrutiny Commission be provided with a report of events
11 <sup>th</sup> October 2011	Civil Unrest was discussed at the Overview and Scrutiny Commission and a task group was recommended to start in January to pull together a report.
22 <sup>nd</sup> Oct 2012	The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission presented the report at Cabinet where the recommendations were noted and Cabinet requested an action plan, which they would then formally agree, prior to being taken back to the commission.
28 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2012	Initial feedback was provided to the Commission on the actions set out in the task group report.
28 <sup>th</sup> May 2013	Progress on the Civil Unrest Task Group Actions to be taken to LSG prior to being reported back to Cabinet in June and the Commission in July
10 <sup>th</sup> June 2013	Cabinet note and formally approve the progress made in relation to action plan.

<b>Forward</b>	
16 <sup>th</sup> July 2013	The Overview and Scrutiny Commission note the approved action plan and progress.

**6. FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 None for the purposes of this report - financial, resource and property implications of implementing the agreed recommendations are met by the various council departments and the partnership and this will inform the actions taken, which will need to be delivered within an environment of financial and physical constraint.

**7. LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 None

**8. HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 This report covers all sections of the community and does not discriminate against any group. It should foster better community relations between the local residents and between partner organisations.

**9. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 The implications are crime and disorder specific.

**10. RISK AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 None for the purposes of this report – risk management and health and safety implications of implementing the agreed recommendations have been accounted for. Reducing the opportunity for future incidents will improve the health and safety of our residents and visitors.

**11. APPENDICES – THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE PUBLISHED WITH THIS REPORT AND FORM PART OF THIS REPORT**

11.1 Appendix 1 – Action Plan

**12. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

12.1 None

## Appendix 1

### Updates on the recommendations for the civil unrest review

	Responsible decision making body
<b>Recommendation 1</b>	
We recommend that the Borough Commander provide a written statement setting out what mechanisms are available to the police locally for drawing in additional resources in an emergency and what changes have been made to those procedures in the light of the widespread unrest experienced in August 2011.	Police
<b>Actions:</b> Covered by the MPS Service Mobilisation Plan, which has been revised following the disorder and to incorporate structural changes under the One Met Model change programme. These are covered by a Standard Operating Procedure document. This is a restricted document and not for publication.	
<b>Recommendation 2</b>	
We recommend that the Overview and Scrutiny Commission invite the Borough Commander to attend a meeting in order to discuss the level of police resources that will be deployed in the borough after the Olympics, including the number of public order trained officers.	Overview and Scrutiny Commission  Police
<b>Actions:</b> The borough commander received an invitation and clarification as to what is required from him and attended the meeting on the 28 <sup>th</sup> of November.	
<b>Recommendation 3</b>	
We recommend that a list of drivers who would be willing to volunteer during any future emergency is drawn up and that appropriate advice is issued to them immediately so that they understand the limits around what they may be asked to do.	Merton Transport Services (MTS)
<b>Actions:</b> Emergency folders showing all staff and contact details are held. These are reviewed six monthly and the folders are kept off site. It was this information that enabled such a strong response previously. The team has also undertaken toolbox training to enable any one to manage any need that MTS Operations and workshops might be required to assist with. Should anyone be asked	

<p>to formulate a response they would phone and request assistance from whatever staff would be of use.</p> <p>In addition they are now formulating an additional list of drivers who specifically wish to be considered for any emergency response. This information will be available to whoever needs it and it will also be placed in the emergency folders.</p> <p>The team is waiting for, and would welcome, standard operating procedures and guidance for staff. When that is available they will ensure all staff are aware of the content and, again, it would be placed in the emergency folders.</p>	
<p><b>Recommendation 4</b> (paragraph 32)</p>	
<p>We further recommend that no volunteer driver should be put in a position where they would not be covered by insurance.</p>	<p>Merton Transport Services</p>
<p>All Council Staff who drive Council vehicles are covered by Council insurance.</p> <p>On occasions, like with the Civil Unrest situation, the Police Officers who drove Council vehicles were able to do so under the cover of their Police Insurance.</p>	
<p><b>Recommendation 5</b></p>	
<p>We recommend that the council's corporate management team identify who in the council is best placed to maintain contact lists for businesses and community leaders that can be used by the police and other partners during an emergency. Officers should review existing options and identify the most suitable contact lists for future use.</p>	<p>Corporate Safety Services and the Policy, Partnerships and Strategy Team.</p>
<p><b>Actions:</b></p> <p>Raised at CMT and agreed that Corporate Safety Services will maintain a list of business contacts. CMT agreed that a starting point would be to use the contact list of businesses compiled by the Merton Chamber of Commerce. The Policy, Strategy and Partnerships Team will maintain a contact list of community leaders.</p>	
<p><b>Recommendation 6</b></p>	
<p>We recommend that the Head of Communications identify the best ways in which the Council could post website and social media messages during any future emergency</p>	<p>Communications Team</p>

<p>situations to encourage positive behaviour and support from local residents.</p>	
<p><b>Actions:</b> The head of communications has addressed it the media emergency plan incorporates a wide range of channels including social media now.</p>	
<b>Recommendation 7</b>	
<p>We recommend that Cabinet explore with the corporate management team the scoping of new service for those 18-24 year olds at risk of anti-social behaviour, but not currently supported by any existing service, including a business case relating to the costs and benefits of commissioning such a service.</p>	Cabinet/ CSF
<p><b>Actions:</b> Sits with the cabinet member for CSF and the cabinet member for community safety</p> <p>Work is already underway in supporting this group in the form of the Offender Management Panel however this only deals with a minority of 'problem' young adults. The troubled families programme now underway also looks to support relevant people within this age grouping.</p> <p>The Ending Gangs and Youth Violence Peer Review took place during the week of the 18<sup>th</sup> of March. The report outlining the findings and possible recommendations is due imminently and will then be taken forward and signed off by the partnership.</p>	
<b>Recommendation 8 (paragraph 51)</b>	
<p>We further recommend that Cabinet consider the role of central government, and whether the relevant Minister should be lobbied to review the need for such a service - whilst recognising the role that voluntary sector organisations might have.</p>	Cabinet
<p>The council has proactively looked for ways to develop its capacity to work with older young people 19-25. As examples we have implemented our Transforming Families Service that enables us to work with older siblings as long as the family overall meet the eligibility criteria. We have also bid to MOPAC for specific resources to undertake targeted work with young offenders in this older age range. At the time of writing we are yet to hear the outcome of the bid.</p> <p>We would like to ask Cabinet if they wish Ministers to be lobbied?</p>	

<b>Recommendation 9</b>	
We recommend that the work by the youth service to identify appropriate provision for the young people who are most in need is widened to assess need more generally and advise on resources necessary to address this, not precluding the possibility of making a growth bid.	Cabinet/ Children Schools and Families (CSF)
<p><b>Actions:</b> Sits with the cabinet member for CSF and discussions as part of the corporate budget setting programme have been undertaken.</p> <p>There was no process for growth, which CSF could bid into for 13/14 due to the significant budget pressures on the Council overall. A successful bid has been made to MOPAC for work with girls at risk of sexual exploitation and deterrence and diversion from gangs. The money is initially for one year only.</p>	
<b>Recommendation 10</b>	
We recommend that the police continue to review how the way in which stop and search is carried out locally and the information provided at the time could be changed to minimise the perception of unfair treatment. This could include a clearly written flyer (with a phone number for feedback), visiting youth clubs and taking other opportunities for positive interactions that will build good relationships with young people.	Police
<p><b>Actions:</b> This has been driven centrally as a response to both the disorder and the Commissioner's concerns that Stop and Search powers to not engender public confidence. The review has been conducted under the 'Stop It' project. Locally numbers of stop and search have fallen dramatically and performance has improved. The uses of s.60 and s.44 terrorism searches have all but ceased. Stop and search continues to be monitored locally by an effective stop and search monitoring group.</p>	
<b>Recommendation 11</b>	
We recommend that there is a discussion at the head teachers group, to which the police are invited, on whether it would be helpful to ask the school based police officers (or another police officer) to talk to pupils about stop and search.	CSF/ Head Teachers Group
<p><b>Actions:</b> The police to set up meetings via the schools officers to meet head teachers and formulate an offer that can be delivered across the school environment (and</p>	

other youth provision).

The Safer Schools Partnership has continued to meet and to respond innovatively to this issue. Initial feedback from the recent Home Office peer review commended the Partnership for their work, which they felt included good practice.