



Internal Consultancy

**OUTCOME BASED DEBRIEF OF MPA/MPS CONSULTATION
METHODS REGARDING THE POLICING PRIORITIES 2003/4**

**FINAL REPORT
JANUARY 2003**



**METROPOLITAN
POLICE**

Working for a safer London

MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

This report documents the findings from an outcome based debrief of MPS/MPA consultation on the policing priorities for 2003/4 carried out by Internal Consultancy Group (ICG) on behalf of the Head of Consultation for the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS). It does not look at the planning process. This project was discussed with the Head of the Consultation and Diversity for the MPA.

There were a number of distinct strands of consultation used to inform the emerging policing priorities for 2003/04. These included the use of surveys sent to the public, police, Community and Police Consultative Groups and community representatives from specific priority groups who had not been consulted during the Crime and Disorder consultation, in order to highlight the areas of concern regarding policing matters. The Commissioner's Seminar then brought a group of Senior Managers within the MPS and MPA together to discuss what the priorities should include. In addition to this an MPA event was held which consisted of a number of representatives from groups across London being invited to discuss the proposed priorities. Additionally, the MPA utilised the local networks of Community and Police Consultative Groups and other Pan London stakeholders to seek their views on the policing priorities. Feedback from the people involved in these exercises was gathered either at the time of the consultation or as part of this review.

The methodology is detailed in section 2 of this report and the resulting findings are categorised under the appropriate headings in section 3.

Section 4 draws conclusions whilst section 5 makes recommendations as summarised below in response to some of these conclusions.

- 1 A briefing note should be sent to those representatives of community groups prior to any consultation event to allow for familiarisation with the subject matter.
- 2 A longer lead-in time is required to promote better attendance and higher response rates during the consultation exercises.
An ongoing programme of consultation throughout the year could be arranged. Borough liaison officers could then approach specific community groups regarding queries on certain subject matters. This information could then be fed into a central point for the recording of feedback and used to inform the Crime and Disorder strategies as well as the policing priorities at a later date. This would negate the need for all consultation to happen two months prior to the decisions being made regarding the priorities for the coming year.
- 3 Boroughs need to identify the routes through which consultation occurs on their particular Boroughs. This will allow them to pose certain questions to relevant groups should the need arise at various times throughout the year.
- 4 Many groups invited to the MPA event wished to be included in future consultation exercises. These groups should be first in the line of potential 'consultees' when trying to arrange similar events again or when requiring the views of specific groups.
- 5 Think about opening up other channels for consultation. The number of respondents in the surveys was relatively low - one idea would be to ask the professionals (e.g. market research companies) for advice regarding the best ways to optimise response rates.

Section 6 provides a list of contacts that should be considered for involvement in future consultation events or could be contacted for clarification regarding the points they have made.

HIGH LEVEL CONSULTATION PLAN FOR 2004/5 POLICING PLAN

Consultation Aims

1. Assess whether anything **so** significant has occurred that merits a change to the priorities;
2. Assess whether any of the objectives should be amended or replaced.

Consultation Mechanisms

The first consultation aim will be achieved by use of the PAS, which will be amended to use open question techniques for this strand (feedback from the consultation showed that where suggested priorities were given respondents felt the decisions had already been made). Online consultation techniques will be further developed to achieve this as well. CPCGs and other targeted partners will be consulted by post.

Boroughs will be reviewing their Crime and Disorder strategies from April 2003 onwards. The outcomes of this consultation will be used to meet aim 2. We are also considering how to engage Londoners on the specialist objectives (such as use of firearms, road casualties, vulnerable victims and Criminal Justice issues). The aim will be to give Londoners the necessary understanding of the objectives and constraints to enable them to contribute in an ongoing and meaningful way. The culmination of this will be a consultation event in August with pan-London Organisations.

Internal consultation will be carried out online and through the Commissioner's seminar.

Timescales

February/ March 2003	Detailed planning of consultation activity
April 2003	BOCUs to carry out Crime and Disorder Strategies review. Commence pan London engagement around current objectives.
May/June 2003	PAS to scan Londoners views on priorities
July/August 2003	Online consultation to scan Londoners' and police staff views, paper based consultation through CPCGs and CDRPs
July 2003	Pan London consultation event
September 2003	Collate consultation responses ready for Commissioner's seminar to decide proposed priorities and objectives.