

REPORT OF THE SUSSEX POLICE AUTHORITY

The Sussex Police Authority met at County Hall, Lewes, on 3 June 2010.
Attendances:

Dr L Bush (Chairman), Mr L Barnard, Prof G Bull, Ms E Daniel, Mr G Daniel JP, Mr F Faiz, Mr P Jones, Mr A Price JP, Mrs C Shaves MBE JP, Mr A Smith, Mr R Tidy, Mr S Waight (Vice-Chairman) and Dr R Walker.

Apologies were received from Mr P Bratton, Mr B Duncan, Mr P Evans and Mrs S Knight.

The Police Authority considered a wide range of policing issues at the meeting including the following matters. The full set of reports to the Police Authority can be accessed on the Authority's website.
www.sussexpoliceauthority.gov.uk

1. Appointment of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

1.1 The Authority has re-appointed Dr Laurie Bush as its Chairman and Mr Steve Waight as its Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year until the next Annual Meeting of the Authority.

2. New Political Landscape

2.1 The Authority received a report on the outcome of the General Election on 6 May and the formation of a Conservative and Liberal Democrat Coalition Government. The Authority also noted the legislative changes proposed for policing included in the Queen's Speech on 25 May. There are several key strategic areas of proposed reform within policing that directly engage police authorities. The Government's legislative programme indicates provisions for police accountability and directly elected individuals to hold the police to account and thereby enhance the transfer of accountability to the local community.

2.2 The Government also proposes that a dedicated Border Police Force, be created as part of a refocused Serious Organised Crime Agency, to enhance national security, improve immigration controls, and crack down on the trafficking of people, weapons and drugs. Sussex Police is currently responsible for policing Gatwick Airport and the Sussex seaports, and the Authority has previously expressed concern about the removal of ports policing from existing forces, on the grounds that there is a seamless thread between the policing of ports and the policing of local communities. The creation of a national border police force will create divisions in policing which do not exist at the moment, potentially cutting off from ports policing invaluable intelligence about local community concerns.

2.3 The Authority and Sussex Police will continue to take every opportunity to pursue, through all appropriate channels, the fundamental issues regarding

policing accountability. It is essential that as the proposals emerge the Authority and Sussex Police work closely together with the principal councils in Sussex to seek to present a common voice to the Home Office. The Authority will also be working closely with the Association of Police Authorities and the Association of Chief Police Officers to seek to influence legislative changes given the intention of the new Government to introduce legislation in the next session of Parliament. A further report will be submitted to the Police Authority in 29 July regarding this matter.

3. Serving Sussex 2015

3.1 The Authority received an update on the Serving Sussex 2015 programme in which the Authority is working closely with the Chief Constable to help redesign the way the Force operates, and at the same time find savings expected to total at least £34m over four years. The programme to find the right model of policing for Sussex in the future is being steered by the Serving Sussex Strategic Board which is chaired by the Chairman, Dr Laurie Bush, and includes Mr Steve Waight, the Vice-Chairman, and is advised by the Chief Constable, Chief Executive and Treasurer.

3.2 The Serving Sussex 2015 programme has been established to shape the future of Sussex Police and will be examining:

- The right models and structures for local delivery of policing.
- Increasing the range of ways for the public to access policing services, in particular using the benefits that come from new technology.
- The potential for delivering services jointly with neighbouring forces and other agencies.
- More efficient ways to provide the functions – such as finance, human resources and IT – that support the delivery of frontline policing in Sussex.
- How to develop a workforce that is freed up from unnecessary red tape and trusted to use their discretion.

3.3 One of the programme's first pieces of work has been to develop guiding principles for the future of policing in Sussex, including the importance of maintaining and improving public confidence and satisfaction in policing; the vital nature of the police emergency service, and the strength that comes from working more closely with the public and other organisations. The Authority will play a central role in shaping the changes to Sussex Police and will ensure that this work delivers the best possible policing for the public of Sussex, and does so within a significantly reduced budget. Detailed plans will be developed during the summer, during which time consultation on the future of policing in Sussex will continue with the public and local organisations. The Serving Sussex 2015 team can be contacted at future@sussex.pnn.police.uk

4. South East Region Collaboration Programme

4.1 The Authority is working actively with other police authorities in the South East Region to pursue collaborative opportunities to achieve more effective and efficient delivery of policing services. The first three regional collaborative areas of joint working went live on 1 April 2010 namely witness protection, covert operations and technical support. Further regional collaborative opportunities are being pursued including the provision of forensic science which could deliver savings of as much as £6m per annum across the region.

4.2 The Authority has also agreed that a Regional Air Support Unit should be created as a three force (Sussex, Surrey and Hampshire), two airframe model with the ambition to achieve one site in Sussex and one site in Hampshire. Further analysis is being carried out with the National Air Review Team on the possible options with the potential to save up to £9m over five years for the region. Sussex Police is continuing to lead for the region on this collaboration.

4.3 The Authority has also supported the principle of creating a dedicated investigation unit alongside the Regional Asset Recovery Team (RART) and the Regional Intelligence Unit (RIU) combining to form a new South East Serious and Organised Crime Directorate with Sussex as the lead force. Recruitment of police officers and police staff into the RART is progressing well and it is starting to instigate financial investigations into serious criminal matters. The new Unit will be hosted by Sussex Police.

5. Retirement of Chief Executive

5.1 Dr John Godfrey, who has been the Authority's Chief Executive since 2003, has given notice of his intention to retire in April 2011, to coincide with his 65th birthday.

DR LAURIE BUSH
Chairman

June 2010

