

## Motions received by the Chief Executive (relating to G20 demonstrations)

**Report: 6b**

**Date: 30 April 2009**

**By: Chief Executive**

### Summary

To consider two motions received by the Chief Executive from Dee Doocey and Joanne McCartney.

### A. Recommendation

**That members consider the motions received by the Chief Executive.**

### B. Supporting information

1. As provided in Standing Orders 5.7, the Chief Executive has received the following two motions

Proposed by Dee Doocey

#### ■ **Secoded Jenny Jones**

'This Authority recognises that the job of policing the G20 demonstrations on 1st April was difficult but believes that the strategy and tactics adopted by the Metropolitan Police were fundamentally wrong. This Authority notes that the Commissioner has asked HMIC to review public order policing, and that the IPCC are investigating a number of specific complaints. In order to begin the process of restoring public confidence the HMIC review must take evidence in a public forum from all concerned, including protesters, and closely examine other recent protests to consider the growing concern that police tactics have become more aggressive in recent years. The HMIC review should make recommendations that would form the basis of long-term policies on the policing of protest in recognition of the following principles:

1. Demonstrations and other peaceful forms of protest are a fundamental democratic right, which all public bodies are under a duty to facilitate and protect.
2. Policing of demonstrations must always be proportionate, and must discriminate between the need to facilitate peaceful protest and prevent criminal acts committed by a minority.
3. The police must use aggressive tactics such as 'kettling', baton charges, and attacks with dogs only when they are absolutely necessary and proportionate. The seizure of personal property from demonstrators is not acceptable. The use of aggressive or intimidatory tactics against peaceful protesters is provocative, inappropriate, and counter-productive, since it increases the tension and likelihood of violence.
4. Any officers not clearly identifying themselves by wearing an identification number are committing a disciplinary offence.
5. The police must exercise due care and attention when making statements to the media since predictions of violence can be self-fulfilling. The police must never exaggerate the likelihood of violence, nor should they dissemble the facts after a demonstration has occurred.
6. The police must consider Britain's reputation abroad and not commit acts that set a poor example and thus undermine our country's efforts to promote human rights.

If these principles are not fully incorporated into the HMIC review and any recommendations that arise from it, then this Authority will re-examine what further steps need to be taken, including the possibility of instigating a further review.'

Proposed Joanne McCartney

#### ■ **Secoded John Biggs**

This Authority recognises the public interest and concern regarding the policing of the recent G20 demonstrations. We note that:

1. The Commissioner has asked the HMIC to conduct a review of public order policing tactics;
  2. The IPCC will be investigating specific complaints regarding police conduct and tactics during the demonstrations;
  3. The Home Affairs Select Committee has taken evidence relating to the G20 demonstrations.
- This Authority, as the oversight body of the MPS, and with the view to retaining public confidence in public order policing agrees to:
- a) Call on the HMIC when conducting their review to take evidence from G20 demonstrators; and to ensure that their final report is available as a public document
  - b) Set up a panel of members to review MPS public order tactics, taking into account the recommendations of any review or investigation into the G20 demonstrations and any other relevant issues. This panel will also ensure that any appropriate recommendations are fully implemented in a timely manner. This panel will be set up as soon as possible to begin its work.

### C. Race and equality impact

There are no race and equality implications in relation to the process for considering motions.

### D. Financial implications

There are no financial implications arising directly from these motions.

### E. Background papers

None

### F. Contact details

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