

IMPACT OF CRIME ON BUSINESS

5th June 2008

Members of Celsius met with Len Duval OBE on February 4. As chair of the Metropolitan Police Authority, Mr Duval leads the organisation that governs the Metropolitan Police. He is also a member of the Greater London Assembly representing the constituency of Lewisham and Greenwich.

Mr Duval was invited to attend the meeting in response to concerns expressed in South London Business's recent survey of 15,000 companies across south London. 34 per cent of respondents suggested that crime and the fear of crime was likely to have an impact on their business. South London Business chief executive, Peter Pledger, said: "It is essential for a growing and diverse economy, such as south London, to not only retain existing businesses but also to attract both local and foreign investment. Incidences of crime in the media and yobbish behavior are not only unpleasant for the victims, but they have an impact on our economy. The impact of crime on the local and regional economy cannot be underestimated, and I am both pleased and grateful that Mr Duval found time to meet with representatives of both our large and small business communities and reassure them that tackling crime, in all its various forms, is a priority of the Metropolitan Police".

Following a private meeting with Celsius members, Mr Duval then addressed an open meeting, hosted by South London Business, which was attended by approximately fifty companies from across South London. The London Fraud Forum and Government Office for London Business Crime Reduction unit also attended the event to offer advice and guidance to guests.

