

REPORT OF THE SUSSEX POLICE AUTHORITY

The Sussex Police Authority met at Sackville House, Lewes, on 16 February 2012

Attendances:

Mr S Waight (Chairman), Mrs C Shaves MBE JP (Vice-Chairman), L Barnard, Mr P Bratton, Prof G Bull, Dr L Bush, Ms E Daniel, Mr G Daniel JP, Mr B Duncan, Mr P Evans, Mr F Faiz, Mr P Jones, Mrs S Knight, Mr A Price JP, Mr A Smith, 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. Local Policing Plan (LPP) 2012-2015

- 1.1 Each year the Police Authority, in consultation with the Chief Constable, sets out the arrangements to police Sussex for the next three years. The introduction of Police and Crime Commissioners in November 2012 has led the Home Secretary to introduce a Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR) which will outline what the national threats are and the policing response required to counter them. Further information about the election and role of the Police and Crime Commissioner can be found at www.sussexpcc.co.uk.
- 1.2 The Local Policing Plan is structured around a clear set of priorities. It indicates how these will be met within the budget and recommends a set of targets to assess delivery against the priorities. The planned targets aim to measure critical outcomes for service users and to assess business efficiency and are driven by feedback from local people and businesses as well as national priorities through the Shadow Strategic Policing requirement.
- 1.3 The priorities have been divided into key areas forming the three strategic pillars for policing in Sussex: Neighbourhood policing; Keeping People Safe and Best use of Resources.
- 1.4 The objectives and targets in the LPP seek to balance the continuing aspiration to provide high quality policing and to minimise the cost of the service to local tax payers. This is particularly important in the current economic environment with reduced resources. Members welcomed the continuous striving for improved performance on a reduced budget.
- 1.5 The plan is primarily internet based and will be embedded throughout the Sussex Police website. This allows for a more accurate up to date plan with increased public accessibility.
- 1.6 This will be the last LPP to be set by the Sussex Police Authority. In future years the elected Police and Crime Commissioner will set the Police budget, local policing and crime priorities in a Police and Crime Plan.

2. Revenue Budget and Capital Strategy

- 2.1 The Police Authority approved its revenue and capital budgets for 2011-12 and capital programme and Medium Term Financial Forecast (MTFF) for the period 2012-15.
- 2.2 The Authority approved a revenue budget for 2012-13 of £252.826m inclusive of a pay and price contingency provision of £585,000 and a total capital programme of £38.541m, which includes a proposed capital budget for 2012-13 of £14.904m. The budget was prepared based

on a 0% precept increase which attracts funding of a one-off specific grant to a level equivalent to a 3% precept increase.

- 2.3 The revenue budget and capital programme has been prepared to deliver the Local Policing Plan approved by the Authority (paragraphs 1.1 to 1.6 refer). The revenue budget seeks to ensure that Sussex Police continues to deliver a good policing service. Over the last few years, Sussex Police has continued to deliver a high level of performance and achieved significant efficiency savings, all against a background of low grant funding and one of the lowest levels of precept for policing.
- 2.4 The Police Authority previously approved the use of A19 (which allows for the compulsory retirement of officers upon reaching 30 years pensionable service) in May 2011. This was based on the fact that without A19 the Authority would be unable to achieve planned savings that required reductions in police officer establishment by 2015. The Authority considered the effect of A19 as part of the Local Policing Plan and budget setting proposals.
- 2.5 A further report will be presented to the May meeting of the Sussex Police Authority regarding A19. The report will review the use of reserves and any new powers under police regulations as an alternative to A19.

3 Treasury management

- 3.1 The Authority approved a report by the Treasurer which detailed a mid-year review of the Authority's treasury management processes as required by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) Code of Practice for Treasury Management in Public Services and the Prudential Code.
- 3.2 The Authority has complied with all of the relevant statutory and regulatory requirements, which require the Authority to identify and where possible quantify the levels of risk associated with its treasury management activities.
- 3.3 In the light of global economic conditions the treasurer recommended a prudent treasury management strategy with continued emphasis on the security of capital sums invested as opposed to investment returns.

4. Surrey Sussex Bilateral and Regional Collaboration

- 4.1 The Authority considered a report setting out the progress made towards the collaboration opportunities between Sussex and Surrey. A number of teams including Major Crime, Tactical Firearms and Scientific Support are now working successfully together and further opportunities had been identified.

5. Chief Constable's Update

- 5.1 The Chief Constable provided an overview of Force performance for the period April to December 2011.
- 5.2 Neighbourhood Policing has been a main focus for the Force and Police Community Support Officers (PCSO's) have been given more powers to deal with anti-social behaviour. PCSO's are now better placed to deal with the kinds of incidents which can have a huge impact on people's lives.

- 5.3 In November, Sussex Police held a conference on how to tackle the growing crime of metal thefts and the effect of these thefts on communities. Railways, utilities substations, businesses, houses, power cables, road grids and manhole covers have been particularly targeted.
- 5.4 In October Sussex Police launched 'Sussex Police People'. This is the Force commitment to provide an open, honest and personal view of policing to the public. The project promotes new ways for the public to get in touch and for officers and staff to talk directly to the public about the jobs they do. The launch included a live event with members of staff streaming live videos of their work on the Sussex Police website and a question and answer session with the Chairman of the Police Authority. In total over 70,000 logged on to view the live streaming. Officers taking part continue to update blogs and use a variety of social media to engage with members of the public.

6. National Police Air Service (NPAS)

- 6.1 The Chief Constable provided an update on operating base options and on funding for the NPAS provision for Sussex. Sussex and Surrey Police Authorities had previously raised issues about the initial proposals and implementation timing of the changes suggested by the NPAS Project team. These concerns have been considered and the NPAS project team has now recommended that the Redhill Airfield be used as a base for the Sussex and Surrey Air service provision. It was recognised that this would be sufficient to meet the needs of Sussex and Surrey Police Forces and would not have a detrimental impact on services. Concern was raised, however, at the change in sequencing to bring forward the date of implementation.

STEVE WAIGHT
Chairman
February 2012

