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Draft minutes of the CPEG Chairs Meeting
Thursday 20th October 2011

Main Conference Room - New Scotland Yard

Welcome and Introductions

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed DAC Rose Fitzpatrick and Cdr Steve Rodhouse.

Present:

Sheila Suso-Runge - Hackney
Nicola Baboneau - Hackney
Ian Smith - Bromley
Charles Gallichan - Ealing
Joyce Sutherland - Bexley
Len Faram - Havering
J Cross - Bromley
Andrew Wakefield - Merton
Chris O'Connor - Barnet
Gerard McGrath - LCP2
Wendy Kyrle-Pope - LCP2
Howard Clark - LCP2
Sonoo Malkani - Harrow
Sandra Flower - Kingston
Julie Fallon Bradley - Redbridge
Philip Dundon - Waltham Forest
Ivor John - Hillingdon
Rachel Whittaker - Westminster
Richard Billington - Croydon
Wilson Hinson - Kensington and Chelsea
Mohammad Chaudhry - Hounslow
Barry Green - Sutton
Carole Atkinson - Richmond upon Thames
Simon Horvat-Marcovic - Camden
Clarence Thompson - Lambeth
John May - LCP2
Janet Marshall - Enfield
Deputy Assistant Commissioner Rose Fitzpatrick - Central Operations, Metropolitan Police
Commander Steve Rodhouse - Territorial Policing (TP), Metropolitan Police

Detective Inspector Yasmin Lalani - Staff Officer to Cdr Rodhouse, Metropolitan Police
Sue Farley - PA to Cdr Rodhouse, Metropolitan Police (Minutes)

Apologies

Sandra Rennie

Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a true record and signed to this effect by The Chair.

Matters arising

The representative from Bexley took up the offer from Superintendent Scott at the previous meeting, to visit CCC. She visited Lambeth and strongly suggested other people also visit. She found it very interesting and opened her eyes to what happens.

The events of August 2011

DAC Rose Fitzpatrick (RF) said she would be delighted to listen to the borough community experiences of what happened in August. She understands that this was a difficult, challenging and very emotional time for everyone including the police officers. She explained that a lot of work was being done including de-briefings and pulling all the information together. A review is being undertaken which is aimed at what happened and what the learning for the organisation and partners is for the future and she would like to take what she hears tonight back to that forum.

Cdr Steve Rodhouse (SR) mentioned that he had met some of the members after the disorder as he chaired a strategic meeting which he found to be a valuable experience. He was very keen to hear experiences tonight and said that he would update the meeting regarding the MPS's view.

The Chair asked each borough to explain their experiences and what they thought to be the cause.

Hackney - In terms of the immediate aftermath of the riots she was struck by the indignation of the residents and young people and the active and immediate response to the clearing up process. The immediate impact except for shops being boarded up, were small fires. Concern was raised around the media coverage as they were talking about Hackney but showing captions from other boroughs such as Croydon. Regarding the focus on young people, it was clear in Hackney that the age range was 18 to 24. A community meeting took place where it was agreed that better networking needed to be in place as there were myths that were circulating that were defunct and that people felt helpless. Parenting skills were also discussed and the fact that parents felt disempowered. The Pembury Estate shops were attacked but local people didn't feel they

were part of that at all. The feeling was that the MPS arrested a lot of gang members but concern was around sentencing and fear that putting people behind bars may encourage them to join gangs not just on borough but nationally. The carnival was cancelled just before the events but unsure whether this was a trigger but it was noticed that residents were not happy. Since the disorder a lot of excellent and positive work has taken place with community groups and also theatre and drama work. Images from the media were very unhelpful. It is very important that the inter-generation divide does not continue as presented in reports and the media.

Merton - There is an incredibly high confidence rating in the police and low attendance at their CPEG meetings as there are usually very few problems in Merton. Tamden Retail Park was affected by the riots but the media were in Croydon and the Borough Commander had been in Tottenham for 3 days. There were just 12 officers in the retail park. By 10.30 the following morning most of the retail park had been cleared up. There appeared to be incorrect intelligence that the police had obtained from social media networks. On Twitter there were conversations that Morrison's was being attacked but it wasn't. A ward Councillor called a meeting on the Saturday where 150 people attended and concerns and issues were dealt with. There was no mention of the trouble in Merton being anything to do with Haringey.

Enfield - Enfield was affected on the Sunday evening. It was felt that the reasons were due to a lot of contact between Haringey and Enfield and people seized the moment. The response from police was extremely prompt with attendance of Level 2 disorder officers and mounted branch. Approximately 20% of those arrested were youths but the age group varied with the eldest being 64. The Borough Commander held a Gold Group with business and community leaders and they worked very well to dispel rumours. The following day there were vigilantes on the streets which caused problems. Enfield wished to thank all the officers from across the country who were in attendance. On the Monday Sony Distribution Centre was set alight and it has been classed as the highest value arson in the country. The Council are in talks with Sony to try and retain them within the Borough. At the moment there are approximately 15 gang members on remand to return.

Bromley - Bromley's experience was similar to Merton. The representative spoke with the Borough Commander on the Monday morning and most officers were deployed elsewhere across London. Problems started late on the Monday evening and it was felt that opportunists took advantage knowing how thin officers were on the ground. The representative was in constant contact with senior officers on the ground and police couldn't contain what was happening. From CCTV in various parts of the borough's shopping area it appeared that most people arrested had come from outside the borough whereas on the industrial estate they were more local. The Partnership worked well together and people operating the CCTV came in voluntarily with no expectation of recompense. On the Tuesday the representative went out with response teams and whilst there were no problems the police were inundated with 999 calls a lot of which were hoaxes. It was felt that Bromley was very fortunate and if officers had not been deployed elsewhere they may have escaped the disorder.

Barnet - The borough appeared very lucky compared to their neighbours with low level incidents. The biggest impact was that streets were empty probably due to social media. Communication was very positive between the police, voluntary sector and CPEG with a lot of police visibility. The borough's next CPEG forum will focus on how they can prevent problems in future.

Ealing - The borough was 'slaughtered' with 55 properties damaged and 14 inhabitable the next morning. On the night 4 families were burnt out of their flats above the retail outlets. On the radio there was talk that youths from Tottenham were retaliating to the shooting of Mark Duggan. Concern was raised regarding the investigation of the police and the fact that the Borough Commander was unable to comment as a consequence. The representative from Ealing received a phone call from the police stating that officers had been redeployed to Tottenham which would have an impact on the Safer Neighbourhood teams in Ealing. He was informed there was no intelligence regarding any likely problems in the area. He asked neighbours to keep him informed as to what was being placed on Tweeter and other social networks. All public order officers had been extracted from Ealing. When the riots started the Borough Commander requested support from other boroughs. On talking with members of the community the following morning it became apparent that people had broken into houses and stolen property, and the fear and abandonment victims felt when they were unable to contact police on either 999, crime stoppers or 101. The representative asked what happened? Why was everyone extracted and then pulled back in time to help Ealing Borough? There are some people who are now homeless and there was one death. The follow-up was exemplary by 10 am the next morning everywhere was cleared up apart from where the Police had asked from crime scenes to remain. The consultation has been great, but on the night and the run up they could feel it coming but had no information. Southall was not affected but the police had another challenge - the Sikh community put guards on the Mosque. When they reviewed the need for this and saw what was there fortunately nothing happened. A lot of youths involved started to realise that their peers did not agree with what they had done. He believes that schools officers being introduced into schools has had an affect and is why there were so few school children involved.

Havering - It was mentioned that this is a nice borough to live in with no problems and a very good Borough Commander. On the night concerned Police linked up to CCTV so when people arrived at Romford on trains and busses there were already 60 to 70 police in attendance. The police managed to identify leaders and pulled them to one side whilst keeping everyone else walking returning them straight back to the station. The youth and voluntary groups on the borough all worked with the Local Authorities and CCTV controllers remained working unpaid to clear up. The shops closed and nothing happened in Romford. This was all thanks to the Borough Commander and his team.

Bexley - The representative for Bexley stated that Bexley prides themselves in being the safest borough in the MPS and that night they were. The Borough Commander was very proactive and put in certain orders. He ensured all staff were on duty and cancelled leave. He went around the boundary of the borough and as various groups approached he

told them 'not on our borough - good night and go away'. On Twitter there were messages that BNP and EDL were marching. Fear was also put into the community as shops were told to close and border up. The young people were great. She expressed appreciation for all the Constabularies who came to their aid. The TA in 78 regiment provided all the facilities within the TA centre including showers, kitchen and beds and Bexley was pleased to provide cells for other boroughs.

Sutton - Was not attacked except for one incident. The Borough Commander felt it was opportunists. CCTV picture shows 30 officers walking down the High Street and the kids disappearing into the back alleys. Sutton Borough then assisted other boroughs.

Lambeth - The rep for Lambeth attended the community meeting at New Scotland Yard everyday from the start of the riots and was surprised that no other CPEG member was present. He has written to the Prime Minister regarding the issues he believes that cause the problems. He has interviewed over 5000 people and has collated information that he feels is responsible. He worked with Lord Scarborough in 1981 and sees all the recommendations that were made then unravel now. Lambeth is a deprived borough where kids sleep on the street, go hungry, and those who have children who know nothing about parenting. We have to come to term with this and build the trust with the Police. Lambeth have a total lack of trust in the Police. He said that too many things happen in Lambeth and they get promise after promise but nothing changes. He is looking for solutions - how do we resolve this from happening again?

Haringey - The representative said that when he saw Tottenham High Street on the Sunday morning it was a shock - the last time he had seen anything like it was in Belfast. There are many questions in Tottenham and Haringey which remain unanswered. What were the police doing to allow this to start in the first place? Why was the group who approached Tottenham Police Station not managed properly? And why did police stand by and let buildings be smashed up? He saw some of his young clients involved but felt it wrong to use youths as scapegoats as there were also adults involved. The key issue in Haringey is, what happened with Mark Duggan when police shot him? He said that the police are right in that they are unable to comment yet as this is still under investigation. He said many people were aware that there was a big gap in the IPCC stepping forward and explaining what their role was and why the police were unable to cope. He felt the IPCC had missed opportunities regarding their role and what they are about. Given the events that had occurred in Haringey i.e. Broadwater Farm and Joy Gardiner, he feels there is an understandable and justifiable lack of confidence and credibility of the IPCC within Haringey and how they operate. He found it interesting to see the young people responding to this saying 'this is not us'. He was disgusted with the media involvement and the suggestion that no work had been done - Haringey have been doing a lot of work for over 15 years. He resents the position the media is taking on this. There are still questions unanswered and Haringey is still a tense area. At a meeting a few weeks ago it was clear the community were still very angry and shaken but hoped to get answers to questions in time. They are aware that the IPCC process takes time and understands that the investigation should be complete in 6 months time. A Community Reference Group was set up but this was then disbanded 3 weeks later. There are lots of question marks

regarding the shooting of Mark Duggan and it is felt that the grey areas come from the IPCC.

The Chair asked for an update on Haringey at the next meeting on the 8.12.11.

The Representative from Haringey said key issues - stop and search names to be looked at and also the role of the TSG and how they come into boroughs and confuse communications with the communities and then depart quickly. Ealing had Operational Duggan in place prior to the riots which worked very well. It was apparent when problems arose in Southall around Eid that many of those ejected from the street had Midland accents. He questioned whether CCTV images were being shared with other constabularies.

Westminster - The Borough was relatively quiet but Sloan Street was attacked on the Sunday at approximately 2am. People were scared when they witnessed Jessops windows being broken into with a metal trolley. Policing the following day was amazing and shops were closed early.

Richmond - Public Order police were sent to other parts of London and the Borough Commander returned from annual leave. The chair received calls from 2 executive members on the night of the riots, and they, in her absence, called a meeting of the Community Safety Partnership. Chair attended by conference phone. The two members of the executive wrote the advice and reassurance message which was out by the Tuesday afternoon. There was concern as the Olympic Cycling route was going through Richmond and may have been a problem but there were no problems and no evidence that local crime increased.

Camden - The representative felt that Camden had not been as bad as other parts of London although in Chalk Farm Road there is a major gang issue where stabbings and shootings occur. On this occasion he felt this was nothing to do with gangs and youths and that it was opportunists that took advantage. Every mobile phone shop, game shop and JD sports and Evans were attacked. He wanted it emphasised that as the Level 2 police officers were sent elsewhere it was the Safer Neighbourhood officers who were on the street in standard uniform, with the occasional small shield, but mainly in standard uniform and dealing with the issues so well. The following morning all the residents were out in force cleaning up and it was clear it was nothing to do with the locals. Teams were working well together, true partnerships. Police Cadets assisted in painting to make places look better. Most of those arrested were from other boroughs and the percentage of youth was 25%. It was just criminality. He wished to thank all the Safer Neighbourhood officers for their help. Communications were brilliant between police, media, CPEG and council disseminating information to every group they were involved with.

Harrow - Harrow didn't have a problem and put this down to 3 things - Police going out with the youth workers which worked really well. There were approximately 100 trouble makers. There are two dispersal areas in Harrow borough which have just been extended.

This was a powerful tool that the Borough Commander used very well. The representative from Harrow was invited to attend a meeting at the Civic Centre. She suggested that messages be sent to all Faith Groups within Harrow to ensure everyone was involved and this worked extremely well. All different groups within Harrow came out that night to support the police officers. She wished to express Harrow's appreciation for the mutual aid that came to the borough.

Kingston - Businesses closed early and the community really appreciated the daily and sometimes hourly update that was disseminated across the Borough. The mutual aid was very much appreciated with one comment being 'the local people are so friendly'. She echoed the fact that the media had hyped things up and felt they had a lot to answer for.

Croydon - Croydon burnt badly. It was like a bomb site, absolutely unreal. Over 100 people were made homeless but the representative congratulated the council who worked hard and found accommodation for people. He referred to a lady who jumped from the building in Reeves Corner and said it was a miracle that no-one was killed. He visited Croydon the next morning and said along with the smell of burning there was a palpable sense of fear as police abandoned them. There was talk about vigilantism if the police were not there to defend residents. He asked for the police not to refer to riots as disorder and to use the word gangs as opposed to young people. He felt that police treated this as disorder. It was riot opportunists. Mention has been made that cannons and CS spray could be used - he doesn't believe this will happen. He said the police were terrifyingly low on Croydon borough but for the few PCs that were present they showed stunning courage. The learning points: there were so few police in Croydon they couldn't arrest anyone. He mentioned the BTP have a mobile custody suite and suggested the MPS look at this. He felt the reasons people went to Croydon was the shops and people from deprived areas wanted a share of it. He has concerns that the youth don't fear the police and now it's worse as they are challenging the police. He wants reassurance tonight that if this situation reoccurs were the Police going to be ready for it. He is unsure this is the case.

Redbridge - Not badly affected and most police were deployed to Central London. There was a crowd of 200 and the Borough Commander saw them off single-handedly. Thanks went to her. The Borough Commander called a community meeting together and gave everyone all the information available and kept everyone well informed.

Waltham Forest - The representative stated that they were affected on the Sunday night mainly in Walthamstow. Part of the south of the Borough has a blanket order and they have a gangs initiative for a year which has helped in identifying some of the problems and where they are coming from. The Commander arrived on the Sunday evening. The main activity was in the shopping centre which combined with the High Street. 50% of offenders were from outside the borough and they used public transport to get there. Unfortunately there were very few transport police as it was a Sunday. There was a serious issue in Chingford when an officer was injured when a white van attempted to knock him down. The occupants of the van were apprehended. During the weekend and

the days that followed the communication was excellent. Rumours were quashed as they had the facts and this has been sustained.

Hillingdon - Extractions of officers took place and the Borough Commander was annual leave so a deputy took over and the community were very pleased with their performance. There was daily contact with the Borough Commander. He raised concern around the cost and welfare of officers if this had been long term. He appreciated that officers were requested to work 12 hour shifts for a relatively short period of time but was concerned if it had been over a longer period whether there was a long term plan around the shifts and sustaining the hours worked. He was also interested in whether the cost of the policing was going to come out of their borough policing budget. Communication learning - council and police used texts and where the council uses twitter and police cannot, they can only look. He has asked for a pyramid for communications to be set up. The CCPG have a few people on their books and at a touch of a button communications are circulated. He referred to the problems in the retail centre and Uxbridge Road but stated that police were on scene and arrested up to 30 offenders. The main concern - what is the continuation plan?

Hounslow - Hounslow was very lucky they had two minor offences. A window was broken and a police vehicle was pelted. Arrests were made. It was felt important to remember the use of social media, telephone, and twitter. The Borough Commander was asked to send message to leaders to enable them to disseminate to others. The Borough Commander text messaged approximately twice a day and the information was passed very quickly. It was felt that the reason Hounslow was quiet was because of good communication and everyone trying level best to make sure there was extra police presence.

Kensington - The Borough was fortunate with a few problems. The Council sent youth workers out on the Monday to Westminster, Brent and Kensington and Chelsea. Shops were attacked in various roads and a restaurant was broken into. There were problems with 999 and not being able to get through. Fortunately a youth member had the mobile number of the Sector Inspector so he was contacted and passed on the information. Police were giving updates via e-mail twice a day which were sent to various people within the community. The carnival went ahead but it was the quietest ever. It was felt it was criminal opportunists.

Bexley - Regarding to the comments around information not being received via the police link lines. The representative emphasised the need to ensure that contact details were kept up-to-date on the link lines. She stated that the CCC did their best that night.

AC Fitzpatrick - thanked everyone for their input. She has obtained a large amount of information that she will take away and analyse properly. She explained that the police are engaged in doing a review of Operation Kirkin and the policing response to riots and disorder. We want to understand why this happened and we cannot just look at police data and experiences. There is a difference between the protest which we saw at the beginning in Haringey, and what we saw elsewhere was criminality, not a protest. The

Police are looking at how the original response was managed, along with the processes and work done with others agencies around this. She was unable to comment regarding the shooting of Mark Duggan as it was being investigated by the IPCC. The Police are talking with the IPCC about communications with the communities and clarifying that accountability would be clear and understanding the responsibility they have to inform the communities around what is happening. Public Order tactics and response are also being looked at. What happened on the Monday night across London was actually unprecedented, the police had no intelligence that anything like that scale or speed of disorder would happen. The volume of people ringing 999 and receiving no answer was massive. 999 calls to all emergency agencies were very high but particularly the police were up by 400%. This has never happened before.

In terms of public order response and tactics - Level 2 officers were taken to other boroughs. The number of police increased daily and by Tuesday they were up to 16,000 from the normal 3,000. Mutual aid from other forces were called upon on the first night and the officers were very appreciative to how well they were received. Not only are we grateful to them for helping but this is also learning for the Olympics when we will rely on other Constabularies attending.

The issue around public order - the fact that high level public order officers were redeployed across London, it was the local officers who were defending streets and boroughs. Not only do we have to ensure we have the right number of Level 1 and 2 officers but we also need to ensure that we give the right support to the local officers. We need to look at both the kit and equipment.

The Chair emphasised the need to make the local officers feel valued, they were very brave and we need to acknowledge this. They are the most important officers in this Force.

DAC Fitzpatrick confirmed that The Commissioner and AC McPherson were currently engaged in holding Commendation Ceremonies to ensure the officers were rewarded and thanked.

Lambeth - Remember the role that community leaders play with the police. Supt at Lambeth provided a letter so they could communicate with the police and this played an important role as this letter was replicated throughout London. Community Leaders went out on the street and told youths to stop. He asked for them to be thanked too.

The Chair stated that it had been a very important meeting and how important it was to hear what had happened on each borough. She hoped it would help both Rose and Steve to give them more of an idea and an insight as to the possible causes, and what the police did or did not do. Some boroughs felt abandoned.

Commander Steve Rodhouse gave an update on Operation Withern and the criminal investigation into the crimes that took place during the riots/disorder. He shared the concern over the media coverage. He emphasised the need to demonstrate the

consequences of peoples actions and stated that over 3000 arrests had been made many of them in the first 3 days. There are predominantly 500 investigators across London dealing with the CCTV enquiry. He would like to hear more about people who were abandoned. He stated that 17 - 19% have affiliations to gangs. 25% of people are juveniles under 17 and 30% when you raise the age to 19. The police are working very closely to the criminal justice system.

The Chair asked Lambeth if their question regarding death in custody could be taken forward to the next meeting on the 8th December 2011. They kindly agreed.

The Chair asked members of the meeting to decide on what happens to the information gathered at this meeting. She would like to hear from boroughs who were absent. Should it be included in a report? Could it be used for training?

The meeting closed at 7.30pm.