



**Metropolitan Police Authority**

**Planning and Performance Unit**

**Metropolitan Police Authority (MPA)/Metropolitan Police Service (MPS)  
consultation on London policing priorities for 2009/10**

**Introduction**

Public consultation is central to informing the MPA/MPS of what London wants from its police service. Public consultation around the policing priorities is a critical part of the MPA/MPS planning cycle. It allows the organisations to address any differences between public concerns and the MPS strategic objectives and ensure that Londoners views are reflected when deciding where to direct resources.

This report will provide an overview of public consultation findings from a range of work ongoing within the MPA/MPS and associated organisations with the purpose of providing a comprehensive analysis of Londoners concerns and priorities.

The report has examined the following sources:

- MPA/MPS public consultation on policing priorities
- MPS Youth Survey
- Public Attitude Survey
- Annual London Survey (GLA)
- Transport for London – Community Safety Plan
- Survey of Londoners (London Councils)
- Policing Priorities of bordering police authorities.

**Summary of findings**

There are considerable similarities in the priorities highlighted across the sources examined, even though the methodologies vary. Findings from these consultations indicate that ASB is the issue of greatest concern for Londoners. Concern with groups of youths 'hanging around on streets' or in public areas was frequently mentioned. This also appears to be an issue that extends to forces bordering the MPS. Violent crime, police accessibility/visibility and drug use/ activity were also rated high in a number of studies and consultations.

Anti-social driving and road safety was rated as a top priority within the Public Attitude Survey and TfL's Community Safety Plan but was not a priority for young people. It was also considered as the second most important priority by the respondents of the MPA/MPS consultation and has featured in this over the past three years. Though considered to be a lower priority by the respondents to the MPA/MPS consultation, terrorism and burglary were often rated as top policing priorities in other consultations.

Young people were more likely to prioritise violent and street crime as issues they were most concerned about. This is probably because these are the crime types young people are most likely to experience – previous research has found that youths are more likely to be victims of violent crime, theft, and robbery than any other crime types<sup>1</sup>.

### **MPA/MPS consultation**

The purpose of the MPA/MPS online consultation was to give the public an opportunity to provide in-depth feedback into the MPA/MPS policing priority setting process for 2009/10.

The consultation was carried out via a survey asking respondents to list their top three priorities for London in 2009/10. Respondents were also asked why they thought each issue should be a priority and what they thought the MPS should be doing to tackle them. It must be noted that participants were self-selecting. The survey attracted 244 respondents.

Results from the consultation highlighted the top five policing priorities as:

- Anti-social behaviour (ASB)
- Traffic/road related issues
- Accessibility/visibility of the police
- Drugs and drug-related crime
- Gun/knife crime.

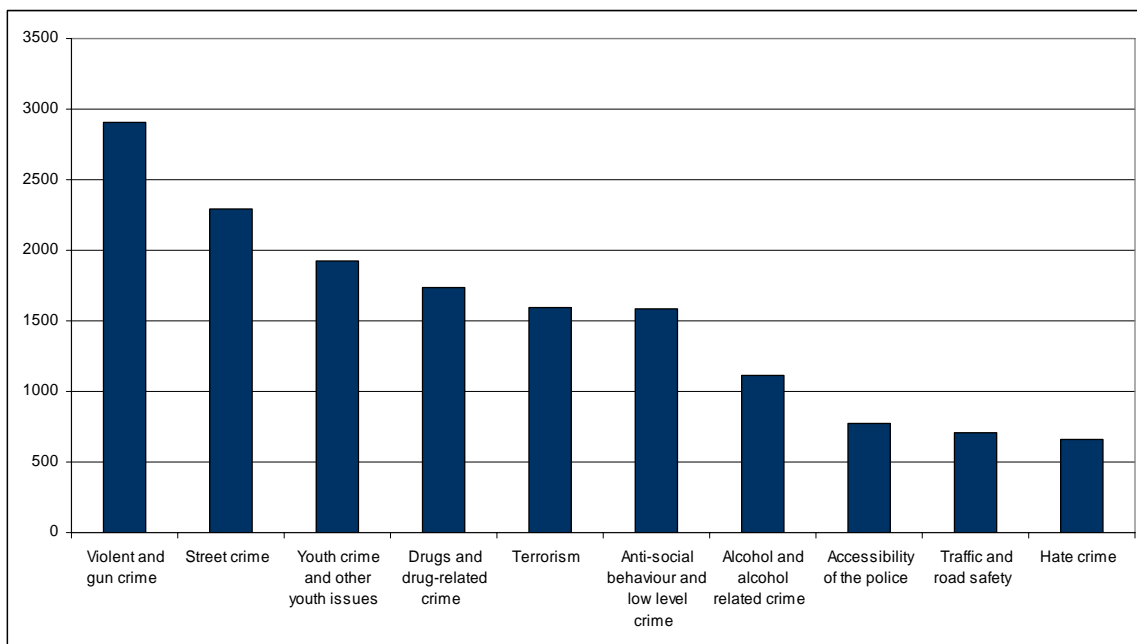
### **MPS Youth Survey**

The MPS schools survey was conducted between 25 February and 1 May 2008 and included 5,540 respondents from comprehensive schools aged between 11 and 18 years. Respondents were asked to select their top three priorities from a set list of ten.

The largest issue for young people was violent and gun crime (prioritised by 53% of respondents). This was followed by street crime (42%), youth crime and other youth issues (35%), drugs and drug related crime (32%), terrorism (29%), ASB and low-level crime (29%), alcohol and alcohol related crime (20%), accessibility of the police (14%), traffic and road safety (13%) and hate crime (12%).

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<sup>1</sup> Gittings, R. (March 2008) Youth Crime and Disorder – update March 2008 [restricted]  
London: Strategic Research Unit, Metropolitan Police Service



### Enforcement, Prevention, Intelligence and Communication (EPIC) data

Safer Neighbourhoods Teams carry out detailed surveying of the wards populous to identify key crimes that they want the police to tackle. This is used to determine the team's priorities. The top five Safer Neighbourhoods Teams priorities set across the MPS for 2007/2008 were ASB by youths, burglary, theft from motor vehicles, drug dealing and using and ASB in general. This data is captured in the EPIC system.

Priority	Total
ASB by Youths (e.g. gangs of youths)	5626
Burglary	2184
Theft from Motor Vehicles	1980
Drug Dealing and Using	1760
ASB in General (please specify)	1215

These priorities have broadly remained the same over the last 12 months and there has been no change in the most recent monthly figures (March 2008).

### Public Attitude Survey

The Public Attitude Survey (PAS) measures Londoners' perceptions of policing, and identifies their priorities and experiences of crime and policing. In 2007/08 the PAS sample size increased from 8000 to 20480 annually.

Quarter 4 (Jan-March 2008) results that should be considered are:

### Importance

Respondents were shown a list of services that the police provide. They were then asked how important it is that the Metropolitan Police does each of these. The following services were rated of high importance:

- Preventing terrorism

- Treating people with respect
- Responding to emergencies promptly
- Supporting victims and witnesses
- Tackling dangerous driving
- Tackling gun crime
- Providing a visible patrolling presence
- Tackling drug dealing and use.

*(Importance - from highest to lowest)*

Respondents were also asked how much of a problem they perceive certain crime types/issues to be in their area. As shown in the table below, respondents were most likely to rate 'teenagers hanging around on the streets' as the biggest problem.

<b>Issue</b>	<b>% respondents financial year 07/08</b>
Teenagers hanging around on the streets	41
Vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to property or vehicles	34
Rubbish or litter lying around	32
People being drunk or rowdy in public places	30
Noisy neighbours or loud parties	15
Abandoned or burnt out cars	9

### **Annual London Survey 2007**

The London Survey is a major annual opinion survey of Londoners, commissioned by the Mayor and the Greater London Authority and carried out by Ipsos MORI. The survey, now in its eighth year, enables the Mayor and the GLA to capture Londoners' views on life in the capital and their priorities for its improvement.

The most recent survey was carried out between 4 October and 3 December 2007. Final results are based on 1434 interviews conducted face-to-face in respondents' homes with residents in the Greater London area.

Data are weighted by gender, age, work status, social grade and ethnicity to the known profile of Greater London.

### *Policing and community safety findings*

Respondents were asked to select reasons from a list for why they feel unsafe in their area. As illustrated in the table below the top five reasons were:

- Robbery/ Assault
- Burglary
- Teenagers hanging around on streets
- Lack of police presence
- Drug supply and use.

<b>Reason</b>	<b>% respondents</b>
Fear of being mugged or physically attacked	38
Fear of burglary	36
Teenagers hanging around on the streets	34
Lack of police presence	29
People using and dealing drugs	25
Knife crime	28
People being drunk or rowdy in the streets	20
Vandalism and other deliberate damage to property or vehicles	22
Gun crime	22
Fear of the dark/night	18
Car crime/theft	17
Lack of adequate street lighting	11
Volume/speed of traffic	14
Run-down local environment (e.g. graffiti, litter, fly-tipping, derelict buildings, etc.)	11
Fear of sexual harassment or attack	10
Fear of harassment or attack due to race or religious beliefs	9
Pickpockets	8
People sleeping rough or begging	5
Noise or nuisance from neighbours	10
Press reports about crime	6
Abandoned or burnt-out cars	3
None of these	7
Don't know	1

Respondents were also asked which two or three things they thought would improve safety in and around the area. Over half of respondents stated that an increase in police officer visibility/police officers on foot would improve safety in the area. Youth engagement tactics, and more security cameras were also widely suggested.

<b>Tactic</b>	<b>% respondents</b>
More police around on foot	55
Providing young people with more things to do/ community centres	34
More security cameras (CCTV)	29
Encourage more parental responsibility	21
Improved street lighting	17
Neighbourhood Watch schemes/ wardens	16
Better relations between the police and the community	14
Drugs education/advice/rehabilitation	11
Improve educational opportunities	8
More advice on crime prevention	8
Improve employment opportunities	7
Traffic restrictions	7
Better housing	6

More pedestrian crossings	6
Improving the local environment e.g. removing graffiti	5
Issue ID cards	4
More pedestrian only areas	3
None of these	2
Don't know	2

### **Transport for London (TfL)**

TfL's Community Safety Plan 2007/08 was developed after an extensive consultation with a wide range of organisations interested in community safety, public transport, road safety, and cycling and walking in London.

Four main strategic priorities were identified from the consultation:

- Improving the perception of safety and security on the transport system
- Reducing priority crimes (terrorism, violent crime (including staff assault, robbery, violence against the person), hate crime, criminal damage, minicab touting and theft).
- Reducing ASB on the transport system.
- Reducing the number of casualties on London's roads caused by criminal and ASB.

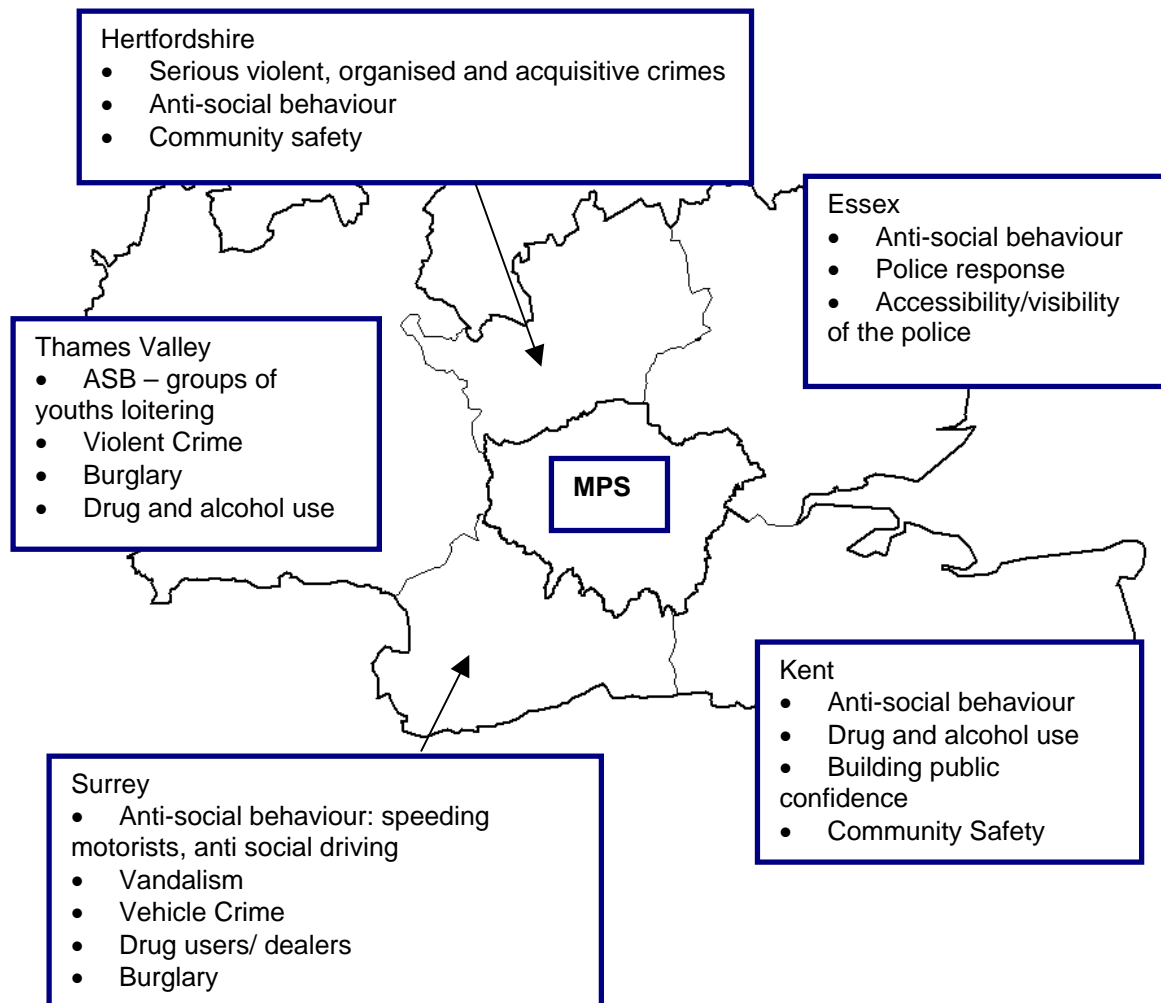
### **Survey of Londoners**

*The London Councils Survey of Londoners is an annual report examining Londoners' concerns and perceptions of councils and their services.* The survey is conducted by TNS Social on behalf of London Councils, and takes the views of 1,034 Londoners spread evenly across the capital.

For the past three years, Londoners in this survey have been asked in more detail about the extent to which they perceive certain types of ASB to be a problem in their local area. 'Teenagers hanging around on streets' has been the biggest issue of concern for Londoners over the last three years. This was seen as a greater problem than vandalism and both drug and alcohol use.

### **Bordering Police Authorities**

The policing priorities for the bordering police forces/police authorities are shown below. This information is taken from the most recent Policing Plans.



ASB features as a policing priority for all the police forces/ authorities bordering the MPS.

### **City of London**

#### **Best value general user survey 06/07**

The Best Value General User Survey 06/07 conducted by the City of London Corporation found that drunkenness and rowdiness in public spaces is the issue most likely to be considered a problem by City residents, followed by 'people not treating others with respect and consideration' and 'parents not taking responsibility for the behaviour of their children'.

#### **City of London community strategy**

Regular stakeholder surveys found that tackling crime and ASB remains one of the main concerns for the local population, both residents and businesses.

There are particular concerns amongst the resident population around homelessness, free newspaper distribution, street urination, taxi touting and young people coming into the City to skateboard.

The medium term priorities are:

- To reduce the likelihood and potential impact of terrorist activities in the City.
- To promote collective security measures and promote business continuity planning within the City.
- To minimise the detrimental effects on the City of the emerging nighttime economy.
- To maintain low levels of crime and ASB and reassure the public by reducing the fear of crime and disorder.
- To reduce the impact of drugs and alcohol misuse.
- To create a safe environment on the streets and in licensed premises and provide support for victims of crime and for vulnerable people in our communities.
- To encourage improvements to transport safety, especially road safety.
- To encourage people of different ages, backgrounds and abilities to respect and understand each other to help build greater community cohesion.
- To engage more City workers and residents in volunteering opportunities.
- To provide better and timelier information to enable people to make the informed choices and promote active engagement in service delivery decision-making.

### **Next steps**

Future MPA/MPS public consultations will aim to increase the sample size and adopt other methods of engagement to ensure that all of London's communities are involved in setting the priorities for their police service. The MPA will be seeking views and advice from other police authorities and looking for new and innovative ways to consult so that the process can be developed and improved. It is also hoped that better use can be made of ongoing surveys and engagement processes so that in-year review of priorities include changes in community concerns and intelligence.