





**Brighton & Hove  
City Council**

# Community Safety Forum

Title:	<b>Community Safety Forum</b>
Date:	<b>6 October 2008</b>
Time:	<b>4.00pm</b>
Venue	<b>Council Chamber, Hove Town Hall</b>
Contact:	<b>Lisa Johnson</b> Democratic Services Officer 01273 291228 lisa.johnson@brighton-hove.gov.uk

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## COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM

The following are requested to attend the meeting:

### **Councillors:**

G Theobald (Chairman), Carden (Opposition Spokesperson), Duncan, Elgood, Hyde, Janio, Kennedy, Morgan, Smart and Young,

### **Sussex Police Authority**

### **East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service**

### **Communities of Interest:**

Age Concern; Area Housing Panels; Brighton & Hove Business Crime Reduction Partnership; Brighton & Hove Community & Voluntary Sector Forum; Brighton & Hove Federation of Disabled People; Brighton & Hove City Primary Care Trust; Independent Advisory Group Sussex Police; Brighton & Hove Mediation Service; British Transport Police; Coalition for Youth; Domestic Violence Forum; East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service; Fire Authority; Hangleton & Knoll Project; Hove YMCA; Neighbourhood Watch; Older People's Council; Racial Harassment Forum; St James's Street Community Safety Group; Spectrum; Sussex Probation; Victim Support; Whitehawk Community Safety Development Project; Women's Refuge Project.

## AGENDA

### 15. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

- (a) Declaration of Substitutes - Where Councillors are unable to attend a meeting, a substitute Member from the same Political Group may attend, speak and vote in their place for that meeting.
- (b) Declarations of Interest by all Members present of any personal interests in matters on the agenda, the nature of any interest and whether the Members regard the interest as prejudicial under the terms of the Code of Conduct.
- (c) Exclusion of Press and Public - To consider whether, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted, or the nature of the proceedings, the press and public should be excluded from the meeting when any of the following items are under consideration.

*NOTE: Any item appearing in Part 2 of the Agenda states in its heading the category under which the information disclosed in the report is exempt from disclosure and therefore not available to the public.*

*A list and description of the exempt categories is available for public inspection at Brighton and Hove Town Halls.*

### 16. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

1 - 6

Minutes of the meeting held on 7 July 2008 (copy attached)

### 17. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

### 18. CALLOVER

*NOTE: Public Questions will be reserved automatically.*

### 19. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

(The closing date for receipt of public questions is 12 noon on Monday 29 September 2008)

No public questions received by date of publication.

### 20. COMMUNITY SAFETY ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS AND COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

### 21. CRIME TRENDS AND PERFORMANCE IN BRIGHTON & HOVE

7 - 12

Contact Officer: Ruth Condon

Tel: 29-1103

## COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM

*Ward Affected: All Wards*

- 22. RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION ON THE HOME OFFICE GREEN PAPER "FROM THE NEIGHBOURHOOD TO THE NATIONAL: POLICING OUR COMMUNITIES TOGETHER" 13 - 24**

*Contact Officer: Linda Beanlands Tel: 29-1115*  
*Ward Affected: All Wards*

- 23. PRESENTATION ON THE TARGETED YOUTH SUPPORT SERVICE AND CHALLENGE AND SUPPORT**

- 24. PRESENTATION ON 'OPERATION REDUCTION' AND DEALING WITH DRUG OFFENCES**

Presentation by Detective Chief Inspector Ian Pollard and Mike Pattinson, Director of Crime Reduction Initiatives.

- 25. SUSSEX POLICE AUTHORITY MINUTES: MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12 JUNE 2008 25 - 30**

(copy attached)

- 26. EAST SUSSEX FIRE AUTHORITY: MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5 JUNE 2008 31 - 36**

(copy attached)

The City Council actively welcomes members of the public and the press to attend its meetings and holds as many of its meetings as possible in public. Provision is also made on the agendas for public questions to committees and details of how questions can be raised can be found on the website and/or on agendas for the meetings.

The closing date for receipt of public questions and deputations for the next meeting is 12 noon on the fifth working day before the meeting.

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Meeting papers can be provided, on request, in large print, in Braille, on audio tape or on disc, or translated into any other language as requested.

For further details and general enquiries about this meeting contact Lisa Johnson, (01273 291228, email [lisa.johnson@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:lisa.johnson@brighton-hove.gov.uk)) or email [democratic.services@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@brighton-hove.gov.uk)

Date of Publication - Friday, 26 September 2008



## BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

### COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM

4.00PM – MONDAY 7 JULY 2008

COUNCIL CHAMBER  
HOVE TOWN HALL

### MINUTES

**Present:** Councillor G Theobald (Chairman); Councillors Carden (OS), Cobb, Duncan, Elgood, Janio, Kennedy, Morgan, Smart, Watkins and Young.

Sussex Police: Sergeant Peter Castleton Superintendent Rose.

East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service: Craig Thomson (Borough Commander for the City of Brighton and Hove).

Arthur Wing (Sussex Probation Service)

Communities of Interest: John Stevens, (Tenant Representative), Derek Peacock, (St. James St. Community Safety Forum), Bill Gandey & Sylvia Howell (Bevendean LAT), Faith Matyszak MBE (Racial Harassment Forum & Whitehawk Community Development Project), Chris El-Shabba (Whitehawk Crime Prevention Forum), Ted Harman & George Brooker (Coldean LAT), Rev. Stephen Terry (Portland & Clarendon LAT), Paul Tilley (Community & Voluntary Sector Forum), Francis Tonks (OPC)

Officers: Linda Beanlands (Head of Community Safety), Judith Macho (Assistant Director, Public Safety), Simon Court (Anti-Social Behaviour Solicitor), Aaron Devereaux (Anti-Social Behaviour Team), and Christian Brown (Democratic Services Officer).

### PART ONE

#### **1. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS**

##### **1A Declarations of Substitutes**

- 1.1 Councillor Cobb declared that she was attending the meeting as a Substitute Member for Councillor Hyde. Councillor Watkins declared that he was attending the meeting as a Substitute Member for Councillor Elgood.

**1B Declarations of Interest**

1.2 There were none.

**1C Exclusion of Press and Public**

1.3 The Committee considered whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of any items contained in the agenda, having regard to the nature of the business to be transacted and the nature of the proceedings and the likelihood as to whether, if members of the press and public were present, there would be disclosure to them of confidential or exempt information as defined in Schedule 12A, Part 5A, Section 100A(4) or 100 1 of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

1.4 **RESOLVED** - That the press and public be not excluded from the meeting.

**2 MINUTES**

2.1 **RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the meeting held on 25 February 2008 be approved and signed by the Chair.

**3. CHAIRMAN’S COMMUNICATIONS**

3.1 The Chairman confirmed that under his role as Cabinet Member for Environment, being the Chairman of the Community Safety Forum was his remit.

3.2 The Chairman informed the Panel that the dates of the meetings scheduled to be held in December 2008 and March 2009 would have to be changed by one week. The meeting scheduled for Monday 1 December would now be held on Monday 8 December, the meeting scheduled for Monday 2 March would now be held on Monday 9 March.

**4. CALLOVER**

4.1 All Items were taken for discussion.

**5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

5.1 There were none.

**6. LETTER FROM COUNCILLOR MORGAN**

6.1 Councillor Morgan cited from his letter (for copy see minute book).

6.2 Sgt. Peter Castleton stated that he had included in the agenda the full powers of PCSOs. He stated that PCSOs do have the power to issue Fixed-Penalty Notices (FPNs) and that they are expected to issue tickets. It was recommended by the Forum that PCSOs should be made aware that they do have the power to issue FPNs for this offence.



- 6.3 Ms Macho stated that the council employed 4.1 posts as animal welfare officers but stated that the issue of dog mess was a difficult area to enforce. She stated that the officers would first have to catch dogs fouling and then wait to see whether the owners picked up the mess. Ms Macho said that the council approach to the problem focussed around issues of education and information. Ms Macho added that the new Dog Control Orders would see a uniform system across the city which would help to satisfy concerns.

## **7 THE COUNCIL'S NEW CONSTITUTION, OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY ARRANGEMENTS AND ROLE OF THE COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM**

- 7.1 Ian Glossop, Interim Head of Scrutiny, gave an overview of how scrutiny would work under the new governance arrangements (for copy see minute book). He stated that the scrutiny committee of relevance and interest to the Forum would be the Environment & Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee.
- 7.2 Councillor Morgan extended an open invitation to all Members of the Forum to come and view a meeting, as the Environment & Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee, which had issues pertaining to community safety at its heart.
- 7.3 Mr D Peacock, of St. James' Street Community Safety Group, stated that he was concerned that under the new arrangements, the Forum would move further away from its grassroots level of involvement and become too "technical" for people to feel involved. He stated that he was concerned about the level of participation that people would need to put in to the relevant groups following the governance change.
- 7.4 Councillor Duncan stated that he was concerned about the capacity of the Environment & Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee and whether it would be able to persevere under a potentially very heavy workload. Councillor Duncan stated that he wanted to believe that the Committee would be able to cope with workloads but that he was pessimistic. Mr Stevens, Area Housing Panels Representative, expressed a similar sentiment and requested that there be enough resources available so that the Committee is not overloaded by work requests.
- 7.5 Mr Glossop stated that he would ensure that the work programmes for the Scrutiny Committees were robust and properly resourced and that he wanted to develop a Scrutiny focussed on outcomes. Ms Beanlands stated that the Community Safety Forum would have the same functions as before, and that the Forum would continue to ask questions and examine ideas/reports. Ms Beanlands stated that the Forum could call for reports and if the Forum was not happy with outcomes, she stated that the Forum could call for scrutiny and request that a matter be considered for inclusion within the work programme.
- 7.6 Councillor Morgan stated that he wanted to see a crossover between the CSF and the ECSOSC but that he wanted to avoid duplication.

## **8. DEVELOPMENT OF A COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FRAMEWORK BY 2020 COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP**

- 8.1 The Forum considered a report of the Director of Strategy & Governance and Acting Director of Cultural Services on the Development of a Community Engagement Framework by the 2020 Community Partnership (for copy see minute book).
- 8.2 Ms Angie Greany said that the document before the Forum was dependent on partners that make up the Forum as she wanted to determine what community engagement means and how community engagement would be able to get the best outcomes for the community. She stated that these outcomes would develop into a citywide framework for community engagement. Therefore, she drew attention to the recommendation that groups at the forum should take the consultation document back to their respective individual organisations for discussion and to provide a response. She stated that it was important that all groups undertook this consultation in order to develop a framework to which all groups adhered.
- 8.3 Mr Francis Tonks, Older People's Council, stated that he would like to see older people represented as they were a very significant community within the city. Ms Emma McDermott stated that older people were on the Local Strategic Partnership and that the council was working with the Chair of the Pensioners' Forum and the Older People's Council.
- 8.4 Mr Bill Gandey, of the Bevendean LAT, asked how organisations would get involved with the development of the Community Engagement Framework if they were not part of any listed group.
- 8.5 Many Members of the Forum expressed concerns that they had other commitments during the week when officers were available to meet with them and asked that alternative options for consultation be arranged. The Chairman suggested that officers be available some Saturdays to meet with the community groups.
- 8.6 It was noted that there was to be a separate session arranged for Councillors of Brighton & Hove City council on the Community Engagement Framework.

## **9 CRIME TRENDS AND PERFORMANCE IN BRIGHTON & HOVE**

- 9.1 Sgt. Peter Castleton introduced the statistics detailing crime trends and performance in Brighton & Hove in April and May 2008 with the same period last year (for copy see minute book). Sgt. Castleton stated that in the months of April and May that total crimes had reduced 20.9% compared with the same period in the previous year, well in excess of the target. He said that there was a significant increase in domestic burglary, but that this was the only crime showing a notable increase.

- 9.2 Councillor Duncan stated that he was concerned at the significant upward trend in domestic burglary and asked if this was in some way related to the current economic climate.
- 9.3 Councillor Kennedy stated that she was again pleased to see a fall in the total crime rate but that she was concerned by a sudden increase in domestic violence incidents.
- 9.4 Sgt. Castleton stated that a lot of crime in the city had alcohol as a contributory factor. He stated that 70-80% of arrests in the city can be linked with alcohol in some way.
- 9.5 Sgt. Castleton confirmed to the Forum that many violent criminals were 'home grown'. Sgt Castleton stated that it was not an influx of people from outside the city that caused many of the statistical charts to spike in the summer but rather that more people were out on the streets and that there was more chance of encountering conflict. He stated that many victims and offenders were local.

10. **CHALLENGE AND SUPPORT AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW TARGETTED YOUTH SUPPORT SERVICE**

- 10.1 Ms Beanlands gave an overview on the development of a new targeted youth support service. Ms Beanlands stated that the scheme, being led by Aaron Devereaux, aimed to lead young people away from crime. The scheme aimed to change the behaviour of young people in order to keep them out of the Criminal Justice System.
- 10.2 It was stated that two hubs for the service would be established in each of the central, east and west areas of the city. These hubs would provide a new targeted youth support service working to deter young people from getting involved in crime and anti-social behaviour.
- 10.3 Members of the Forum praised the work being undertaken, and that the fact that the work was being done in-house.
- 10.4 Members of the Forum expressed concerns that the reason for the anti-social behaviour was a lack of facilities for young people.
- 10.5 Councillor Young stated that in her role as a Cabinet Member for Finance, that she intended to look more at youth provision in the city.

11. **SUSSEX POLICE AUTHORITY: MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14 FEBRUARY 2008**

- 11.1 **RESOLVED** – That the minutes be noted.

12 **SUSSEX POLICE AUTHORITY: MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17 APRIL 2008**

- 12.1 **RESOLVED** – That the minutes be noted.

**13. EAST SUSSEX FIRE AUTHORITY: MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17 JANUARY 2008**

13.1 **RESOLVED** – That the minutes be noted.

**14. EAST SUSSEX FIRE AUTHORITY: MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 7 FEBRUARY 2008**

14.1 **RESOLVED** – That the minutes be noted.

The meeting concluded at 5.55pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

2008

# COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM

**Agenda Item 21**  
Brighton & Hove City Council

<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Crime Trends and Performance in Brighton &amp; Hove</b>		
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>6 October 2008</b>		
<b>Report of:</b>	<b>Director of Environment</b>		
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Name:	<b>Ruth Condon</b>	Tel: <b>29-1103</b>
	E-mail:	<a href="mailto:ruth.condon@brighton-hove.gov.uk">ruth.condon@brighton-hove.gov.uk</a>	
<b>Key Decision:</b>	No		
<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All		

This document describes crime trends up to August 2008 and reports progress against key crime targets relating to the Community Safety, Crime Reduction and Drugs Strategy, 2008-11.

## 1. Performance against Targets for Key Crime Types, 2008/09

### April 2008 to end of August 2008

areas with targets	number of crimes Apr-Aug 2007	number of crimes Apr-Aug 2008	reduction target (from 2007/08 baseline)	2008/09 performance to end <b>August</b> compared with same period in 2007/08		better or worse than same period in 2007/08	
				on target	not on target	better	worse
Total Crimes	12,654	11,224	-5%	-22.0%		☺	
Criminal Damage	2,186	1,940	-5%	-11.3%		☺	
Assault: Serious Injury (GBH/more serious violence)	58 (July)	45 (July)	-10%	-22.4%		☺	
Assault: Less Serious Injury (ABH)	805 (July)	674 (July)	-5%	-16.3%		☺	
Domestic Burglary	426	551	-5%		+29.3%		☹
Theft from/of a Motor Vehicle	889	975	-6%		+9.7%		☹

Pedal Cycle Theft	415	508	-10%	+22.4%	☹
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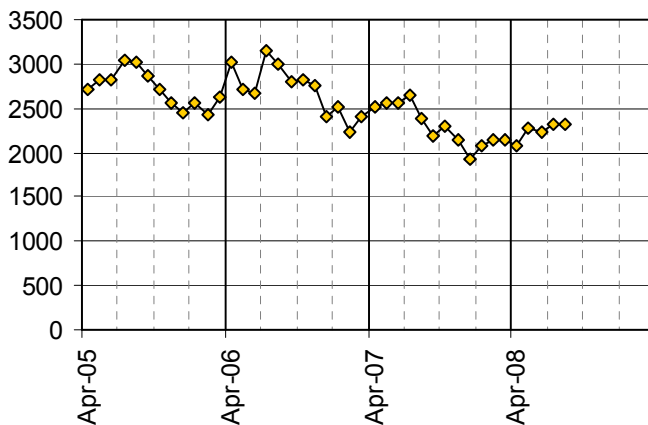
### Main points

After 5 months (April 2008 – August 2008) total crimes have reduced by 22% compared with the same period in the previous year, well in excess of the target.

Criminal damage and violent crime, both high volume crime types, are showing very good reductions at this stage. Domestic burglary and cycle theft, part of the Acquisitive Crime section in the Strategy, are showing a notable increase. Overall vehicle theft is showing an increase. This is due to an increase in theft from vehicles; thefts of vehicles are showing a decline.

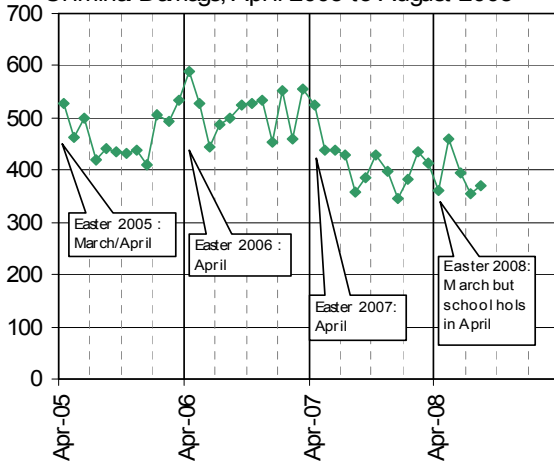
## 2. Crime trends up to August 2008

Total Crimes, April 2005 to August 2008



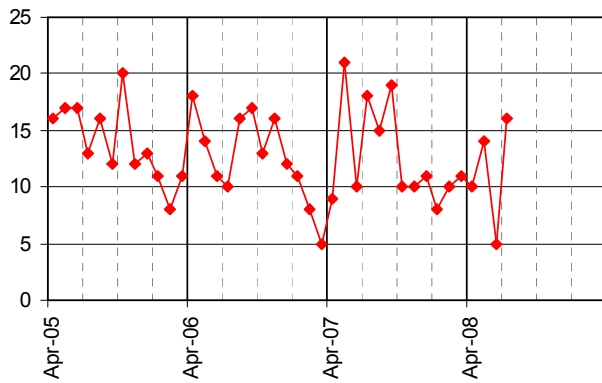
- The number of total crimes in the first 5 months of 2008/09 is 22% lower than in the same months last year. Although total crimes recorded up to August have increased since levels since last December, this is in line with typical seasonal trends which tend to show enhanced levels in the summer when the city has more visitors and more people out of doors.

Criminal Damage, April 2005 to August 2008



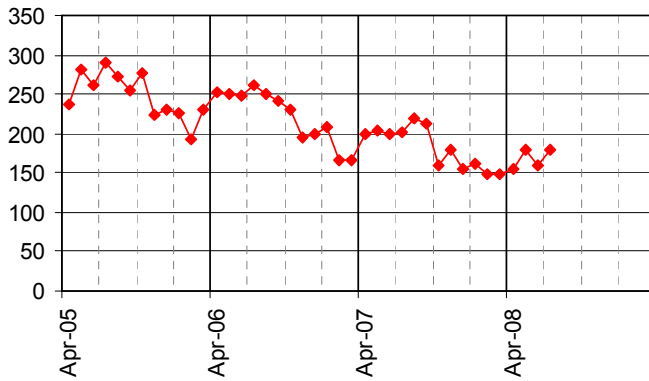
- There has been a degree of fluctuation from month to month over the last year, with the number of criminal damage offences fluctuating between about 350 and 450 per month.

Serious Violence (GBH+)  
April 2005 to July 2008



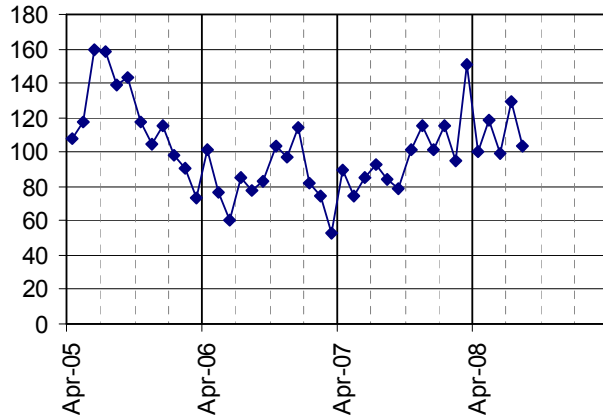
- The number of assaults with serious injury (grievous bodily harm and more serious violent offences) has shown a seasonal pattern over the last three years with more crimes in the summer months. Numbers are low within this grouping compared with those with less serious injury below and are therefore subject to more random variability and this could account for the particularly low level recorded in June.

Assault with Less Serious Injury (ABH)  
April 2005 to July 2008



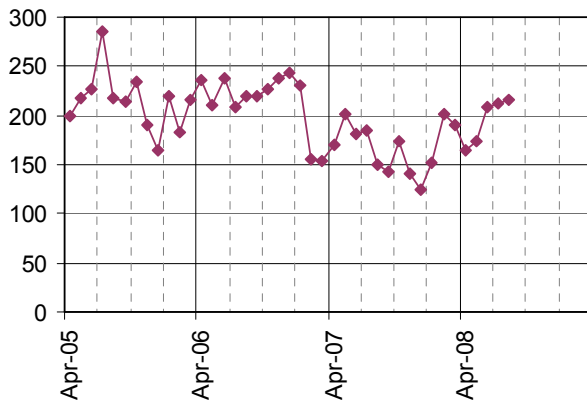
- Numbers for the first four months of 2008/09 are 16% fewer than the same months last year. As with more serious assaults, assaults with less serious injury show a clear seasonality and year on year decline.

Domestic Burglary, April 2005 to August 2008



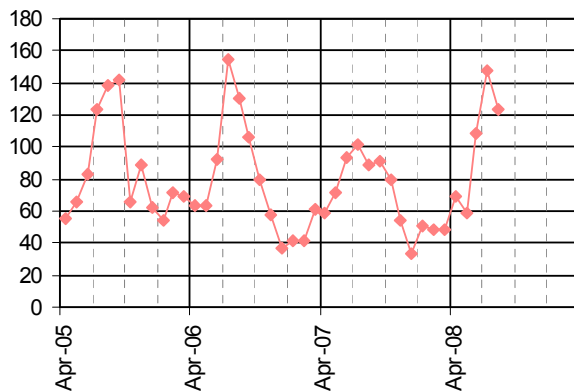
- Numbers of domestic burglaries were showing a long term declining trend in the years up to 2006/07 but rose consistently during 2007/08. Although the numbers between April and August 2008 have dropped from the March peak, they are 29% higher than in the same months of last year.

Vehicle Crime, April 2005 to August 2008



- The number of thefts of and from vehicles have risen to over 200 per month in the last three months. Comparing levels in the first five months of 2008/09 with same months in 2007/08, thefts from a vehicle have risen by 25%. However, thefts of a vehicle have fallen by 19%.

Theft of a Pedal Cycle, April 2005 to August 2008

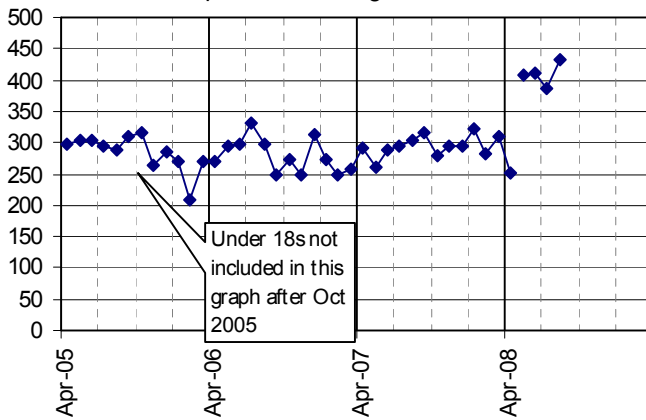


- Pedal cycle theft shows a strong seasonal effect related to the months when more people cycle. Numbers in the first five months of 2008/09 are 22% greater than in 2007/08 and at about the same level recorded in 2006/07.



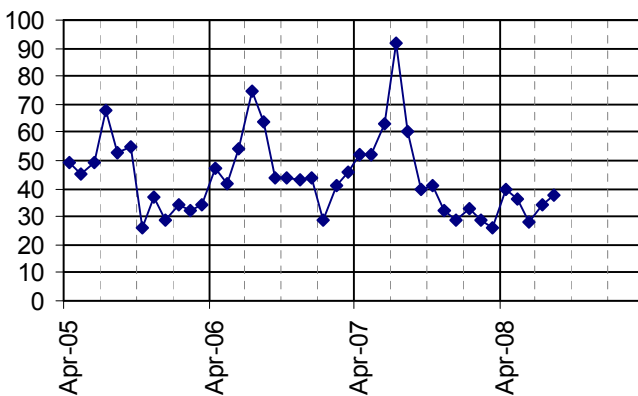
Police crime data presented in this report only reflect those crimes which are reported and recorded. There is likely to be a level of underreporting in many crime types. However, domestic violence and the hate crimes on this page are likely to be particularly liable to underreporting.

Domestic Violence Crimes and Incidents, April 2005 to August 2008



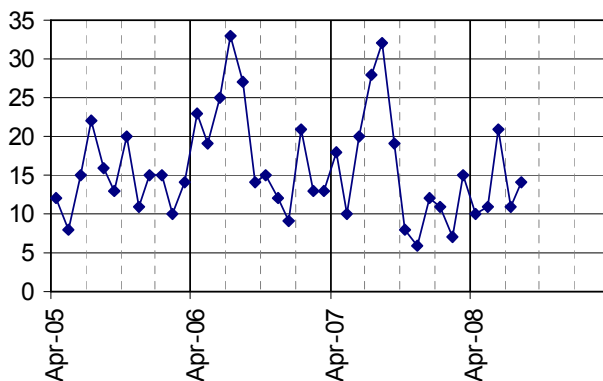
- The number of domestic violence crimes and incidents recorded remained roughly in the region of 250 to 300 per month until April 2008. Recording issues related to the introduction of the new police crime computer system is believed to be the reason for the sudden rise in May. The number of non-crime incidents being recorded rose steeply at that point, but the number of crimes have remained steady.

Racist and Religiously Motivated Crimes and Incidents, April 2005 to August 2008



- A long term rising trend, as well as a seasonal pattern (with enhanced levels in the summer, particularly the month of July), has previously been evident in the data on racist and religiously motivated crimes and incidents. However, levels over the last seven months have been lower than in the same months the year before and a summer peak has been lacking this year.

Homophobic, Biphobic and Transphobic Crimes and Incidents, April 2005 to August 2008



- A seasonal pattern continues to be evident in the data on homophobic, biphobic and transphobic crimes and incidents, with higher levels tending to occur in the summer. Numbers recorded in 2008/09 are lower than in 2007/08.



# COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM

**Agenda Item 22**  
Brighton & Hove City  
Council

<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Response to consultation on the Home Office Green Paper: "From the Neighbourhood to the National: Policing Our Communities Together"</b>		
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>6 October 2008</b>		
<b>Report of:</b>	<b>Director of Environment</b>		
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Name:</b>	<b>Linda Beanlands</b>	<b>Tel: 29-1115</b>
	<b>E-mail:</b>	<a href="mailto:linda.beanlands@brighton-hove.gov.uk">linda.beanlands@brighton-hove.gov.uk</a>	
<b>Key Decision:</b>	<b>No</b>		
<b>Wards Affected:</b>	<b>All</b>		

## For General Release

### 1.0 Introduction and Purpose of this Report

1.1 The Home Office Green Paper has been released for consultation. Responses are required by 10<sup>th</sup> October 2008. The Paper is based upon the Review of Policing (Sir Ronnie Flanagan) and Engaging Communities in Fighting Crime (Louise Casey). The Sussex Police Authority and Sussex Police are to respond.

1.2 This paper aims to advise the Community Safety Forum and Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) of the main proposals contained within the Paper, highlighting those in which Brighton & Hove City Council and the CDRP will have a particular interest and which are likely to have strategic or resource implications. A draft response to those particular proposals is also included in this paper.

1.3. It should be noted that although the Government are to publish further details of plans to implement these changes in the autumn, including progress towards a Policing and Crime Reduction Bill planned for the next session of Parliament, a number of key recommendations already have suggested implementation dates. These are set out at the end of this report.

## 2.0 Recommendations

2.1 That the Community Safety Forum note in particular, the proposals summarised in section 4.0 of the report and the draft response set out in section 5.0 of the report. The Forum is asked to agree the draft response which rejects the Green Paper's proposals as described in 5.2: these are in relation to:

- arrangements for scrutiny (5.2.1 and 5.2.2)
- crime and policing representatives (5.2.3)
- charring arrangements for the CDRP (5.2.4)
- use of the Basic Command Unit Fund (5.2.5)

2.2 That the Community Safety Forum consider other proposals described within the report and agree that if implemented, they would generally be a positive addition to the existing good practice arrangements of Brighton & Hove's CDRP.

## 3.0 Information

**3.1 An improvement in public confidence and satisfaction in policing** and in partnership work to reduce crime and improve safety is 'at the heart ' of the reform proposals which are set out in the seven chapters of the Green Paper.

### 4.0 Chapter 1. Improve the Connection between the Public and the Police

**4.1 A new Policing Pledge and greater joining up of police, local authority and criminal justice agencies at neighbourhood level.** A new Policing Pledge is proposed which will set out the 'Top Ten' Policing approaches that the review found the public want to see as well as service standards to be expected from the police (see appendices for the 'Top Ten' approaches and Service Standards).

4.2 The Policing Pledge builds on the success and infrastructure of Neighbourhood Policing Teams. The additional proposals confirm the importance of their accessibility and visibility and of local public neighbourhood policing meetings supported by local authority partners to enable identification of local priorities and provide feed back about action taken. (see appendix). The proposals also seek to embed neighbourhood policing into the broader management of local neighbourhoods.

4.3 There are further proposals about the value of local multi-disciplinary teams and/or co-ordinated partnership working with teams consisting of police, local authority and other relevant organisations, nominated officers in police and local authorities to act as contact points on joint

action, councils driving integration of community engagement and service delivery and strong joined up local authority involvement at neighbourhood level. The aim is to make overall progress and action more visible- by both the police and the CDRP and a greater understanding of the role of the local authority in tackling crime and anti-social behaviour.

4.4 The aim is to also require Neighbourhood Policing Teams to also be 'the face' of the wider criminal justice system providing increased visibility and information about appropriate custodial sentences, actions which 'make good the damage caused', about restorative justice. The wider aim is of course to increase public confidence in the justice system and provide reassurance that offenders have received consequences for their actions and 'community payback'.

4.5 An emphasis is placed on the value and role of Police Community Support Officers (PCSO's) and ring fenced funding for PCSO's is confirmed for a further three years. While their preferred role is confirmed as engagement on high visibility patrols, reassurance, community engagement, problem solving, dealing with anti-social behaviour and quality of life issues as well as support to victims and vulnerable people, the Paper advises that further clarity is yet to be provided on standard and discretionary powers of PCSO's.

4.6 The Policing Pledge also focuses on the importance of achieving high quality treatment of and responses to, individual members of the public at all points at which they engage with services in a way that leaves them satisfied that their problems have been taken seriously and tackled wherever possible

4.7 It is also acknowledged that addressing local concerns before they become problems, removing the source of grievances and good dialogue and engagement increases trust and confidence and will also assist in the delivery of the building resilience (preventing) violent extremism priority.

**4.8 Empowering individuals to play their part in tackling crime:** these proposals are about encouraging reporting and personal responsibility for safety and behaviour, being a good parent, being neighbourly and playing an active part in the community. More support for community groups is expected as well local actions to increase the visibility of their work. The proposed creation of Information Packs (model packs being drafted by the Neighbourhood Crime and Justice Advisor) could assist in this

**4.9 Improved structural and local accountability and direct elections by local people of local Crime and Policing Representative**

4.10 The Paper identifies in particular, the lack of direct public participation in the selection of police authority members and perceives that as a result, if citizens are dissatisfied with the service they receive or the scrutiny of it – they have little means of redress.

4.11 The Home Office is therefore committed to introducing a stronger link between those responsible for delivering policing and the public they serve. Legislation is planned to 'make police authorities more democratic and more effective in responding to local needs'. The proposal is that the majority of members will no longer be councillors, that Independent Members will remain (at least one member a magistrate) and that at least one councillor will sit on each police authority in order to 'retain the link with local government'. However, there is also recognition that perhaps 'a number of councillors could also be invited to sit on the police authority'.

**4.12 The public are to directly vote for individuals, known as Crime and Policing Representatives (CPR).** Each CPR will be elected on the basis of current CDRP boundaries (where a local area already directly elects a mayor, this person will automatically be their local CPR). It is acknowledged that some councillors will stand as CPR's and 'that many of these will be successful. Their roles will include sitting on the Police Authority and ensuring that local issues are reflected at Force and Police Authority level. The paper states that 'this is likely to bring additional understanding of local government to the police authority'.

**4.13 It is also proposed that the CPR's sit on local CDRP's and it is proposed that one of them also chair the CDRP.**

#### **4.14 Communication**

More dynamic and interactive ways of enabling people to access local crime information is proposed: monthly crime information is to be published (relevant to the locality) about action that is being taken to tackle crime, contact numbers and details of local policing and CDRP/local authority policing teams. Community 'Crime Fighter Programme' and 'Crime Watch' style information packs are to be piloted with the aim of encouraging public activity in tackling crime.

#### **4.15 Establishing Community Safety funds for local people to allocate to local priorities**

The proposal is that the fund will allow Crime and Policing Representatives to directly address locally identified priorities. However, the fund is to be created from the resources in the existing Basic Command Unit Fund. The money is to be either held by the Police Authority or by the CDRP. There is acknowledgement that the money could be used to spend on core preventative or policing services.

4.16 Alongside that proposal, is the introduction of **Community Safety Participatory Budgeting**. That proposal to be piloted this year with a wider role out in 2009.

#### **4.17 Building Resilience to (Preventing) Violent Extremism Terrorism.**

CDRP's and LSP's have a major role to play in co-ordinating this multi-agency work

**4.18 Councillor Call to Action:** the provisions set out in the Police and Justice Act provide for a new power enabling local people to raise issues of concern on local government and crime and disorder matters. The councillor 'Calls for Action' would allow councillors to raise local concerns with the relevant member of the local CDRP. In extreme cases it would allow the local councillor to refer a concern to the relevant overview and scrutiny committee for further action.

#### **4.19 In addition:**

- Statutory duty for CDRP's to reduce re-offending and the Probation Service added to the list of Responsible Authorities
- Safer Schools Partnerships: parents and schools will be able to trigger a review of whether a Safer Schools Partnership would be appropriate for their school.
- Greater focus on youth crime and delivery of the Youth Crime Action Plan
- Neighbourhood policing teams also to meet the needs of local businesses
- More leadership expected from local authorities to prevent crime and anti-social behaviour with greater involvement from the Local Government Association and the Improvement and Development Agency

## **5.0 Draft response to proposals**

### **5.1 We welcome:**

5.1.2 building on the success of Neighbourhood Policing Teams and the role of Police Community Support Officers and we are already working towards greater integration of CDRP and local authority services at the point of delivery in neighbourhoods

5.1.3 The CDRP is working towards the delivery of community engagement within a city wide framework which is being developed by the local authority and which will offer some support to Neighbourhood Policing Teams

5.1.4 Our work to establish a network of Local Action Teams across the City, reporting into District wide Joint Action Groups and an Operational CDRP is a model which is consistent with the new proposals and we intend to speed up that development process

5.1.5 We will continue to support our strong partnership working within the CDRP, particularly where multi-agency problem solving and solutions are required

5.1.6 New work is required to increase the visibility of the CDRP and to communicate to the public the extent of actions that are being delivered to deal with crime and our achievements and good performance.

5.1.7 New work is also required to integrate within CDRP and Neighbourhood Policing activity, that of being 'the face' of the Criminal Justice system

5.1.8 We agree that initiatives such as local crime information packs and the Policing Pledge at neighbourhood level, offer good opportunities for developing and communicating service standards and engaging and informing local people within police and CDRP activity.

5.1.9 We understand and support the CDRP's role in developing and leading a multi-agency Preventing Violent Extremism Working Group and are taking forward this work and fully participating within Home Office (and GOSE) arrangements.

## **5.2 However we do not agree that**

5.2.1 There is an absence of arrangements for the public to achieve scrutiny or redress. Brighton & Hove has an Environment and Community Safety Scrutiny Committee which offers the public the opportunity to refer community safety matters for scrutiny, including those services which are a police responsibility. The arrangements for calling the police, local authority and CDRP to account are further extended with our long established Community Safety Forum at which representatives from Local Action Teams, Third Sector organisations, local constituency councillors, Police Authority members, Cabinet members and members of the public are able to have a direct dialogue and conversation about all policing and CDRP matters with senior police and CDRP officers. The proposed 'Councillor Call for Action' does not in our view add anything to what we consider are already satisfactory arrangements in place.



5.2.2 We are of the view that these arrangements achieve a high level of democratic involvement which extends to our councillor representation to the Police Authority. Those councillors are democratically elected.

5.2.3 While we would not object per se to Crime and Policing Representatives (CPR), we do not see the need for them and would not welcome the additional processes that would need to be put in place to manage their selection and need for ongoing support when resources are already strained.

5.2.4 We do not support a CPR chairing the CDRP. Our CDRP is currently chaired by the Chief Executive which we believe is appropriate to the level of strategic importance, the Chief Officer responsibility from the Responsible Authorities and the complexity of the matters that have to be resolved. The CDRP is a 'significant partner' to the Local Strategic Partnership which is chaired by a community representative and we are of the view that arrangement provides the appropriate level of community leadership.

5.2.5 While we understand and will support and deliver all proposals to enable local people to identify and have met, their local priorities we do not support the use of the Basic Command Unit Fund to allocate to those local priorities to the extent proposed. Resources available to the police and CDRP are reducing year on year and the Fund is allocated as a Partnership fund to deliver against the key policing, crime and safety priorities which are identified through the Strategic Assessment process and included within the Community Safety, Crime Reduction and Drugs Strategy. These priorities are the outcome of detailed crime and disorder analysis and of consultation with local people and communities of interest. We anticipate that the local priorities identified at neighbourhood policing level are more likely to require joint problem solving and targeting and co-ordinating the actions of existing mainstream (and CDRP funded) police and local authority services and any reduction in funds for those services or to facilitate local Participatory budgeting will weaken those services.

## **6.0 Chapter 2. Freeing Up the Police in order that they can address people's concerns: Reducing Bureaucracy and Developing Technologies.**

6.1 The issues raised in this Chapter are for Sussex Police/Police Authority to respond.

6.2 The CDRP will be interested however in the outcome of the new target regime which focuses on bringing a greater proportion of the

more serious crimes to justice and offers its support in the achievement of these targets.

### **7.0 Chapter 3. Defining Roles and Leadership in the Police Service**

7.1 The issues raised in this Chapter are for Sussex Police/Police Authority to respond.

### **8.0 Chapter 4. Development and Deployment of the Police Workforce**

8.1 The issues raised in this Chapter are for Sussex Police/Police Authority to respond.

8.2 The CDRP note however, the outlined three year, Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Strategy and offers its support to the police in achieving its equality and diversity vision of 'a police service which has the trust and confidence of all communities and a service which reflects the communities it serves'

### **9.0 Chapter 5. Strategic Role for Government - Co-ordinating Change in Policing**

9.1 The issues raised in this Chapter are for Sussex Police/Police Authority to respond.

9.2 The CDRP note however, that this chapter clarifies the roles and responsibilities of the Home Office and key national policing organisations as well as confirming that it is for local forces and CDRP partners to agree the neighbourhood element of the Policing Pledge and which crimes and local problems to target. The consultation questions ask if that is the correct level of responsibility proposed. Clearly it is up to local policing and CDRP partners to agree local priorities with local people and the CDRP welcomes the freedom proposed to be given to front line practitioners working in neighbourhoods to enable them to do that.

### **10. Chapter 6 . Reinforcing collaboration between forces.**

10.1 The issues raised in this Chapter are for Sussex Police/Police Authority to respond. .

10.2 The CDRP notes however, that the intention is for greater collaboration in tackling serious and organised crime and terrorism and for those to be increasingly undertaken as part of mainstream policing and to further underpin local policing and partnership work.

10.3 The CDRP also welcomes the proposals for the creation of new national structures which aim improve the management and sharing of information at regional and local level . This is of particular relevance to our Safeguarding responsibilities (improved protection of children and adults), partnership work (Operation Reduction) in tackling the availability of Class A drugs and partnership work to build resilience (prevent ) violent extremism.

10.4 In the delivery of this aim, the CDRP notes the importance placed on the development of community intelligence with the aim of building a comprehensive picture of local information which can help inform police decisions as to where interventions can be most effective. Some initiatives are already in place within Brighton & Hove's CDRP such as regular Drug Intelligence meetings. The structure of the Local Action Teams and Joint Action Groups have the potential to further assist in the creation of street based information and neighbourhood profiles.

## **11. Chapter 7. Improving Performance in Policing**

11.1 This Chapter focuses on changes to the ways in which performance management of outcomes is delivered. The changes reflect the Home Office views and those at the heart of the Green Paper, which are that **public confidence is the critical issue and that the Government wish to move to a system in which the police service is held to account much more at local level.**

11.2 Firstly then, the intention is described to scale back the Home Office role to performance manage police forces and instead to achieve that through the goals expressed in the new Public Service Agreements to tackle crime and terrorism, improve criminal justice and raise confidence. In particular they are:

- PSA 23 'make communities safer, reducing levels of serious violent crime and serious acquisitive crimes, increasing confidence on local crime reduction agencies and reducing re-offending
- PSA24 Deliver a more effective, transparent and responsive criminal justice system for victims and the public, increasing public confidence in the fairness of the system and delivering better standards of service for victims and witnesses
- PSA 25 Reduce the harm caused by alcohol and drugs, improve the level of effective treatment for drug users thereby reducing the harm to communities and as a result for associated crime,

disorder and anti-social behaviour and for the first time extending this focus to alcohol abuse

- PSA 26 reduce the risk to the UK and its interests overseas from international terrorism , stopping attacks , mitigating their impacts and tackling violent extremism

11.3 The aim is that the Home Office will not set targets for police forces or CDRP's outside of the Local Area Agreement process. Iquanta will be reshaped to avoid the impression that the relative benchmarks contained within it represent implicit targets. APAC's will remain (they are already linked within PSA/CDRP performance management) but there will no longer be graded assessments under this (currently interpreted by some as 'de facto' targets).

**11.4 Instead, the Governments expectation of a significant improvement in public confidence over the next three years is reflected in their move to propose a single top down numerical target for police forces, measured by the PSA indicator from the British Crime Survey that asks whether people think that the police and their partners are dealing with the crime and anti-social behaviour issues that matter locally.**

**11.5 To drive and track progress and evaluate where action is making a difference, the Government therefore intends this autumn, to set demanding targets on this one measure for all police forces. Based on force level baselines available in October 2008, an improvement will be expected in every area and forces with the lowest levels of public confidence will be expected to make greater improvements than the rest.**

**11.6 The increased role for local people, CDRP's and police authorities to participate in performance management, to hold to account to a greater extent and to focus more on public confidence is proposed to be achieved through:**

- The annual publication of crime data and police activity to also include public confidence data and the CDRP's role in successfully preventing crime (see chapter 1)
- Removing barriers to data exchange
- The policing pledge and the publication of local information on crime, police and CDRP activity (see chapter 1) which means the public will be better informed about the level of service that is being delivered
- Using better the information that local communities have to hold the police service to account by being able to directly elect representatives onto police authorities (see chapter 1)

- Raising the capacity and influence of police authorities to hold forces meaningfully to account through guidance an improvement, training and skills for members
- Strengthening partnership working further and delivery through and by CDRP's and support to ensure that the targets within the LAA process are met and that any risks to national delivery of the PSA's are identified and addressed
- A more hard hitting role in performance monitoring through the HMIC, inspection programmes for police forces and authorities, followed up by detailed action plans and other measures .
- An increased role in improving public confidence in justice as set out in the 'Justice for All' PSA.

11.7 The Home Office is therefore to 'scale back' its performance management of police forces and refocus on strategic issues such as securing the successful delivery of the PSA's and supporting new problem solving approaches such as recent initiatives to tackle gangs and knife crime. As stated, the Home Office will operate through the Local Area Agreement process and ensure that any risks to successful delivery are speedily addressed.

## **12.0 Implementation**

- The government are to publish further plans in the autumn, including progress towards a Policing and Crime Reduction Bill planned for the next session of Parliament .
- The dropping down of police targets will be implemented this summer
- The provision of regular local information on crime and policing activity will be nationwide by the end of the year
- Discussions are beginning on the publics view of the Policing Pledge which is to be introduced by the end of this year
- By 2010 it is aimed that the public will be able to elect the majority of the members of their police authorities.

## **13 FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:**

### **13.1 Financial Implications:**

There are no financial implications.

*Finance Officer Consulted: Jill Spedding Date: 25/09/08*

13.2 Legal Implications:

There are no legal implications

*Lawyer Consulted: Simon Court*

*Date: 25/09/08*

# COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM

**Agenda Item 25**  
Brighton & Hove City Council

## SUSSEX POLICE AUTHORITY

Minutes of a meeting of the Sussex Police Authority held on Thursday, 12 June 2008 at County Hall, Lewes.

Present:

Mr L Barnard (Chairman), Mr P Bratton, Dr L Bush (Vice-Chairman), Mrs M Collins DL, Mr B Duncan, Mr F Faiz, Dr S Iles-Jonas JP, Mr P Jones, Mr J Mortimer, Mr A Price JP, Mr D Rogers OBE, Mrs C Shaves MBE JP, Mr G Theobald OBE, Mr R Tidy, Mr S Waight and Dr R Walker.

Apologies were received from Prof G Bull

### APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

1. The Chief Executive reported that he had received one nomination for the office of Chairman of the Police Authority, that of Mr L H Barnard.
2. **Resolved** – that Mr L H Barnard be appointed as Chairman of the Police Authority for the ensuing year until the next Annual Meeting of the Authority.

### APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

3. The Chairman reported that one nomination had been received for the office of Vice-Chairman of the Police Authority, that of Dr L E Bush.
4. **Resolved** – that Dr L E Bush be appointed as Vice-Chairman of the Authority for the ensuing year until the next Annual Meeting of the Authority.

### CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

5. The Chairman welcomed Mr Giles York, the new Deputy Chief Constable, to his first meeting of the Police Authority and wished him every success in his new role. The Chairman also thanked ACC Robin Merrett and ACC

Jeremy Paine for acting as Deputy Chief Constable, and to Chief Superintendent Graham Cox for acting as Assistant Chief Constable during the transitional arrangements following the retirement of Mr Geoff Williams.

6. The Chairman also welcomed Mr Peter Evans, the Cabinet Member for Public Protection at West Sussex County Council, Mr Robert Lanzer, Leader of Crawley Borough Council, Councillor Mrs Liz Kitchen, Leader of Horsham District Council, Mr Tom Crowley, Chief Executive of Horsham District Council, Mr Marcus Gomm, Safer Communities Manager, East Sussex County Council and Ms Justine Armstrong, Strategy and Partnership Manager, East Sussex County Council.

7. The Chairman also welcomed Inspector Brian Stockham, Inspector Ivor Fabb and Police Constable Mark White, representing the Police Federation. Mrs Sarah Reed, representing Unison and Miss Alice Hallsworth, a law student from Sussex University, who was work shadowing the Chief Executive.

#### **DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL INTERESTS**

8. No disclosures of personal interest were made.

#### **MINUTES**

9. **Resolved** – that, subject to the correction of the designation of Mr K Dollemore, the minutes of the last meeting of the Police Authority held on 17 April 2008, be confirmed.

#### **REPORTS**

10. Copies of reports referred to in the minutes below are included in the Minute Book.

#### **CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS**

11. The Police Authority considered a report by the Chief Executive.

12. The Chief Executive reported on a number of constitutional matters including the latest position regarding the appointment of independent members and changes to the membership of committees, steering groups and other appointments. He indicated that any changes in



respect of appointments resulting from the independent member appointment process would be dealt with under delegated powers and a revised schedule circulated.

13. **Resolved** - that the schedule circulated at the meeting (copy attached to the signed copy of these minutes) including the appointment of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Committees and Groups be approved.

### **ENHANCING PROTECTIVE SERVICES**

14. The Police Authority considered a report by the Chief Constable, Chief Executive and Treasurer.

15. The Police Authority considered a report on the latest position with regard to the progress made in enhancing protective services which included most of the specialist policing activities provided to the public. The Police Authority had increased the base budget for protective services by £4m per annum to increase capacity and capability, particularly in the areas of serious and organised crime and protecting vulnerable people. The increased investment placed Sussex Police in a good position to achieve compliance with the new and challenging requirements in these areas.

16 Sussex Police was continuing to work in collaboration with other forces both regionally and nationally regarding niche areas of protective services, including air support, witness protection, high tech crime and internet policing. The Authority was confident that, as a result of the additional investment made, and the collaboration programme in place, the capability of Sussex would be enhanced to the required standards by 31 March 2009.

17. **Resolved** - that

(1) the steps being taken to enhance the protective services provided in Sussex be noted; and

(2) a further progress report be made to the Authority's meeting in October 2008.

### **TEMPORARY EVENTS NOTICE**

18. The Police Authority considered a report by the Chief Executive and Chief Constable.

19. The attention of the Police Authority was drawn to provisions regarding Temporary Event Notices under the Licensing Act 2003. There was a loophole in the provisions of the Act which was being increasingly exploited by organisers of small scale, one-off events. A Temporary Events Notice was required to be submitted to the licensing authority no later than ten days before the event and the police must be sent a copy at the same time. The Legislation allowed 48 hours for the police to

make any objection on the grounds of concern for crime and disorder, but did not specify that these had to be working hours. It had become more frequent for a Temporary Events Notice to be served on Sussex Police at 5pm on a Friday requiring any objection to be made by 5pm on the following Sunday.

20. As a result it had not always been possible for immediate action to be taken with regard to the notices. Additionally, Temporary Events Notices were being submitted at rural police stations in the knowledge that the objection period would have often passed before the notice had been directed to the correct office. This issue posed a threat to public order if the police were not given sufficient opportunity to assess the risk of public safety of an event requiring a licence to sell alcohol. A simple option to rectify the situation would be to make an amendment to the Licensing Act requiring the police to be given five clear working days to decide whether an objection should be made, and to specify that the Notice must be delivered to the Force Licensing Officer.

21. **Resolved** – that

(1) the Police Authority's concerns be raised with the Government; and

(2) the support of Sussex MPs, the Association of Police Authorities, the Association of Chief Police Officers and the Local Authorities' Co-ordinators of Regulatory Services be sought in pursuing the amendment of the legislation.

#### **FINANCIAL OUTTURN FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2008**

22. The Police Authority considered a report by the Treasurer, Chief Constable and Chief Executive.

23. The report set out a summary of the outturn position of the Police Authority for year ended 31 March 2008.

24. The Police Authority noted the satisfactory financial performance of the Police Authority in 2007-08 which reflected the good financial management of the Treasurer and the Director of Resources, and their respective teams.

**25. Resolved** – that

(1) the outturn position for the 2007-08 revenue budget, set out in sections 2-5 of the report, and for the 2007-08 capital budget, set out in sections 9 and 11, be noted;

(2) the transfers to and from reserves as set out in Sections 6 and 10 of the report, and the revision to the capital budget in Section 9, and the creation of an Asset Acquisition and Replacement Reserve in Section 12, be approved;

(3) the Treasurer and Chief Constable be authorised to approve any subsequent changes and report these to the Corporate Governance Committee;

(4) the final prudential indicators report for 2007-08 be noted and the revised indicators for 2008-09 to 2010-11, in section 11 of the report, be approved;

(5) the budget transfers in Section 13 of the report, actioned since the December budget monitoring report considered at the February meeting, be noted;

(6) the amount received from sponsorship be noted; and

(7) the debtor performance and write off for the year be noted.

**TREASURY MANAGEMENT 2007-08**

26. The Police Authority considered a report by the Treasurer.

27. **Resolved** – that the report be noted.

**REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STEERING GROUP**

28. The Police Authority considered the report of the Community Engagement Steering Group's meeting held on 7 May 2008.

29. The Police Authority's attention was drawn to the Community Engagement Action Plan 2008-09 which was designed to maximize the range of qualitative and quantitative information from the communities in Sussex regarding policing in the county. The Police Authority welcomed the new innovative approach which was set out in the Action Plan which it was hoped would broaden the range of communities and neighbourhoods consulted.

30. **Resolved** – that the report be noted.

## **REPORT OF THE JOINT LIAISON AND CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**

31. The Police Authority considered a report by the Chairman of the Joint Liaison and Consultative Committee.

32. **Resolved** – that the report be noted.

## **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS**

33. **Resolved** – that the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the remaining business on the grounds that if the public and press were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information.

34. The Police Authority considered a report on counter-terrorism and noted action taken in respect of leases and contracts.  
Chairman

### EAST SUSSEX FIRE AUTHORITY

**Minutes of the meeting of the East Sussex Fire Authority held at East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service Headquarters, 20 Upperton Road, Eastbourne at 10.00 hours on Thursday 5 June 2008.**

**Present:** Councillors Carden, Freeman, Gadd, Harmer-Strange, Mrs Healy, Howson, Kemble, Kirby, Livings, Murphy, Pidgeon, Rufus, Scott, Skilton, Sparks, Thomas and Wilson.

Councillors Harmer-Strange was welcomed as a new Fire Authority Member from the City of Brighton & Hove and Councillor Kirby was welcomed as a new Fire Authority Member from East Sussex County Council.

Following the death of Councillor Dyason, Members, officers and members of the public stood in silence for one minute as a mark of respect.

#### 222. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 222.1 a. It was noted that all participating Members had undertaken to observe the Authority's Code of Conduct.
- b. It was noted that no Member wished to amend their written declarations of interests under Part 3 of the Code.
- c. It was noted that, in relation to matters on the agenda, Councillor Scott declared a personal interest as his brother-in-law worked for the Fire & Rescue Service. No other Member wished to make any declarations of personal or prejudicial interest under Part 2 of the Code.

#### 223. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

##### 223.1 **RESOLVED** – That

- 1) Councillor Murphy be elected Chairman of the Fire Authority for the ensuing year; and
- 2) the Chairman's preferred title be Chairman.

224. **ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

224.1 **RESOLVED** – That

- 1) Councillor Kemble be elected Vice-Chairman of the Fire Authority; and
- 2) the Vice-Chairman's preferred title be Vice-Chairman.

225. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

225.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Marsh.

226. **URGENT ITEMS AND CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS**

226.1 The Chairman informed Members that the Equality and Diversity Strategy was launched at a conference at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre in London on 28 May, hosted by Communities and Local Government.

The 2008 Fire and Rescue Service Equality and Diversity Awards were also presented at the conference. Mick Feather, Equal Opportunities Learning & Development Co-ordinator for East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service, along with Yanick Dubois, Station Manager at Headquarters, received awards for outstanding contributions to the national Equality and Diversity agenda.

The Chairman wished to pass on the Fire Authority's congratulations for Mick Feathers' Individual Leadership national award for his contribution in producing a highly acclaimed disability poster initiative and Yannick Dubois for her Team Leadership national award for the work she has progressed within the Fire Brigade Union's, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender communities (LGBT).

226.2 East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service, West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service along with Brighton and Hove Albion Football Club support the Residential Social Landlord's project in Sussex with the Coaching For A Safer Community initiative. They have recently been awarded the League 1 Best Community Initiative Award 2008 at this year's Football League Awards Ceremony.

Dave Amiet, Coaching for a Safer Community Project Organiser and representatives from Brighton and Hove Albion Football Club, attended the Awards Ceremony on 28th February 2008, which was held at the Hilton Hotel, Park Lane, London. The Coaching for a Safer Community initiative fought off fierce competition from Leyton Orient, Southend and Northampton for the Best Community Initiative Award 2008.

The Chairman wished to pass on the Fire Authority's congratulations.

- 226.3 Networking Women in the Fire Service established the 'NWFS Award' presented to people or organisations that have contributed significant support to NWFS, women in the Fire Service, or women's issues in general.

Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive Des Prichard was granted the NWFS Silver Award for his long term support and commitment to NWFS and the NEC Committee and promoting equality and diversity in the Fire and Rescue Service.

Brian Wembridge was granted the NWFS Gold Award for sterling support to the network, including voluntary assistance at NWFS events. Brian's citation read that his work will live on, in the form of the 2006 NWFS DVD, which will inspire and influence so many people.

- 226.4 Members were informed that the meeting would be the last meeting of the Fire Authority's legal advisor John Heys.

- 226.5 The Chairman wished to pass on his and the Authority's thanks for his professionalism and all his expert corporate governance and legal services advice and guidance on Fire Authority matters over the years, and in particular his extensive expertise in Standards Panel arrangements.

- 226.6 The Chairman wished to congratulate the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive on his two year appointment as Chairman of the Association of Principal Fire Officers and then to the Chief Fire Officers' Association Board for a two year period as the HR lead.

- 226.7 The Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive presented to the Chairman a plaque which had been presented to East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service by Lt. Col. Ali Mohammed Saad Al Hooti, Director of Fire Service Operations, Ministry of Interior, Kingdom of Bahrain, in recognition of the help and assistance given to them with regard the issue of Compressed Air Foam.

227. **TO CONSIDER PUBLIC QUESTIONS, IF ANY**

- 227.1 There were none.

228. **MINUTES**

- 228.1 Councillor Kemble wished it noted that within the minutes of the last meeting it stated he would be undertaking a sponsored walk in aid of the British Heart Foundation and Fire Service Benevolent Fund. This was incorrect as all proceeds collected would go to the newly named Firefighters' Charity.

- 228.2 **RESOLVED** – That the non-confidential Minutes of the meeting held on 7 February 2008 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

229. **CALLOVER**

- 229.1 Members reserved the following items for debate:  
223. Election of Chairman.

- 224. Election of Vice-Chairman.
- 230. Political Representation on the Panels of the Fire Authority and nominations for membership.
- 231. Note of the Principal Officer Appointments, Grievance, Policy & Resources, Scrutiny & Audit and Standards meeting held since the last meeting of the Fire Authority.
- 232. Regional Management Board Issues.
- 233. South East Fire & Rescue Control Centre Limited.
- 234. Appointment of a Third Independent Person to the Standards Panel
- 236. Members' Seminar 20 March 2008 – Summary of Issues
- 238. Amendment to the Fire Authority Treasury Management Strategy and Policy Statement for 2008/09
- 239. Budget Monitoring and Projected Outturn 2007/08.
- 243. Fire Authority Quarterly Report (January to March 2008).
- 244. Fire Authority and Panel meetings
- 249. Member Training Programme for 2008/09 (which was brought forward from the confidential agenda).

229.2 **RESOLVED** – That all other reports be resolved in accordance with the recommendations as detailed below.

230. **POLITICAL REPRESENTATION ON THE PANELS OF THE FIRE AUTHORITY AND NOMINATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP**

230.1 The Fire Authority considered a report of the Monitoring Officer which, under the provisions of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, invited the Fire Authority to review the allocation of seats on Committees and other bodies to ensure that, so far as practicable, they reflect the political groups on the Authority. (Copy in Minute Book).

230.2 Members favoured an option which ensured that all political groups were represented on all Panels and also that the Conservative group had a clear majority without needing to rely on the Chairman's casting vote in some Panels. This option increased the places on all Panels (except Standards) by one, making the allocation:

Policy & Resources	7 = 4 Cons, 2 Lib-Dems, 1 Lab
Scrutiny & Audit	7 = 4 Cons, 2 Lib-Dems, 1 Lab
Urgency	5 = 3 Cons, 1 Lib-Dem, 1 Lab
Principal Officer Appointments	5 = 3 Cons, 1 Lib-Dem, 1 Lab
Discipline and Dismissals	5 = 3 Cons, 1 Lib-Dem, 1 Lab
Grievance	5 = 3 Cons, 1 Lib-Dem, 1 Lab

The total number of places would now be 34, divided as follows:  
20 Conservative, 8 Liberal-Democrat and 6 Labour.

Members also agreed that the Green Party Member be co-opted as a non-voting Member on both the Policy & Resources and Scrutiny & Audit Panels, and that places on the Standards Panel (to which proportionality rules did not apply) remain the same.



230.3 **RESOLVED** – That

- 1) the revised Panel arrangements and political representation as set out in paragraph 230.2 above be confirmed;
- 2) the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Panels be appointed by the Panels under Standing Order 40.14; and
- 3) the Leader of each Political Party notify the Clerk of the Panels' membership.

231. **NOTE OF THE PRINCIPAL OFFICER APPOINTMENTS, GRIEVANCE, POLICY & RESOURCES, SCRUTINY & AUDIT AND STANDARDS PANEL MEETINGS HELD SINCE THE LAST MEETING OF THE FIRE AUTHORITY**

231.1 The Fire Authority considered a report of the Clerk that set out the reports of the Chairmen and Chair of the Panels that had met since the last meeting of the Fire Authority. (Copy in Minute Book).

