1. **SUMMARY**

1.1 This report outlines the impact of the recent episode of civil disorder on local residents and businesses and lessons learned to date.

2. **BACKGROUND**

2.1 The recent episode of civil disorder was sparked by the death of Mark Duggan, who was fatally shot by Police Officers in Tottenham on Thursday August 4\(^{th}\) 2011. That incident is presently under investigation by the Independent Police Complaints Commission. The disorder itself began in Tottenham on the evening of Saturday 6\(^{th}\) August.

2.2 When the disorder began in London, special powers to stop and search under section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 were in place in four boroughs including Waltham Forest. One week later those powers had been instigated in some twenty-six boroughs across the capital.

2.3 At the time of writing, 2006 people had been arrested across London and this had resulted in 1135 charges. A total of 3345 crimes across London were linked to the disorder and of these the most common were: commercial burglary (1172), criminal damage to a motor vehicle (403), personal robbery (310); there were 162 reports of arson. Forensic and crime scene examiners worked on more than 1200 crime scenes.

2.4 Initial estimates across London indicated that 40% of those arrested had gang affiliations; as investigations have continued this estimate has been revised down to 20%.
3. LOCAL RESPONSE

3.1 A local Gold Group structure was established by the Police and Council on Monday 9th August and met daily thereafter at 8am. That structure included the Leader of the Council, the Chief Executive, the Executive Director (Environment and Regeneration), the Director of Housing and Safe & Strong Communities, the Head of Community Safety and the Head of Strategy and Public Affairs. The Police were represented by the Borough Commander.

3.2 The Gold Group agreed its aim was to provide clear community leadership and reassurance to residents. Key objectives included maintaining business as usual where possible, clearing and repairing damage quickly and efficiently, and providing clear and timely information to residents. The strategy adopted to the disorder focused on:

- Managing information and control rumours;
- Managing the environment; and
- Mobilising community networks.

3.3 Within the first 24 hours the Council established a single point of contact (SPOC) to liaise directly with the Police borough intelligence unit and check information coming in from services and community members.

3.4 A system of twice-daily briefings was agreed through which information was conveyed to key stakeholders and resident groups for the duration of the emergency.

3.5 Within the first 24 hours the Leader had convened meetings with Cabinet, full Council, and Senior Managers. The Leader and the Chief Executive also convened a meeting of the multi-faith forum.

3.6 Businesses in those areas most affected were visited by senior Council staff and elected Members. This was then followed up with a meeting to which all affected businesses were invited.

3.7 Community reassurance events were held on the Thursday, Friday and Saturday of that week in those areas most affected: Leyton Mills, Chingford Mount and Walthamstow Town Centre. Those events were led by the Community Safety team but included staff from a number of partner agencies (Police, Victim Support etc), as well as officers from other divisions in Environment & Regeneration and Children & Young People Services.

3.8 A meeting was held with the chief officers of the main housing providers in the borough to discuss and agree a shared approach to tenancy enforcement against those tenants involved in the disorder. That meeting was well attended and extremely constructive.

4. IMPACT OF THE DISORDER ON THE BOROUGH

4.1 At the time of writing 134 crimes were reported in Waltham Forest related to the disorder. Of these the most common were commercial burglary (42), criminal damage (23) attempted commercial burglary (10) and personal robbery (10).
4.2 Approximately half of those charged with offences in Waltham Forest live in another borough and four fifths of those charged are adults (aged 18 or over). We believe that only one in three has any connection with social housing. We also believe that only one of those arrested in Waltham Forest had any affiliation to local gangs.

4.3 The disorder took place primarily in 3 areas: Chingford (Mount and Cork Tree retail park); Leyton (Mills and Bakers Arms); and Walthamstow Town Centre

5. LESSONS LEARNED

5.1 The local strategy has been seen as a successful one. Incidences of disorder were kept to a minimum in comparison with neighbouring areas. The feedback from community members was that our communication plan worked; specifically our twice-daily website updates received positive comment.

5.2 The SPOC arrangements were effective and enabled the Council to maintain business as usual across the board. The one exception was the decision taken to suspend evening youth bus provision to ensure that no mixed messages were sent to parents about the need to keep young people off the streets.

5.3 The absence of local gang members from the cohort of those arrested and charged, and the contrast with other areas of London remains to be explained. The Chief Executive was, however, invited to give evidence to an inter-Ministerial Group on ending gang violence. That meeting, chaired by the Home Secretary, took place on 5th September.

6. IMPLICATION PARAGRAPHS

6.1 Financial Implications:
Officers are in the process of calculating the cost to residents and businesses of the civil disorder. The Council’s Economic Development service is working with businesses to ensure they are able to draw down funding made available by central Government.

6.2 Legal Implications:
There are no specific legal implications in relation to the content of the report.

6.3 Human Resources Implications:
There are no specific human resource implications in relation to the content of the report.

6.4 Health Impact Implications
There are no specific health implications in relation to the content of the report.

6.5 Equalities Impact Implications:
A detailed analysis of the demographic characteristics of those arrested and charged is in the process of being produced by the Police and is not yet available.

7. CONCLUSION

7.1 By common consent, whilst the damage to the borough was significant it was not on the scale that one might have expected and that took place elsewhere. It is believed that actions taken by local partners contributed significantly to this outcome.