

## REPORT OF THE SUSSEX POLICE AUTHORITY

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The Sussex Police Authority met at County Hall, Lewes, on 29 July 2010

Attendances:

Dr L Bush (Chairman), Mr L Barnard, Mr P Bratton, Prof G Bull, Ms E Daniel, Mr G Daniel JP, Mr P Evans, Mr F Faiz, Mrs S Knight, 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.

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](http://www.sussexpoliceauthority.gov.uk)

### **1. Financial Forecast to 2015**

1.1 The Authority is developing the right model for policing Sussex in the future against the background of having to make significant budget savings between now and 2015. The Authority has agreed a programme of work which will redesign the way Sussex Police operates, and although the precise impact of public sector spending cuts will not be clear for some months, the Authority expects to have to make savings of at least £50 million over the next four years. The Authority is not alone in facing significant cuts to its budget and some radical and difficult decisions will need to be made whilst seeking to minimise the impact on the public.

1.2 Sussex Police has already delivered more than £5 million in savings from this year's budget. In addition, the Serving Sussex 2015 programme has been set up to help shape the future of policing in Sussex. The Authority is engaged in shaping potentially far-reaching changes, and members and officers of the Authority are involved at all levels of the programme, including the work streams set up to develop detailed proposals. The Authority and Sussex Police are also working closely with the other public authorities and forces both locally and regionally to collaborate on ways to deliver a quality service with fewer resources.

1.3 The Authority has instructed the officers to prepare plans for its meeting on 28 October, which will be a key meeting in formulating the draft Local Policing Plan and draft Budget 2011/12. The plans will include the following matters:

- a) The right models and structures for local delivery of policing (in which connection the Authority is committed to maintaining district commanders at chief inspector level;
- b) Increasing the range of ways for the public to access policing services, in particular using the benefits that come from new technology;

- c) The potential for delivering services jointly with neighbouring forces and other partners;
- d) More efficient ways to provide the functions – such as finance, human resources and information technology – that support the delivery of frontline policing in Sussex; and
- e) Identifying ways to develop a workforce that is freed up from unnecessary red tape and trusted to use their discretion.

1.4 In pursuing the above principles, the Authority has highlighted 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.

1.5 It is the clear intention of the Authority and Sussex Police to achieve budget savings whilst providing a better public service for example by reducing time-consuming bureaucracy and duplication. The Serving Sussex Programme will examine how different teams can work more efficiently together, and with other organisations to provide better value for money for the public.

1.6 Wherever possible cuts will be targeted away from the frontline, for example by reviewing management costs amongst police officers and police staff. The decision has already been taken to combine the two policing divisions (North Downs and West Downs) that serve West Sussex to form a single division which will continue to deliver a high level of service to the public of West Sussex at a lower management cost. This will provide a more efficient way of policing for West Sussex and facilitate the important partnership working with West Sussex County Council. The Authority is also working closely with East Sussex County Council and Brighton & Hove City Council regarding policing in their areas.

## **2. South East Region Collaboration Programme – Air Support**

2.1 The Authority has been working with Surrey and Hampshire police authorities to create a regional air support consortium to cover Sussex, Surrey and Hampshire. The Authority has now approved the business case for the formation of a three force, two helicopter air support consortium which secures the desired level of operational effectiveness whilst maximising the financial benefits for the three forces. One helicopter will as at present operate from Shoreham Airport and the other will operate from Hampshire and will be based at RAF Odiham. There are clear operational benefits for collaboration in this service area. These include:

- a) Improved efficiency of air support delivery across the region
- b) More efficient tasking of specialist resources across the region.
- c) A more consistent approach to adopting best practice and achieving national compliance
- d) Improved public confidence through the stronger delivery of specialist support police operations

The creation of a South East Air Support Unit has the potential to save up to £8m over five years for the region and continues to involve a collaborative agreement with the South East Region Air Ambulance service.

2.2 The Authority has already entered into collaborative agreements in respect of witness protection, covert operations and technical support. A South East regional response unit has also been established to tackle serious and organised crime and co-ordinate the recovery of criminal assets. Sussex Police is the Lead Force for the Serious and Organised Crime Directorate, incorporating an extended South East Regional Intelligence Unit and new Regional Asset Recovery Team. Discussions of further collaboration projects are continuing with Surrey Police Authority, our “preferred partner”.

### **3. Rogue Traders**

3.1 Sussex Police has participated in a multi-agency campaign to warn people about the dangers of rogue trading, and doorstep crime which saw nearly 1,500 police officers, trading standards officers and members of government agencies join forces nationwide. The day of action formed part of a week of activities that highlighted the dangers of allowing strangers into homes and consenting to have work carried out by cold callers. 330 vehicles, mainly light vans, were stopped and checked across Sussex - 75 at the Brighton checkpoint and 50 at the Handcross checkpoint. As well as checks to see if people were authentic traders, 31 £60 Fixed Penalty Notices were issued for seat belt and non-MoT test certificate offences, six for having no insurance, and five for mobile phone use whilst driving. Two further drivers were reported for possible prosecution for having no insurance. The Authority supports fully the work undertaken in tackling rogue traders and particularly the engagement with Trading Standards officers across Sussex.

### **4. Restorative Justice Pilots**

4.1 Sussex Police is actively pursuing restorative justice programmes placing the victim at the heart of the decision making process which is hoped will lead to greater satisfaction levels and confidence in the criminal justice system. There have been two restorative justice pilots running in Sussex, the Crawley Crime Diversion Scheme and the Brighton & Hove ‘Youth Triage’ system. Both of these pilots have been co-ordinated in partnership with other agencies and have been very successful. In order to capture effective practice from these pilots and align them to the national restorative justice model, a review of these schemes has taken place, and guidance and procedures are being developed which it is hoped will achieve wider coverage across the Sussex.

Dr Laurie Bush  
Chairman

29 July 2010

