

REPORT OF THE SUSSEX POLICE AUTHORITY

The Sussex Police Authority met at Sackville House, Lewes, on 21 July 2011

Attendances:

Mr S Waight (Chairman), Mrs C Shaves MBE JP (Vice-Chairman), Mr L Barnard, Mr P Bratton, Prof G Bull, Dr L Bush, Ms E Daniel, Mr G Daniel JP, Mr P Evans, Mr P Jones, Mrs S Knight, Mr A Price JP, Mr A Smith, Mr B Tidy 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

1. Financial Planning

1.1 The Authority considered the latest position with regard to the financial forecast including the savings position up to 2015. This took into account the final outturn position, which subject to audit, showed a gross revenue outturn under spend of £6m after finalising grant adjustments required by the accounting standards. The current under spend reflects the extensive work being undertaken by the Authority and Sussex Police to make savings of £50m by 2015.

1.2 Good progress has been made towards achieving the savings required for 2011-12 and identifying the level of on-going savings estimated to be required by 2015. On-going planned savings of around £47 million have been identified over the four year period. The latest total of potential savings for 2011-12 amounts to £20.9m compared to the £20.4m used for budget planning in the report to the Authority in February. The current savings proposals indicate a high degree of confidence in achieving the savings requirement for the period 2011- 2013

1.3 The Authority's discussed the total reserves, including earmarked and general reserves, as at 31 March 2011 which, subject to audit, amounted to £54.8m. In accordance with Financial Regulations, the Authority's reserves policy was last updated in October 2010. The Authority examined whether the level of reserves was appropriate in the light of the risks and pressures. It was pointed out that there was a general reserve and a number of earmarked reserves for specific areas of activity. The Authority has agreed to an in-depth review of the pattern of expenditure for each reserve, and how the general and specific reserves compared with other similar forces.

1.4 Work is currently underway to review the revenue budget, particularly in the months leading up to Police Authority budget approval in February 2012. The Chief Constable and Sussex Police have been congratulated for

achieving the current budgetary position particularly in the light of the good operational performance of the Force over the period.

2. Anti-Social Behaviour

2.1 Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) encompasses a wide range of crimes and incidents that are only loosely defined and broadly recorded; which presents a number of challenges when considering how to assess the direction of travel in Force performance. In keeping with the Force's involvement in the national ASB pilot and aimed at improving the delivery of services through a harm based approach, the Force has identified a suite of five indicators that complement the pilot as well as provide a mature assessment of ASB.

2.2 The five areas of assessment; ASB incidents, ASB crimes, repeat occurrence, ASB perception survey, and ASB user experience survey were formally adopted by the Authority for the assessment of ASB against the LPP target.

2.3 Much work has been undertaken across Sussex, including a review by East Sussex County Council, on the sharing of information and data between the public and voluntary sectors. The responsibility of tackling ASB lies not solely with the police but with all partners and therefore a joint and targeted approach improving data sharing and the use of co-located partnership teams is endorsed.

2.4 The Government has published a consultation on changes to dealing with Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) to provide police and partners with faster, more flexible tools and more effective sanctions to tackle ASB. The aim will be to help professionals and, where necessary the courts, stop anti-social behaviour earlier, and better protect victims and communities".

2.5 The proposals include: repealing the Anti Social Behaviour Order (ASBO) and replacing it with two new tools; a Criminal Behaviour Order and a Crime Prevention Injunction. The former would be applied for after conviction for a criminal offence, the second would broadly mirror the "stand alone" ASBO that exists currently. The Government intends that there should be more powerful incentives for perpetrators to stop behaving anti-socially. Significantly, these include positive requirements, such as orders to attend training / rehabilitative courses, as well as prohibitive measures such as those currently used in the ASBO. There will be informal and out-of-court tools for dealing with anti-social behaviour more rehabilitative and restorative. This includes a proposal for "Neighbourhood Justice Panels" and a Community Trigger that gives victims and communities the right to require agencies to deal with persistent anti-social behaviour.

2.6 The Authority and Sussex Police have broadly welcomed the proposals but feel that the new powers may lead to the police being the default lead agency for applying for anti-social behaviour remedies. This could have significant cost implications for the Force. Also the proposals do not address

the current, often prohibitive, legal costs involved in applying for a stand-alone ASBO.

2.7 The full government consultation paper can be viewed on the Home Office website or by following this link:
<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/consultations/cons-2010-antisocial-behaviour/>

3. Operation Crackdown

3.1 Operation Crackdown is a partnership initiative that was launched in August 2007 by Sussex Safer Roads Partnership to assist in tackling road safety and anti-social driving. Since its launch, Operation Crackdown has received 30,917 reports from the public on-line or by telephone. The following interventions with offending drivers has occurred; 3617 letters of advice sent out, 225 seizures of vehicles for no insurance, 287 warnings or seizures of vehicles for anti-social driving, and 61 drivers have been arrested for offences including drink and disqualified driving.

3.2 Operation Crackdown is unique to Sussex and continues to provide an excellent tool to assist in reducing casualties and keeping people safe on the counties roads.

3.3 To contact Operation Crackdown visit the website at www.operationcrackdown.org or call on 01243 64 22 22

STEVE WAIGHT
Chairman
July 2011