





**Brighton & Hove
City Council**

Community Safety Forum

Title:	Community Safety Forum
Date:	8 December 2008
Time:	4.00pm
Venue	Council Chamber, Hove Town Hall
Members:	Councillors: G Theobald (Chairman), Carden (Opposition Spokesperson), Duncan, Elgood, Hyde, Janio, Kennedy, Morgan, Smart and Young, and Representatives from Communities of Interest
Contact:	Jane Clarke Democratic Services Officer 01273 291064 jane.clarke@brighton-hove.gov.uk

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COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM

The following are requested to attend the meeting:

Representatives from 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
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
Youth Offending Team.

AGENDA

27. 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 either that it is confidential or 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 categories of exempt information is available for public inspection at Brighton and Hove Town Halls.

28. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

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29. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

**30. COMMUNITY SAFETY ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS AND
COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES**

**31. PRESENTATION AND CONSULTATION WITH SUSSEX POLICE
AUTHORITY**

32. CRIME TRENDS AND PERFORMANCE IN BRIGHTON AND HOVE

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SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR AND UPDATE ON LONDON ROAD - ORAL
PRESENTATION**

COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM

- 35. PROGRESS UPDATE ON LOCAL ACTION TEAMS IN THE CITY - ORAL PRESENTATION**
- 36. SUSSEX POLICE AUTHORITY: MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 31 JULY 2008 43 - 50**
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For further details and general enquiries about this meeting contact Jane Clarke (01273 2912281064, email jane.clarke@brighton-hove.gov.uk or email democratic.services@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Date of Publication - Friday, 28 November 2008

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM

4.00PM – MONDAY 6 October 2008

**COUNCIL CHAMBER
HOVE TOWN HALL**

MINUTES

Present: Councillor D Simson (Chairman); Councillors Carden (OS), Duncan, Janio, Kennedy, Morgan, Smart, and Young.

Sussex Police: Chief Superintendent Paul Pearce, Detective Chief Inspector Ian Pollard, Inspector David Derrick, Sergeant Peter Castleton,

Communities of Interest: Ted Harman, (Tenant Representative), Derek Peacock, (St. James St. Area Action Group), Faith Matyszak MBE (Racial Harassment Forum & Whitehawk Community Development Project), Chris El-Shabba (Whitehawk Crime Prevention Forum), Rev. Stephen Terry (Portland & Clarendon LAT), Paul Tilley (Community & Voluntary Sector Forum), Francis Tonks (OPC), Gail Gray (Women's Refuge Project), Jim Baker (Age Concern), Melanie Davis (Portland Road & Clarendon Forum) and Pat Weller (St Richard's Church and Community Centre)

Officers: Linda Beanlands (Head of Community Safety), Judith Macho (Assistant Director, Public Safety), and Lisa Johnson (Senior Democratic Services Officer).

PART ONE

15. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

15A Declarations of Substitutes

15.1 Councillor Simson declared that she was attending the meeting as a Substitute Member for Councillor Theobald and would be Chairman.

15B Declarations of Interest

15.2 There were none.

15C Exclusion of Press and Public

15.3 In accordance with section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, **it was** 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 section 100I (1) of the said Act.

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

16 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

- 16.1 **RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the meeting held on 7 July 2008 be approved and signed by the Chair.

17 CHAIRMAN’S COMMUNICATIONS

- 17.1 Cllr Simson gave Cllr Theobald’s apologies for not being able to attend.

Cllr Simson advised the Forum that the Leader of the Council recognising the importance of the meeting had asked her, as an executive member, to Chair the meeting.

Cllr Simson stated that the Sussex Police Authority had asked if they could use the opportunity afforded to them through the Community Safety Forum to consult more widely with residents in Brighton & Hove, and it had been agreed that a report could come to the next meeting. It was felt this would fit in well with the new Community Engagement Framework which the Council was currently producing.

18. CALLOVER

- 18.1 All Items were taken for discussion.

19. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

- 19.1 There were none.

20. COMMUNITY SAFETY ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS AND COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

- 20.1 Cllr Carden raised the issue of the theft of Blue Badges from motor vehicles. Not only was this distressing for holders of the badges, but caused problems when they wanted to park their cars before they received their replacement badges. People had been receiving conflicting advice on what they should do. Chief Superintendent Paul Pearce said that the police should be informed of the theft of any badge, a crime number would then be issued and this could then be produced if a parking ticket was issued. The police were aware that the theft of badges was a problem, but stated that one person had been arrested and it was hoped that this would reduce the number of thefts.

20.2 Cllr Kennedy referred to a recent meeting between the police and Brighton & Hove City Council about London Road, and asked if the Forum could be updated at the next meeting. Paul Tilley said that he had recently had a meeting with Cllr Randall and the police, and it was hoped that a LAT for the Level would be set. Duncan Blinkhorne would be the lead officer and it was hoped that interested parties, such as local traders, would be involved. The Chairman confirmed that this matter would come back to the Forum.

20.3 Cllr Duncan referred to an incident in Jubilee Street, where someone was attacked. There was concern over the lack of CCTV and a lack of visible police presence in the area. Ms Macho, the Assistant Director, Public Safety informed the Forum that work was already underway to address these issues.

20.4 Cllr Duncan said there was some confusion over the status of no drinking rules in the St James Street area, with notices giving conflicting information. Ms Beanlands, Head of Community Safety confirmed that the Designated Public Places Order applied across the city and St James Street was covered in the normal way. This was not a strict drinking ban but gave the police officers the power to arrest a person if anti social activity was taking place. It was intended to focus on anti social behaviour. Mr Peacock (St. James St. Area Action Group), confirmed that there were a number of potentially conflicting notices in the area and it was something which should be look at to ensure clarity.

21 CRIME TRENDS AND PERFORMANCE IN BRIGHTON & HOVE

21.1 The Forum considered a report of the Director of Environment on crime trends and performance in Brighton & Hove (for copy see minute book).

21.2 Cllr Duncan said that a reduction of crime was very good news. However, there was some concern that the number of domestic burglaries had increased and wonder whether the rise was seasonal or whether it could be linked to economic reasons. The police said that there had been a continual reduction previously, but it had risen during the last four months. There had been 59 people arrested over the last six months. Many of the burglaries could be attributable to a relatively small number of people and there had been a number of prison releases which had impacted on the figures.

21.3 Mr Tonks referred to the number of Domestic Violence crimes and the comment in the report that "Recording issues related to the introduction of the new police crime computer system is believed to be the reason for the sudden rise (of incidents) in May". The police confirmed that the new computer system now recorded repeat incidents from the same person.

21.4 Mr Tilley referred to bicycle thefts and asked whether the funding coming in could be used to provide secure storage. Ms Beanlands stated that there was a multi agency group looking at this issue and some money had been assigned to providing secure storage. Mr Tilley also asked whether the Smart Water which had been provided to residents in East Brighton had had any impact on reducing the theft of bicycles. The police stated that no reduction in thefts had been attributed to the Smart Water, direct patrol in known hot spots had been more effective.

21.5 The Chairman said that the overall reduction in crimes was very good news and would ensure that it was publicised.

22. RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION ON THE HOME OFFICE GREEN PAPER “FROM THE NEIGHBOURHOOD TO THE NATIONAL: POLICING OUR COMMUNITIES TOGETHER”

22.1 The Forum considered a report of the Director Environment on the response to the consultation on the Home Office Green Paper ‘From the Neighbourhood to the National: Policing our Communities Together’ (for copy see minute book).

22.2 Cllr Morgan welcomed the Green Paper. Crime had been reduced and welcomed the proposal to cut red tape.

Cllr Morgan noted that Cllr Duncan was a member of the Police Authority, and as members of the authority receive an annual allowance asked whether Cllr Duncan should have declared an interest. The Chairman confirmed that this would be clarified for the next meeting, but suggested that Cllr Duncan did not comment on this report. It was agreed that legal advice would be taken on this matter and advice given to Cllr Duncan and Cllr Theobald, who was also a member of the Police Authority, for future meetings.

22.3 Cllr Smart asked where the funding would come from if participatory budgeting was introduced. Ms Beanlands confirmed that the proposal was that it would come from the Command Unit Funding Stream and will go to the decision making process. If allocated next year it will go to the Sussex Police Authority and it would be their decision whether it went to the pooled budget for crime prevention. This was not ‘new money’ but would be a transfer of money. The police confirmed that this funding always went straight to partnership working, with around £220k going there. There was a concern that if the funding stopped it wouldn’t be able to go to the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) to fund work to deliver the agreed priorities in the Community Safety, Crime Reduction and Drugs Strategy.

22.4 Mr Peacock referred to paragraph 4.18 of the report and asked whether, if they wanted to refer something to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee, whether that referral would need to come from a councillor. The Chairman confirmed that any referral would need to come from a

councillor.

- 22.5 Cllr Kennedy referred to paragraph 5.2.3, and felt that there was a concern that some individuals could become a Crime and Policing Representative who had not been democratically elected to represent others.
- 22.6 Reverend Terry referred to paragraph 4.5 and the role of Police Community Support Officers (PCSO), and noted that there was no comment to the concern over the national standard and discretionary powers of PCSOs. Ms Beanlands stated that models for standardising their role were being provided and more practical assistance from the Home Office would be provided in the future.
- 22.7 Mr Baker referred to paragraph 4.1.4, and stated that the perception of crime was important. This was particularly important for older people and noted that there wasn't currently a newsletter directed to them in the city. Mr Baker also referred to paragraphs 11.4 and 11.5 and suggested it would be useful to have some localised surveys. This would enable the police to know of the immediate impact of their actions. Often the quieter community's views, such as older people, weren't taken into account, and it was important to know their views.
- 22.8 Mr Tilley agreed that there should be more surveys, particularly from the LATs.
- 22.9 Cllr Kennedy agreed with what Mr Baker had said and suggested someone raise those issues with the Environment Scrutiny Committee.
- 22.10 The Chairman said that a number of important points had been raised and these would be noted.
- 22.11 Cllr Morgan referred to paragraphs 5.2.2 and 5.2.3, and said that the recent news that the Chair of the Metropolitan Police Authority, Boris Johnson, was to politicise the role of the most senior chief of police in the country, should lead the Forum to support the proposals and not block them. Cllr Morgan then moved an amendment to paragraph 5.2.2, which was seconded by Cllr Carden.

The amendment was 'We do not object to the introduction of directly elected Crime and Policing Representatives, which will make police authorities more democratic and effective in responding to the needs of the local community, whilst retaining independent and magistrate members as well as at least one councillor on each authority to maintain the important links and relationships with local government'.

The police stated that there was no requirement for a magistrate to be a representative. Cllr Morgan agreed to remove the wording 'and magistrate' from his amendment. Cllr Carden agreed.

The Chairman took an indicative vote of members of the Forum on the wording. The vote was:

In favour of the amendment - 8 votes
Not in favour of the amendment - 6 votes
Abstained - 2 votes
Cllr Duncan did not vote

As the Forum were in favour of the wording, the Chairman then asked for a vote on whether the following wording should be included in the consultation response:

'We do not object to the introduction of directly elected Crime and Policing Representatives, which will make police authorities more democratic and effective in responding to the needs of the local community, whilst retaining independent members as well as at least one councillor on each authority to maintain the important links and relationships with local government'.

The vote was:

In favour of including the wording in the consultation response - 8 votes
Not in favour including the wording in the consultation response - 0 votes
Abstained - 7 votes
Cllr Duncan did not vote

22.12 **RESOLVED**

- (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 agreed the draft response which rejects the Green Paper's proposals as described in section 5.2 (with the amended wording in paragraph 5.2.2)
- (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 practise arrangements of Brighton & Hove's CDRP

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

23.1 Ms G Cunliffe Assistant Director, Children & Young People's Trust gave a presentation on the Targeted Youth Support System (TYSS) in Brighton & Hove (see Minute Book for a copy of the presentation).

The TYSS alongside Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG), Positive Activities and Volunteering, formed part of the Integrated Youth Support Service (IYSS). The development of the TYSS aimed to focus delivery of work on those young people who were at risk from the following; becoming first time entrants to the Youth Criminal Justice System; teenage pregnancy; substance or alcohol abuse; being excluded from education and becoming Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET); involved in Anti-Social Behaviour; or young people moving out of specialist services. The Integrated Youth Support System would be linked to a number of bodies such as schools, the police, housing providers,

social care, community and voluntary sector, and would be delivered through a network of 'Youth Hubs'. The Hubs would be staffed by different agencies such as youth workers, advice workers, personal advisor from NEET etc. The facilities at the Hubs would offer 1:1 space, open access areas such as a coffee bar and pc and internet access. There would be six TYSS teams across the city, two in the west area, two in central area and two in east area

23.2 Cllr Carden asked where the team in the west area would be based. Ms Cunliffe there would be one in the YMCA in Blatchington Road and one at the Hangleton Youth Club.

23.3 Mr Tonks said that traditionally there had been less funding into youth work than the national average and asked how the current funding was. Ms Cunliffe said that additional funding had been secured and there had been some increase over the last eighteen months.

23.4 Cllr Young said that this was very good news, and asked when the first results were likely. Ms Cunliffe said there had already been a drop in NEET, teenage pregnancy was down but there were still many challenges to address. It was hoped that there would be noticeable change within 12-18 months.

23.5 Ms Gray said that it was a great initiative, but noted that there was a gap on domestic abuse and how that related to teenage pregnancy. Ms Cunliffe that that matter would be an area for discussion very soon with the Department for Children Schools and Families.

23.6 Cllr Kennedy commented that it was great that all the agencies were working together, but queried how families would fit in with the service. Ms Cunliffe stated that support would be offered to parents and where appropriate parenting contracts and orders would be used. A report on this would be brought to a future meeting.

23.7 Cllr Smart asked about funding. Ms Cunliffe said that it was hoped to be up to £700,000 but the level of funding would be linked to data and intelligence.

24 PRESENTATION ON 'OPERATION REDUCTION' AND DEALING WITH DRUG OFFENCES

24.1 Detective Chief Inspector Ian Pollard, and Mr Mike Pattinson, Director of Crime Reduction Initiatives gave a presentation on Operation Reduction (see Minute Book for copy of presentation).

24.2 The Forum was informed that in 2005 Brighton had the highest number of deaths from heroin. Following this Operation Reduction was formed. The objectives of Operation Reduction were to increase the number of drug users in treatment services; reduce crime and disorder; increase people's feeling of safety; increase the number of people charged with supplying controlled drugs. The tactics used to achieve this would include; test purchase operations; intelligence led referrals into Crime Reduction

Initiative (CRI); fast track into treatment. This would be achieved through a number of avenues including; casework forum approach; assertive intervention by way of street based patrols; targeted care planned work; and rapid enforcement led support. The aim was to remove the dealers and provide treatment for the drug users. Over the last 30 months there had been 291 people referred for treatment and Impact crimes had been reduced by 18%. The number of deaths earlier this year had been high, with 17 in the period from January to April 2008. This had been linked to a supply of very strong heroin, but those responsible for supplying the drugs had been arrested. The number of deaths had since fallen to 5 for the period from May to September 2008.

24.3 The Forum thanked them for the presentation, and said that it showed how effective partnership working could be.

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

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

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

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

The meeting concluded at 6.25 pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

2008

COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM

Agenda Item 32
Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject: Crime Trends and Performance in Brighton and Hove
Date of Meeting: 8 December 2008
Report of: Director of Environment
Contact Officer: Name: Ruth Condon Tel: 29-1103
 E-mail: ruth.condon@brighton-hove.gov.uk
Key Decision: No
Wards Affected: All

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT

1.1 This report 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.

2. PERFORMANCE AGAINST TARGETS FOR KEY CRIME TYPES, 2008/09

2.1 April 2008 to end of October 2008

	number of crimes Apr-Oct 2007	number of crimes Apr-Oct 2008	reduction on target (from 2007/08 baseline)	2008/09 performance to end October compared with same period in 2007/08		better or worse than same period in 2007/08	
				on target	not on target	better	worse
areas with targets			target	on target	not on target	better	worse
Total Crimes	17,135	15,501	-5%	-9.5%		☺	
Criminal Damage	2,999	2,636	-5%	-12.1%		☺	
Serious Violence (GBH/more serious violence)	93	91	-10%		-2.2%	☺	
Assault: Less Serious Injury (ABH)	1406	1216	-5%	-13.5%		☺	
Domestic Burglary	606	730	-5%		+20.5%		☹

Theft from/of a Motor Vehicle	1,204	1,380	-6%		+14.6%		☹
Pedal Cycle Theft	586	692	-10%		+18.1%		☹

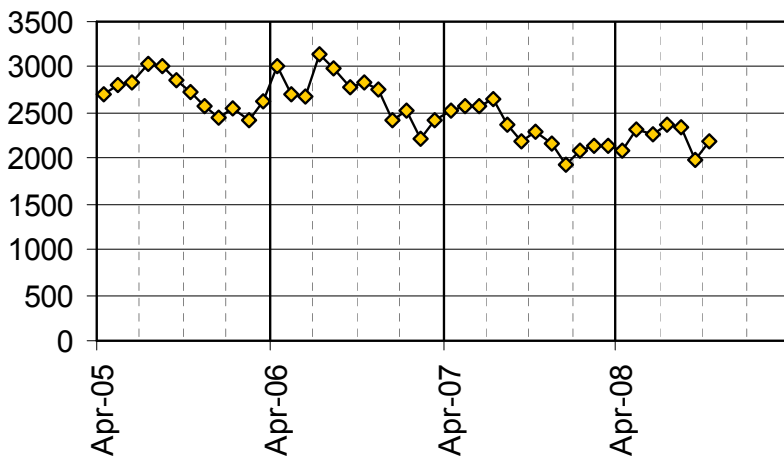
2.2 MAIN POINTS

After 7 months (April 2008 – October 2008) total crimes have reduced by 9.5% compared with the same period in the previous year, in excess of the target.

Criminal damage and assaults with less serious injury, 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 also showing an increase. This is due to an increase in theft from vehicles; thefts of vehicles continue to show a decline.

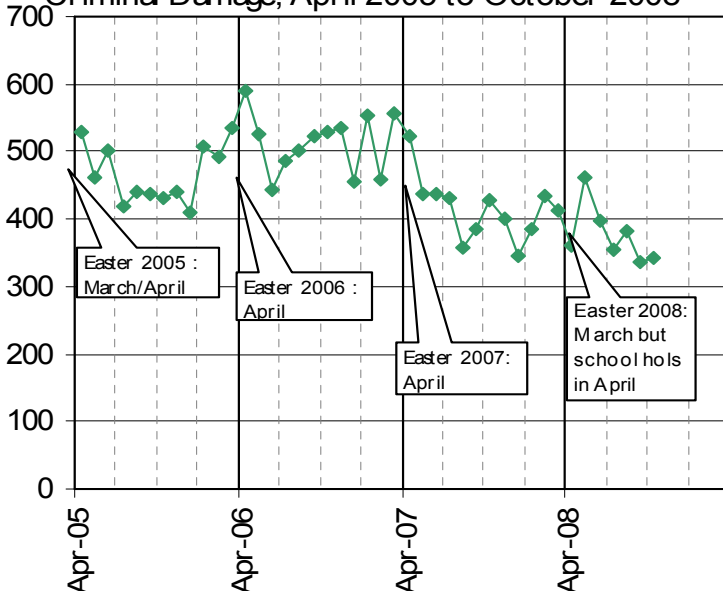
3. CRIME TRENDS UP TO AUGUST 2008

Total Crimes, April 2005 to October 2008



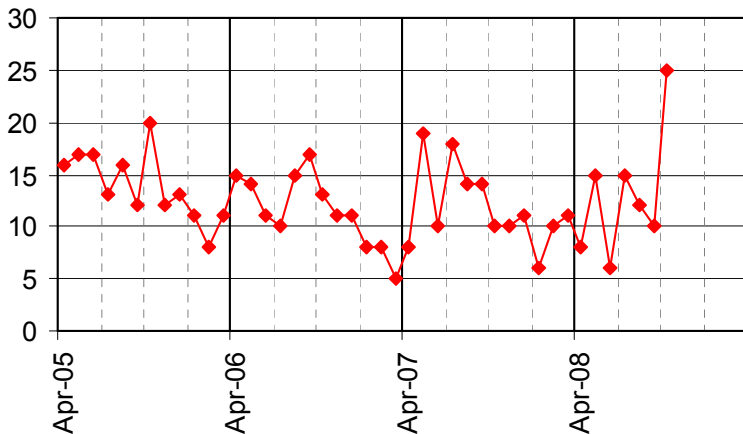
3.1 The number of total crimes in the first 7 months of 2008/09 is 9.5% lower than in the same months last year. The number of crimes in the last two months has decreased since the summer, in line with typical seasonal trends.

Criminal Damage, April 2005 to October 2008



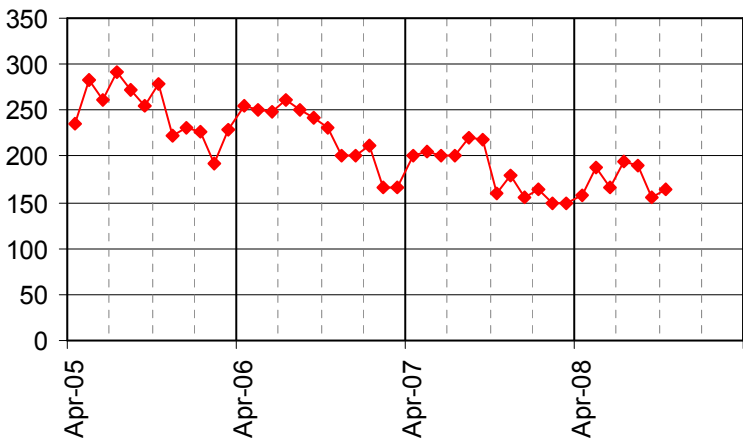
3.2 The downward trend in criminal damage has continued, with the number of crimes in the last 2 months being at their lowest since April 2005.

Serious Violence (GBH+)
April 2005 to October 2008



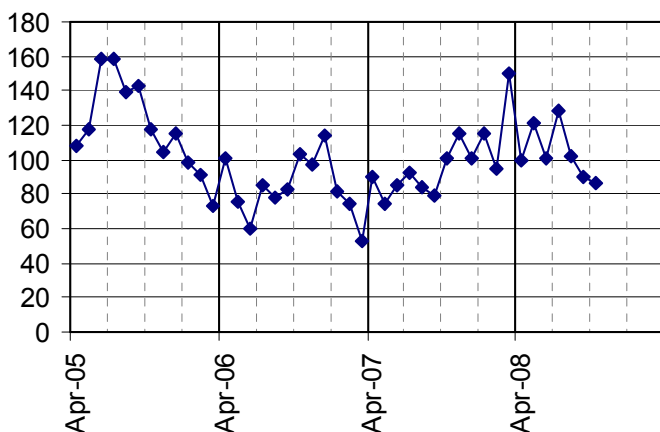
3.3 NOTE: There has been a nationwide review of police compliance with the recording criteria for serious violent crimes. Police recorded violence data is currently under review and the data presented here and in the graph below may be subject to change.

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



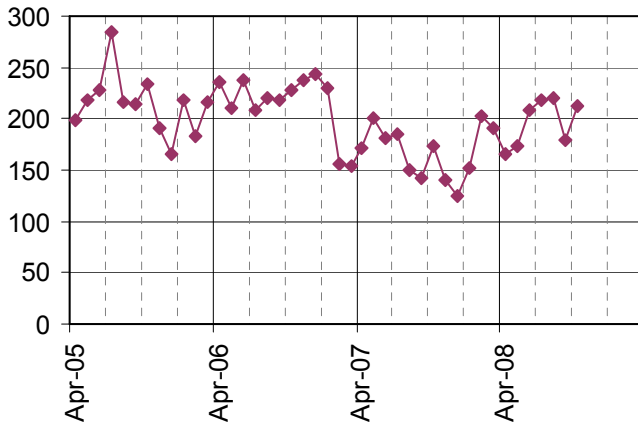
3.4 Numbers for the first 7 months of 2008/09 are 13.5% fewer than the same months last year and the year on year decline appears to be continuing. Numbers in September and October are lower than in the summer months.

Domestic Burglary, April 2005 to October 2008



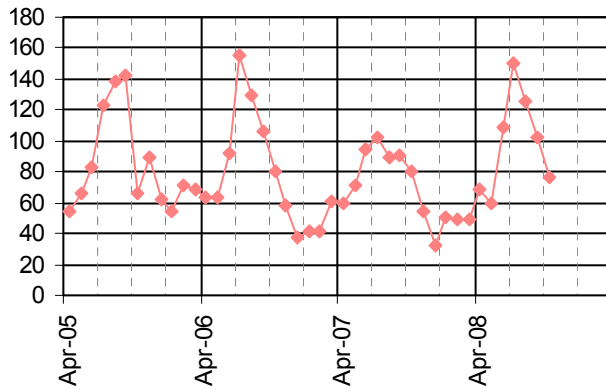
3.5 Numbers of domestic burglaries were showing a long term declining trend in the years up to 2006/07 but rose consistently during 2007/08. Domestic burglaries have increased by 20.5% between April and October 2008 compared with the same months last year, but levels have dropped in the last 2 months and performance is improving.

Vehicle Crime, April 2005 to October 2008



3.6 Comparing levels in the first five months of 2008/09 with same months in 2007/08, theft of and from (all vehicle crime) has increased by 14.6%. However, thefts from a vehicle have risen by 35% while thefts of a vehicle have fallen by 21%.

Theft of a Pedal Cycle, April 2005 to October 2008



3.7 Pedal cycle theft shows a strong seasonal effect related to the months when more people cycle. Numbers in the first seven months of 2008/09 are 18% greater than in 2007/08 and at about the same level recorded in 2006/07.

Subject:	Report of the Sussex Police Authority		
Date of Meeting:	8 December 2008		
Report of:	Director of Environment/Sussex Police Authority		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Linda Beanlands	Tel: 29-1115
	E-mail:	linda.beanlands@brighton-hove.gov.uk	
Key Decision:	No		
Wards Affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

REPORT OF THE SUSSEX POLICE AUTHORITY

The Sussex Police Authority met at Hove Town Hall, on 23 October 2008.

Attendances:

Mr L H Barnard (Chairman), Mr P Bratton, Prof G Bull, Dr L E Bush (Vice-Chairman), Mr B Duncan, Mr F H Faiz, Mr J Mortimer, Mr A Price JP, Mrs C Shaves MBE JP, Mr R Tidy, Mr G Theobald OBE, Mr S Waight 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.

1. POLICING GREEN PAPER

1.1 At a previous meeting the Authority was advised that the Government had published a Green Paper "From the Neighbourhood to the National - Policing our communities together" which proposed fundamental changes in the composition of police authorities and a strengthening of their responsibilities in a number of areas. It was also reported that the Government intended to introduce a Bill in Parliament to make any legislative changes which would be required. A joint response on behalf of the Police Authority and Sussex Police has now been agreed, and submitted to the Home Office. A copy of the final response is attached as an appendix to this report.

1.2 In summary the key points in the response are as follows:

- No convincing case has been made for changing the arrangements for appointing police authority members. In Sussex the three constituent authorities, West Sussex and East Sussex County Councils and Brighton & Hove City Council - appoint their most senior members to the Authority: their removal could significantly damage the present productive arrangements between policing and local government;

- The vital links with constituent councils ensure that policing remains connected with local government, but not owned by it. The introduction of directly elected members would obscure, not clarify, local accountability, and lead to the greater politicisation of policing;
- There is no evidence that the public would support an extra round of elections, which could take up to £750,000 from frontline policing in Sussex. Such elections are more likely to attract candidates seeking to pursue personal agendas which, if they were elected, would swiftly bring them into conflict with chief constables;
- The response welcomes the declared ambition of the Government to step away from centralised performance management and look forward to this being translated into action;
- The Home Office is urged not to proceed with plans for a national border police force, but to rely on the measures contained in the forthcoming Transport Security Bill to provide the desired benefits, without the extra costs; and
- The Home Office is also asked to make a clear statement that no attempt will be made to remove or modify the right of police authorities to raise the local contribution to the costs of policing through the council tax and that the formula used to allocate Government grants for policing be revised and made fairer for South East forces. Sussex could lose £8 million a year unless current arrangements which protect the Authority from the worst effects of the formula are maintained indefinitely.

1.3 It is very encouraging that in publishing the Green Paper the Government acknowledges the steps taken by police authorities and forces, including Sussex, to enhance the ability of police to deal with counter-terrorism and the most serious forms of crime, both independently and in collaboration with other forces and partners, thus removing any justification for re-opening the police force mergers debate. The Government's response to the consultation submissions is now awaited and, it is hoped, will be available for consideration at the Authority's December meeting.

2. HER MAJESTY'S INSPECTORATE OF CONSTABULARY (HMIC) AND AUDIT COMMISSION INSPECTION

2.1 The Authority has received the results of recent inspection activity by HMIC and the Audit Commission, with both bodies reporting good performance and progress in each of the Authority's strategic priorities. The Authority is pleased to receive HMIC's positive assessments of performance on keeping people safe and neighbourhood policing which recognise the investment made by the Authority in each area in recent years. Meanwhile the Audit Commission's evaluation of the Authority's use of resources confirms a strong record of financial standing with good levels of achievement in securing value for money.

- 2.2 The Authority is particularly pleased to note that the assessment reflects the strong performance of Sussex Police, supported by increased investment by the Authority, in respect of “protective services” involving tackling serious and organised crime, and counter-terrorism activity. of HMIC’s inspection activity has been focused on these areas of criminality, reflecting the concerns expressed in its “Closing the Gap” report about national capacity and capability in this area of policing. “Closing the Gap” led to national pressure on forces to merge, which was resisted by this Authority, which preferred to invest in developing capacity and capability independently. Current HMIC inspection activity is therefore an important, independent test of whether this strategic decision was the right one.
- 2.3 In summary, the inspection results provide an endorsement of the position taken by the Authority and the investment of £4m it provided, and the work undertaken by the Force to implement the agreed enhancements.
- 2.4. HMIC’s Major Crime inspection, published in July, graded Sussex as meeting the required standard. Last month the Inspectorate produced a thematic report on serious and organised crime which named some forces as having “significant developmental needs”. Sussex is not one of these, and HMIC has also been positive about progress on the issues identified in “Closing the Gap”. Indeed, Sussex was due to be inspected during the Autumn on further areas of protective services, but following a “risk/threat/demand assessment” by HMIC that visit has been cancelled. This again represents a positive assessment of what is being achieved by Sussex Police with the support of the Authority.
- 2.5 HMIC has also been testing the delivery of the national neighbourhood policing programme, which was required to be in place in all forces by April this year, and the ongoing work on making the police service focused on the needs of the people it serves. These areas were tested by the Inspectorate earlier in 2008, with reports for each force published last month. Sussex was assessed as meeting the required standard in “neighbourhood policing” and in “developing citizen focused policing” – both areas in which the Authority has invested, and has supported the significant amount of activity undertaken by Sussex Police. The Authority has also implemented a substantial consultation programme to seek the views of the community which is being fed into the preparation of the Local Policing Plan referred to at paragraphs 3.1 to 3.3.
- 2.6 The scores achieved by the Authority in respect of police use of resources is very high, and places Sussex in the top quadrant of performing authorities with regard to use of resources. The Audit Commission’s overall judgement in respect of the use of resources is the maximum grade of 4, which demonstrates that the Authority is well above minimum requirements and continuing to perform strongly. A copy of the full document is available on the Authority’s website.
- 2.7 The above findings represent an endorsement of the Authority’s approach to enhancing the strategic themes of keeping people safe and neighbourhood policing. This has included key strategic decisions on collaborative activity and

also targeted investment, followed up with ongoing scrutiny by the Authority. Set against a picture of investment by the Authority, the positive assessment by the Audit Commission provides further reassurance that public money is being used well to deliver policing to the people of Sussex.

3. LOCAL POLICING PLAN 2009-2012

- 3.1 Each year police forces and police authorities are required to produce Strategic plans which look ahead to the next three years. The resulting Local Policing Plan represents the contract between the Authority and Sussex Police. Sussex has successfully developed a Local Policing Plan Board to oversee the development of the Plan, ensuring the contract is drafted with senior involvement from both the Authority and Sussex Police. The Authority is represented on the Board by the Chairman of its Planning and Performance Steering Group; the members who sit on each Force Strategic Board – Neighbourhood Policing, Keeping People Safe and Best Use of Resources; and the Assistant Chief Executive.
- 3.2 Timescales for the production of the 2009-12 Plan have been tightened to enable a draft of the text to be brought to the Authority's December meeting alongside proposals on budget and targets. As in previous years, details of tactical delivery – the activity that achieves the strategic ambitions – will be included in divisional and departmental plans. The timetable draws in key pieces of work to shape the Plan. The consultation activities of the Authority and Sussex Police have an important influence in setting direction, and include the round of public and stakeholder consultation events taking place during the Autumn. Similarly, the production of the Force Strategic Assessment has been timed so it can feed into the Local Policing Plan.
- 3.3 The new plan will retain the three key strategic themes referred to in 3.1, and throughout will run the commitment to improving community confidence by delivering a quality service focused on its customers. This reflects the ambition of the Policing Green Paper to set public confidence as the overarching performance measure for the police service. The intention is to produce a strategic document that focuses on the vision for policing in Sussex during the next three years; is aligned with budget proposals; and sets out clearly what the public can expect from its police service. This is likely to make the main body of the Plan shorter and more accessible. The Local Policing Plan Board has already discussed the principles for the development of targets. It has been agreed these will combine the need to drive and retain focus on certain aspects of policing activity, with the emerging – and complex – area of measurement and understanding of levels of public confidence.

4. POLICING AND RESOURCE PLANNING: BUDGET STRATEGY TO 2012

- 4.1 The Authority has considered the Chief Constable's draft service priorities for the period to 2012, the proposed budget strategy for 2009-10 and the service and financial planning process for the following two years. The draft service priorities will provide the foundation for the Local Policing Plan

priorities and budget decisions to be considered by the Authority at its budget meeting on 12 February 2009.

- 4.2 The Authority continues to be badly affected by central government funding because it has traditionally been a low spending Authority and suffers disproportionately from the capping regime which the Government has stated that it expects to maintain. However, the Authority and the Chief Constable are committed to implementing the strategic themes of the Local Policing Plan: developing neighbourhood policing, keeping people safe and making best use of resources. Between now and 2010, Sussex Police, in common with other forces face significant revenue budget pressures. The Authority is firmly committed to maintaining and where possible improving local neighbourhood policing across Sussex, providing a service that is visible, accessible and responsive to local concerns. At the same time Sussex Police need to strengthen the services which allow neighbourhoods to flourish and help keep people safe, such as tackling serious and organised crime and counter-terrorism.
- 4.3 Members asked the officers to continue with the preparation of the 2009-10 budget on the basis that the Authority would wish to provide the level of policing recommended by the Chief Constable, consistent with the financial impact being contained within a council tax increase of between 4.5 and 4.9%.

LIONEL BARNARD
3 October 2008

Chairman



Sussex
Police
Authority



Policing Green Paper Response of Sussex Police Authority and Sussex Police



Local Policing
Keeping Sussex Safe



**FROM THE NEIGHBOURHOOD TO THE NATIONAL:-
POLICING OUR COMMUNITIES TOGETHER
RESPONSE OF SUSSEX POLICE AUTHORITY AND SUSSEX POLICE**

Introduction

- 1.1** This is an important document, which makes a number of proposals for changing the way in which policing in England and Wales is currently governed and managed. We recognise that it captures some critical proposals from the Flanagan and Casey reports and brings together a relevant action plan.
- 1.2** The objective of ensuring that policing is both effective and responsive to the needs of the people it serves is self-evidently worthwhile. However, the Green Paper fails to identify how this objective is not currently being met. Accordingly, elements of the proposals within the Green Paper create risks that could undermine some of the critical features of the present system which are tried and tested and which have enabled the police service to deliver unprecedented reductions in crime over the last ten years. This response to the Green Paper should be seen in this context. The response follows the structure of the Green Paper and deals with the following:
- The consultation questions identified in the Green Paper.
 - Other issues raised in this paper but not specifically identified as consultation questions.
 - Other important issues not discussed in the paper but deemed relevant.

Chapter 1 - Empowering citizens: Improving the connection between the public and the police.

- Q. How can we best ensure that neighbourhood policing teams can hear from as many people locally as possible in shaping their plans?**
- 2.1** The implementation of neighbourhood policing has enabled local people to have much greater influence over the provision of policing in their communities. Neighbourhood policing is firmly embedded in Sussex, with neighbourhood policing teams working throughout the 245 neighbourhood areas across the Force area. Neighbourhood panels analyse data concerning crime and perceptions, set priorities for their local neighbourhood policing team and hold them answerable for delivery against these priorities. We continually review our accessibility, particularly police stations – ensuring the right ones are available at the right times.
- 2.2** Sussex led the field nationally in the employment of Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) and their presence on the streets of our towns and villages is welcomed by local people. Numbers have now stabilised

at 369 which is close to 10 % of the police officer workforce and their funding now needs to be mainstreamed.

- 2.3** Local police officers and staff are well-known locally and are easily contacted by local people. Local meetings and street briefings are routine and Sussex has used the Local Action Team (LAT) concept effectively to support local communities in dealing with particular issues. Particularly strong links have been forged with minority communities, as evidenced by the growing confidence in Sussex Police of the Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual and Transgender (LGBT) community, especially in Brighton. Additionally there has been successful joint work to manage the community impact of counter-terrorism operations, such as Operation Crevice, which affected the Muslim community in Crawley. The work of the police is complemented by that of the Authority, whose members have strong links with local communities and lead its extensive programme of community engagement.
- 2.4** Special Constables, volunteers and volunteer cadets not only work to support policing activity but, through their presence within police stations and alongside police colleagues, they bring communities into close contact with police officers and staff and reduce the risk of policing being conducted in isolation from the communities they serve.

The Policing Pledge

- 2.5** The general principles in the Policing Pledge are sound and in line with what the public want, and what we already do in Sussex.
- 2.6** Emergency call handling performance has improved year on year. During 2007/8, our achievement of 97.5% of calls answered within 10 seconds was the best performance of any police force in England and Wales.
- 2.7** Our latest figures show that, between 1 Apr 2008 to 26 Aug 2008, 84.5% of grade 1 serials had a response within 15 minutes.
- 2.8** Sussex Police have introduced a verbal 'Victim Contract' procedure, to agree with the victim their preferred frequency of being updated (at least every 28 days) and their preferred means of contact. This is recorded on the computerised crime recording system and is monitored by supervisors. Compliance is improving, with one division for example improving performance on updating victims from 34% to 77% in the last six months. Alongside this, in 2007/8 Sussex achieved a year-on-year improvement in victims' satisfaction with the Force keeping them informed of the progress of their investigation. Computer upgrades are also being made to introduce a red/amber/green status report for every officer to self-monitor their performance concerning victim updates.
- 2.9** Within the Pledge there is concern that some of the detail is too prescriptive, is overly burdensome and runs against the evidence of how the public actually want to be dealt with by the police. For example, neighbourhood policing teams' meetings with their local public are important occasions, the information provided at them needs to be prepared and analysed. This is a time-consuming process taking officers

away from patrol. In addition many of the problems raised require partnership activity and a more medium term approach, meaning that a monthly timeframe is too short to produce any real effect. Meetings of such a frequency would in many cases not carry the support of the public. More flexibility needs to be brought into the timescales with an outer limit of say 3 months. Operation QUEST in Sussex has successfully demonstrated that by rethinking the manner in which we respond to the public we can dramatically improve customer satisfaction and the use of resources. Some of these practices have the effect of taking us outside the timescales envisaged in the pledge.

Q. What is the most effective means of encouraging customer service in the police?

- 3.1** Through the mechanisms discussed above, we are well-placed to understand the concerns of local people in Sussex about policing and to know what they expect. Within the financial constraints imposed on the Authority by council tax capping and the distribution of central government grants for policing, which disadvantages authorities in the South East of England, the Authority seeks to meet these needs, where and when it can.
- 3.2** Independent opinion polling conducted on a regular basis for the Authority confirms a high degree of satisfaction with the policing service currently provided in Sussex. The most recent satisfaction results, for the surveys conducted in the 12 months ending June 08, indicate 82% of people (victims of domestic burglary, violent crime, vehicle crime, racist incidents and RTC) surveyed were satisfied with the service they received from Sussex Police.
- 3.3** As Sir Ronnie Flanagan pointed out in the report on his Independent Review of Policing, what matters to people is the quality of their individual encounters with the police: how quickly did they come, how seriously did they take the matter, what did they do and how carefully did they maintain contact with the people concerned to let them know what was happening. Our public opinion surveying highlighted the key importance to overall satisfaction rates of keeping people informed. Management action focused on this issue, resulting in pleasing increases in satisfaction levels.
- 3.4** A critical area of customer service for police forces is call handling. Public concerns about the quality of the service provided in Sussex led the Authority to invest **£2.4 million** in central crime recording three years ago. The Police Contact Centre now handles all non-emergency contact from the public and creates all crime reports. Non-emergency call handling performance has improved significantly. During 2007/8, 82.5% of calls were answered within 60 seconds.
- 3.5** Emergency call handling performance has improved year on year. During 2007/8, 97.5% of 999 calls were answered within 10 seconds, which was the best performance of any police force in England and Wales.

3.6 Customer satisfaction surveys show that 92% of people said they were fairly satisfied, and 73% of people were very or completely satisfied, with the service they received from call handling staff.

3.7 Key here is a move from numerous targets to fewer nationally driven targets focussing on quality. The National Pledge introduces the risk of maintaining tactical numerical targets. An alternative may be a national framework with local pledges. A local pledge would complement the Comprehensive Area Assessment. We have used Operation QUEST to rethink our business processes, enabling us to reduce bureaucracy and increase public contact, concentrating on quality performance measures balanced against quantity indicators.

Q. Given the core role of PCSOs – which is one of high visibility patrol, community engagement and problem solving – do PCSOs have the right powers to enable them to do their job?

4.1 Yes. PCSOs are not police officers: they have different powers and perform different roles. They are an excellent complement to police officers and their presence enables chief constables to ensure that policing tasks are handled in the right way, using the right people. In Sussex, we are concerned that any extension of the powers of PCSOs – for example, to include the power of detention – could unhelpfully blur this distinction. We also attach less importance than the Green Paper to the need for PCSO powers to be standardised across the country. We share the Government’s declared commitment to localism, the consequence of which is that things will not always be done in the same way in every community in England and Wales. It is important that chief constables retain the discretion to give their PCSOs the powers, within the defined range, which they feel are appropriate in local circumstances. Of more importance to Sussex is the need to put the funding of PCSOs on a sustainable basis: PCSOs are now part of how we do policing in this country and their financing should be mainstreamed, while retaining the possibility of local authorities and others paying for additional services, if they wish to do so. This is the key issue, not standardising PCSOs’ powers.

Q. How can we ensure that police authorities and local authorities everywhere co-operate in tackling local people’s priorities – including ensuring that the local pledge is delivered everywhere?

5.1 Three key features of the present arrangements for the governance of policing and the management of crime and disorder are designed to ensure the required degree of co-operation between policing and local government.

- The majority of members of police authorities are appointed by local authorities, ensuring that there is policy co-ordination and co-operation at the highest level. In Sussex, the local authorities appoint their most senior members to the Police Authority: chairmen, leaders, cabinet members with relevant portfolios and leading opposition members. At officer level, key functions of the Authority and Sussex Police (finance, estates, law) are partly

provided by the local authorities under Service Level Agreements (SLAs). These vital links ensure that policing remains connected with local government, but not owned by it, ensuring co-operation but preserving independence.

- The territorial basis of operational policing in Sussex – and in many other police force areas – is aligned with the local government structure. Outside London and other major cities, local government is organised on the basis of counties and districts, a feature of provincial life which sometimes seems to elude central decision-makers. In Sussex, the structure of policing follows that of our local government partners, with policing divisions largely corresponding with county and city boundaries, and policing districts coterminous with local government districts. This structure, to which we moved five years ago, has been of immense help in ensuring close co-operation between county, city and district police commanders and their local government equivalents and is a key factor in the success which we have achieved together in reducing crime and disorder in Sussex over the years.
- The policing structure in place here enables us to play our full role in partnership working, at both the strategic Local Area Agreements (LAA) and Public Service Board (PSB) level, also at the more tactical Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) level. The performance of the latter (of which we have 13 in Sussex) is inconsistent. Where they are firmly led and supported they can provide a useful forum for co-ordinating the efforts of those agencies which can contribute to the resolution of local crime and disorder issues, but their significance should not be overplayed. They are “partnerships”, and there is a danger of their status, resources and capacity for action being over-estimated by those who are more remote than we are from local communities and issues.
- Partnership funding arrangements can work against effective delivery. The funding streams are generally time limited which frustrates long term planning. More local money should be set aside to support partnership activity, it should be controlled by the partnership and there should be incentives for partner agencies to mainstream employment within agencies that form the partnership so that funds can be concentrated on effective initiatives.

Q. Under these proposals, police authorities will have a majority of elected representatives, complemented by representation from local councils and independent members. What is the right balance between local council representation and independent members?

6.1 No convincing case is made in the Green Paper for changing the existing arrangements for appointing members of police authorities. A majority of members on each police authority are already elected: they are elected to their local authorities, and appointed by their local authorities to the police authority. Their democratic legitimacy is recognised in the

special arrangements in place for approving the council tax to be levied each year and their presence on the police authority ensures the co-operation and integration between policing and local government which was discussed in the previous paragraph. Their removal or restriction to one or two members on each authority as proposed in the Green Paper could significantly damage the present productive relationships already in place between policing and local government.

6.2 The introduction of directly elected members, either instead of or as well as local government members, would obscure, not clarify local accountability for the following reasons:-

- It would create a separate cadre of elected representatives, unconnected with local government and potentially unconnected with local communities, who would find themselves in competition with local councillors for the policing and crime and disorder agendas.
- The proposal would lead to the greater politicisation of policing, remove the present arrangements to ensure balanced political proportionality among the elected membership and lead to the inevitable dominance of the major political parties in the selection of successful candidates.
- It would result in a less strategic view being taken by members of the needs of the force area as a whole.
- There is no evidence that an additional round of elections would be supported by the public: indeed, all the evidence suggests that the country is already suffering from election fatigue. Such elections, if they are introduced, are more likely to attract candidates seeking to pursue personal agendas which, if they were elected, would swiftly bring them into conflict with chief constables.
- Elections are expensive: to hold elections across Sussex for police authority members would cost up to £750,000, money which would have to be found from frontline policing.
- Partnership working is absolutely key to successful public confidence and is often challenged by trying to define the common priorities between the main public authorities (police and local authorities to date, with increasing contribution from health). Successful engagement has often been accelerated by common agendas generated through members' representation on police authorities. This proposal may undermine that level of engagement in joint agendas by bringing in the unaffiliated third party.

6.3 Therefore, the proposal to replace councillors on authorities by directly elected members is potentially expensive and confusing to the governance of policing, not to mention partnership working, and the full consequences of such a proposal need to be thoroughly thought through as there could be fundamental implications.

- 6.4** The Green Paper seeks to make a connection between the work of police authorities and the local crime and disorder agenda. It proposes the direct election of crime and policing representatives who would chair their local CDRPs and sit on the police authorities. Given the fact that CDRPs are not separate legal entities (which police authorities of course are), what the Green Paper is effectively suggesting is that members of police authorities should be directly elected and that they would then, by virtue of their office, chair their local CDRPs. The membership of CDRPs is already provided for in existing legislation. While there is merit in police authority members taking their turn to chair CDRPs if they have the confidence of others, as already happens in Sussex, it is not appropriate to require them to be so appointed. In Sussex, some of the most effective CDRPs are chaired by district police commanders or district council chief executives and this should not be prevented in the future. It should be for each CDRP to decide who is the best person to chair their meetings and it should be expected that the people so chosen and the organisations from which they come will vary over time and between CDRPs. CDRPs are partnerships, not organisations in their own right, and the arrangements for the selection of members for leadership roles should be democratic and inclusive.
- 6.5** If implemented, the proposals in the Green Paper would result either in the effective exclusion of local government and independent members from membership of police authorities, or the creation of police authorities comprising an unwieldy and unnecessarily large number of members. If the building block is the local CDRP area, we could be looking in Sussex at about 15 directly elected members. Our CDRP areas vary significantly in size (from approximately 80,000 to 250,000) and it is unclear how equity of representation would be provided under these proposals. Members appointed by the local authorities and independent members, including at least one magistrate, would be added.
- 6.6** For the reasons explained above, we would want to see the retention of the strong links with local government provided currently by the appointment of councillor members. With two county councils, one city council and 12 borough and district councils in Sussex, it is hard to see how anything like effective local government representation could be preserved with fewer than six members, which would provide for three members from West Sussex, two from East Sussex and one from Brighton & Hove. If the principle is then to be maintained of the elected members (both directly elected and councillor members) having a majority of one on the authority, there would need to be in addition 20 independent members, including at least one magistrate, giving a total authority membership of 41, considerably more than twice the present membership of 17.
- 6.7** A membership of this size would be disproportionate to the tasks facing the police authority and it would be difficult to provide satisfying roles for all members. It would also be extremely expensive to run. Assuming that similar levels of allowances and support had to be provided to 41 members, rather than 17, and taking into account the cost of regular elections referred to above, it is likely that the changes outlined in the

Green Paper could double the costs of democracy borne by Sussex council taxpayers from the current figure of £1.2m pa to about £2.5m pa, all at the expense of frontline policing and services to the public. This would equate to 34 police officers or 51 PCSOs.

6.8 We object to the proposal in the Green Paper that police authorities should be required to appoint as their chairmen only elected members. We are unclear whether this is intended to include councillor members, but our strongly held view is that it should be for each police authority to decide whom it wishes to elect as chairmen and that authorities should continue to have an unfettered discretion to choose the member, be they directly elected, councillor or independent, whom they consider to be the best person for the job. This would be in line with the Government's avowed commitment to localism and to the benefits to be obtained from the empowerment of local representatives.

6.9 We strongly support the proposal to retain independent members of the Police Authority as it is widely considered that the insight and valued perspective of independent members adds a great deal to the work of police authorities that is appreciated within the Police and communities alike. Similarly, the principle that at least one of the independent members is to be a magistrate is welcomed.

Q. To what extent might police authorities be able to allocate part of their budgets by participatory budgeting? What other community safety budgets do you think might be suitable to be allocated in this way? Do you consider the creation of the Communities Safety Fund to be the best way to use the money that currently makes up the BCU fund?

7.1 Our view is that the way in which central government currently funds policing and community safety is unnecessarily detailed and prescriptive, and it is authorities like Sussex who suffer disproportionate costs as a consequence of where they are located in the country. Recent government thinking appears to marginalise the role of local representative bodies and seeks to engage directly with local communities (however defined), embarking on a succession of eye-catching initiatives to create the illusion of effectiveness. We dislike this approach and would argue strongly for the allocation of central government funds to local authorities and police authorities on the basis of general, not specific, grants in accordance with a formula which fairly reflects differences in the need to spend between different police areas.

7.2 We are surprised that the Green Paper raises the application of participatory budgeting alongside the reduction (and possible ending) of the BCU Fund. The Paper seems to be in two minds about its approach to budget flexibility. The BCU Fund was originally set up to provide BCU commanders with some resourcing to meet local priorities, and align proposed spending plans with that of local partners. Yet the prospect is to transfer the BCU Fund to a Community Safety Fund that will be available to Crime and Policing Representatives to address local needs and priorities. It will still be administered by police authorities. We are

not convinced that this will lead to improved outcomes compared to the current arrangements. In reality, much will depend on continuity of Safer Communities Funding but this has experienced reduced resources in recent years. We comment on this further below.

7.3 We are invited to comment on the issues set out in this question, but not on much more fundamental issues relating to the funding of policing. On these bigger issues, we welcome the commitment in the Green Paper that **no attempt will be made to remove or modify the right of police authorities to raise the local contribution to the costs of policing though the council tax.** If police authorities are to continue to perform their vital role in the national effort to reduce crime and disorder, they must continue to have the ability to raise money independently of central government. They should also, in our view, reach their decisions on the level of council tax to be levied in their areas untrammelled by advice, guidance or instruction from the Government. Council tax capping should either be removed for police authorities or, at the very least, decisions about its application should be made by the Secretary of State responsible for policing.

7.4 At the same time, the formula used for the allocation of central government grant for policing must be revised and put on a basis which is fairer to authorities which face disproportionate costs because of their location in the South East of England, or the present arrangements to protect such authorities from the consequences of the implementation of the current formula should be maintained indefinitely. We made this argument in response to Sir Ronnie Flanagan's report on the Independent Review of Policing and make it again now: the implementation of the formula would cost Sussex £8m pa and the Authority remains viable only as the result of the continuation of the present protection.

7.5 So far as the funding of CDRPs is concerned, they currently draw their funding from a range of sources including central government (through the Safer Communities fund and the BCU fund) and local partners, particularly local government. Any changes to the funding arrangements need to ensure that local partners are not as a result discouraged from contributing to the work of CDRPs.

Q. How might the Councillor Calls for Action be best used to implement the broader changes to local accountability arrangements for policing?

8.1 The effective implementation of neighbourhood policing across Sussex should make 'calls for action' irrelevant, as local policing responds to locally set priorities as a matter of course. The Government has agreed to align the previously separate versions of Call for Action policies (the Home Office and the Communities and Local Government versions) so that Section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006 which set up the "Community Call for Action", will be amended leaving us with the more simple "Councillor Call for Action" (CCfA) in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act (see also section 126 of the Act) after pressure from local authorities. This is clearly something that has been

felt strongly, potentially from a frustration, by local councillors but does not necessarily carry across into the community safety and policing realm. Hence 'Calls for Action' would need to address a collective failure to act rather than to the police alone. There are already a myriad of pathways for concerns to be raised at the most local levels, including street briefings and neighbourhood meetings. This further pathway may lead to unchecked skewing of priorities.

Chapter 2 - Professionalising and freeing up the police: Reducing bureaucracy and developing technologies.

Q. How can we best involve frontline officers and staff in designing more effective and less bureaucratic processes?

9.1 We welcome the declared ambition of the Government "to step away from centralised performance management, and set only one top down national target for police forces – to deliver improved levels of public confidence" (Foreword by the Home Secretary, page 3 of the Green Paper) and we contrast this with the proposal in the Green Paper to create a "Policing Pledge", which seeks to impose the sort of top-down targets which are supposed to be reduced. This paradox starkly symbolises the dilemma in which governments find themselves: a theoretical attachment to notions of subsidiarity and localism, seemingly inevitably defeated by a desire to micro-manage and to accept responsibility for everything that happens, anywhere in England and Wales. Consequently there remains a high level of professional scepticism within the police service that promises to reduce centralised targets will always be rhetoric.

9.2 As we said in our evidence to Sir Ronnie Flanagan, what is needed is a fundamental reassessment of the roles of all the partners in the policing service and the ways in which they relate to each other. **What we seek is evidence of the determination of governments to move away from targetry to a relationship of confidence and trust between partners.** We see little evidence in this Green Paper of a genuine determination to make progress on these lines, or of a clearly defined path to enable us to get there. Only when this has been clarified can we begin to engage in a genuine discussion about how local empowerment at force, division, district and neighbourhood level can be delivered. It is for the Home Secretary to take the initiative with partners nationally to agree a revised constitutional framework.

Q. How can we ensure that new forms of bureaucracy do not replace those that we are committed to reducing?

10.1 It is a truism that hard cases make bad laws. The police service has consistently responded to the most extreme and unusual cases (Soham, Lawrence) and sought to introduce rules and guidance to prevent these unique cases occurring again. This has resulted in a culture which is too risk averse, with the apparent need to record every single action and associated justifications in order to respond at a future inquiry. The recommendations of Sir Michael Bichard's report on the management of

police information were universally accepted because of concern that such an event "must never happen again". However, many of the recommendations were creators of bureaucracy and, in the current financial climate, unaffordable as the recent CRISP experience demonstrated.

10.2 Significant areas where bureaucracy in policing might be reduced include:

- National Crime Recording Standards (NCRS): In an effort to ensure that there is totally consistent crime and incident recording nationwide, a system has been created which leads to the substantial recording of minor matters and affects officers' ability to use discretion.
- Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA): The bureaucracy involved in RIPA applications could undoubtedly be reduced.
- The National Intelligence Model (NIM): The model works effectively at a tactical level. The benefits at a strategic level are less obvious in terms of outcomes. There has been a huge increase in the number of analysts and researchers employed in all police forces. A considerable amount of their time is spent drafting submissions to regional and national bodies. The value of the product then received back seems limited in comparison with the resource spent in completing it. Many national problem profiles and strategic NIM documents are little more than a compilation of what individual forces have reported.
- The whole performance regime produces a bureaucracy of its own. A change of emphasis from sanction detections and offences brought to justice (with their associated perverse incentives) to measuring overall community satisfaction will bring some opportunities to reduce this bureaucracy.
- Operation QUEST in Sussex has provided many benefits to the service and offers a structured methodology that can be used to enhance business processes and reduce bureaucracy. It would be beneficial if this approach could be mainstreamed across partner agencies to provide focus and avoid duplication.

10.3 We are supportive of the more effective use of IT and fully recognise the benefits for increased public contact that can come from successful mobile working solutions. However, the paper implies a move to the standardisation of all police IT services, as opposed to compatibility, and the record of government procurement of major national computer systems is not good. Being forced into a single supplier situation is not good for anyone other than the supplier, with the risk over time of becoming complacent and expensive since the monopoly situation they enjoy stifles innovation by other suppliers. If, on the other hand, what is implied is common standards or common specifications for police systems, that would have welcome benefits.

10.4 The reality may simply be additional IT costs for little benefit. For example, we have been surprised by the advice that users of the national case and custody IT systems now face significant rises in their running costs in 2009-10 and 2010-11. The projected increase in costs in 2010-11 is equivalent to a near 1% increase in the police precept in Sussex. Any improved operational benefit is negligible. This represents a very poor precedent for improving the effectiveness of police IT.

Q: How best, together, can we tackle the risk aversion that Sir Ronnie Flanagan identified?

11.1 The President of ACPO has highlighted how much bureaucracy is generated by the culture of risk aversion. Recording everything because of the perceived need to justify actions at a later date has probably gone too far. The burden of disclosure on the police service and prosecution in criminal cases remains huge and is getting bigger as the result of influences beyond the control of the police (for example, the proliferation of CCTV, cyber crime). We welcome the decision to cease the use of Stop and Account forms and to replace them with apparently more efficient means to measure proportionality.

11.2 Some IT solutions have added to the bureaucratic burden placed on frontline officers rather than assisting them. Mobile IT solutions have the potential, when linked to business re-engineering, to change this and to bring real value to policing. However, such programmes are expensive, time consuming and require expertise to implement them effectively. Recent initiatives by the NPIA in this area have been encouraging but have been initiative driven rather than building towards a long term vision.

11.3 The need to reduce bureaucracy is intrinsically linked to the workforce modernisation programme: not only must we establish how to eliminate the processes that generate bureaucracy for officers and staff but also a closer examination is needed of the costs and benefits of using back office staff to complete bureaucratic but often necessary tasks on behalf of frontline staff. Finally, there needs to be more openness with the public about the amount of time frontline staff are currently spending completing bureaucratic tasks. Open discussion about priorities with local communities will inevitably lead to a refocusing of resources away from bureaucracy.

Chapter 3 : Defining roles and leadership in the police service

Q. The NPIA will consult on how we can ensure that constables gain a wide professional understanding of their force's work through their initial training and deployment, and their subsequent development, balancing this requirement practically with the need to provide Constables with the specialist skills to enable them to deliver professionally in the complex environment of 21st Century policing.

12.1 Sussex currently seeks to give student officers a broad understanding of the service as a whole and the specialisms within it. Sussex is already

engaged in consultation with the NPIA on the development of the IPLDP, and will be happy to contribute to this further.

Q. The NPIA will consult on how best to ensure that all new Police Constables are trained in providing the best quality service to the public.

13.1 We are encouraged by the success of the officer training arrangements which have been established in Sussex and which enable student officers to be attached to police stations in their local communities, while pursuing academic studies at local universities. This has helped to emphasise the commitment of Sussex Police to neighbourhood policing and attracts into the police service candidates for whom the previous requirement to attend lengthy residential courses would have been a disincentive. Student officers are also given the opportunity to have a two week community placement (e.g. local elderly services, charities and businesses) to learn about and interact with the wider community. Another positive feature of our training arrangements here is the involvement of magistrate members of the Police Authority in courtroom training sessions with student officers.

**Q. Regarding Chief Officer appointments, the Government would be grateful for view on:
How can we best change the operation of the Senior Appointments Panel (SAP) to make it more proactive in succession planning, with greater strategic input into leadership development?**

14.1 The responsibility of police authorities for the appointment, discipline and, where necessary, dismissal of Chief Officers is a core responsibility and is crucial to the successful performance of their role. While we support the need for SAP to be more proactive in succession planning and appointments, with greater strategic input into leadership development, this must not be at the expense of the freedom of police authorities to make the appointments they consider right for their circumstances. We would welcome the opportunity to consider even more good candidates for appointment as chief officers in Sussex, but the role of SAP should be to widen our choice, and not to narrow it by purporting to suggest a more limited range of candidates for consideration by the Authority. Sussex has repeatedly demonstrated how a talented and ambitious chief officer can be attracted by the prospect of working with an energetic and determined Authority to enhance Force performance, morale and public confidence.

Q. How should a scrutiny gateway for the renewal of fixed term appointments work?

15.1 In Sussex our experience has shown that a far greater problem is retaining chief officers following promotion. Any revised arrangements relating to the renewal of contracts ought to ensure that the power of decision remains with the police authority, presumably advised by HMIC

and, where appropriate, the chief constable, although this may be a matter for national negotiation.

15.2 The service has often battled with the challenge of bringing talented leadership to the highest levels in realistic time scales. This has often generated discussion around 'direct entry'. The decision to apply for DCC and above at an early stage in service is clouded by concerns around job security and pension.

Q. What is needed to recognise that it can be right for chief officers to leave a force before the expiration of their contract because that is the best way forward for the individual or the organisation?

16.1 This is a matter for national negotiation.

Q. How can we establish better succession planning mechanisms, including in poor performing forces?

17.1 Better succession planning mechanisms should be prescribed by national guidance, which is informed by discussions with all the agencies involved as supported by the relevant staff associations.

Q. The proposed approach to Regulations 11's provisions on serving in another force before becoming a chief constable?

18.1 The present arrangement, whereby the requirement that an officer must have served in another force can be waived in exceptional circumstances, is fair and reasonable, and should be maintained.

Chapter 4: Focusing on development and deployment

Q. The Government would be grateful for initial views on its outline three-year equality, diversity and human rights strategy for the police service?

19.1 The Authority and Sussex Police share the Home Office's vision of a police service that has the trust and confidence of all communities and a service that reflects the communities it serves. The equality, diversity and human rights strategy should provide a singular opportunity to knit the Citizen Focus, Confidence, Customer Service, Community Engagement, Leadership and Talent Management agendas into a cohesive approach to improve *what* we do and *how* we do it in a meaningful and transparent way.

19.2 The prospect of an Equality Standard that officers and staff can understand – and that reassures the public and different communities that the police service is fair, effective and responsive – is to be welcomed. It also offers opportunities to incorporate work to promote the Government's strategic vision for the Criminal Justice System (CJS) being developed through the Delivery Boards for PSA 23 and 24. However, it is important that any Equality Standard that is introduced does not of itself

impose yet another bureaucratic burden on the police. The opportunity should be taken to revisit the whole area of equality and to reassess how the desired outcomes can be achieved without complicated paperwork. Sussex Police has only recently merged and enhanced its equality schemes into a Single Equality Scheme. This was a valuable exercise but it did consume much time and energy.

19.3 The review of the national Diversity Staff Support Associations (DSSAs) has been long anticipated and must serve to clarify their role within the workplace. Its successful conclusion is important if the service is to inspire public confidence as a modern, inclusive employer. The forthcoming Single Equality Bill, and the current Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) inquiry into how human rights work in Britain, must be seen as signals for the new strategy to look ahead to the future, rather than revisit the past.

Q. The Government would be grateful for views on what impact (positive, negative or none) will the Green Paper have on communities, police officers and staff from diverse backgrounds?

20.1 The Green Paper articulates a vision of partnership that connects the police with the public. This must be positive, but we must recognise that not all communities are starting at the same point in their relationship with the police. Trust and confidence remains low in some quarters: for example, the perception held by disability groups of the police approach to hate crime. We recognise that we still have work to do in the area of the Equality Impact Assessment, we have already provided training for some key staff and further training is planned. Deploying this tool far more widely would engender greater engagement, grow the partnership culture and deliver services that meet local needs more effectively.

20.2 The prospect of local workforce representation targets is supported, albeit any recruitment targets must use local census data as a minimum level of attainment to avoid weakening our aim of workforce that reflects the community it serves. Other targets should drive workplace innovation, reassuring the existing workforce, potential recruits and the wider community that everyone has opportunities to develop, the chance to progress and access to the support they need.

20.3 We are concerned that any reduction in the number of independent members on police authorities, or any change in the present balance between independent and elected members, is likely to impact adversely on the ability of the membership of authorities to reflect the communities they serve, the proportion of female and BME members being significantly higher amongst independent members than it is amongst elected members.

20.4 Although we are not invited to comment on other issues discussed in this chapter, we would like to record our support for workforce modernisation, which has recently been formally endorsed by the Authority, on the advice of the Chief Constable. We have committed ourselves to the importance of the number of people engaged in frontline

policing as the key performance indicator for the future, rather than simple police officer numbers, and wish to ensure that tasks are dealt with by the people best placed to tackle them, regardless of whether they are officers, PCSOs or staff: what matters is what is done and how it is done, not who does it. We welcome the encouragement given to this approach in the Green Paper and wish to play our part in this important national development.

Chapter 5 – Strategic role for government: Co-ordinating change in policing.

Q: Are our proposals for strengthening the National Policing Board and encouraging collective action on the small number of national issues that demand national attention right?

21.1 Yes. We agreed with Sir Ronnie Flanagan’s conclusion that it was time all the national bodies with an interest in policing started working together effectively and that the police service defined, and then dealt with, those issues which need to be sorted out nationally. While the Green Paper refers to Government using its powers of mandation where there is a consensus (or a “compelling case” where there is not), it is silent on the sorts of areas where the Government envisages potentially to take direct action except for protective services, IT and procurement. Our earlier comments about subsidiarity and our recent experience of the national IT system for case and custody apply here. In procurement, there have been many successful examples of collaborative arrangements with police and other partners that continue to deliver efficiency savings and operational benefits. Any case for mandation should be reflected in meeting agreed common standards or specifications, rather than short term initiatives.

Q: Using the principles we have outlined, what issues should be decided at the national, regional and local level, and who should have responsibility for taking those decisions?

22.1 The principle of subsidiarity should apply, namely that everything should be decided at local, authority and force level, unless there are good reasons why it should be dealt with elsewhere. Some elements of the present structure, including the involvement of regional government offices, should be clarified. The Home Office should confine itself to issues which genuinely relate to national standards and learn to accept that the model inevitably means that local variation is not only to be tolerated, but to be encouraged. There are areas that need clear national direction such as IT provision, some aspects of procurement and police leadership. The Home Office should not be afraid to provide it. However, it must accept that ministers are not, and should not be, responsible for every aspect of local police decision-making and practice throughout England and Wales. They should deal with questions and criticism on this basis.

Q: In what areas of policing should we give greater freedoms to frontline practitioners to enable them to deliver on local priorities and on seriousness in the most effective way?

23.1 National moves to reduce the data recorded for 'Stop & Account' and some crime, along with the refining of detection rate targets, are obvious areas. There are many others: for example discretion can only ever be fully utilised in an engagement between individuals without third party scrutiny, and requires an investment in training for the individual representing society who is so empowered, and above all, trust in the exercise of such judgement. Whilst there are levels where discretion can be capped, dependent on the seriousness of an offence, full discretion means a complete absence of performance targets and accountability in that regard. In Sussex, police officers and staff have been inspired by our new Chief Constable, Martin Richards QPM, who has been prominent in emphasising the need for quality as well as quantity, and a move away from the current performance culture.

23.2 For the growth of emotional intelligence in applying that principle, there needs to be a culture of openness and honesty so that supervision and development can be active and measured. This would be difficult to envision in a blame culture, but the much anticipated introduction of the new Performance and Conduct Regulations for Police Officers would present a timely opportunity for the reversal of that trend.

Chapter 6: Reinforcing collaboration between forces

24.1 Although we are not asked to do so, we propose to comment on the content of the Green Paper dealing generally with collaboration. Sussex opposed the previous Home Secretary's proposals for merging county forces into larger, regional units and we committed ourselves to dealing with the issue of the protective services gap, identified by HMIC. This we have now done, partly as the result of additional, independent investment of some £4m pa in protective services uplift in Sussex and partly in collaboration with other police authorities and forces. As a result, HMIC have written to the Chief Constable confirming that we have no significant developmental needs in serious and organised crime and that we meet the standards for major crime.

24.2 In addition, we have recently received welcome confirmation from the judiciary that our work here is on the right lines, with His Honour Judge Rennie stating in a recent judgment in a serious criminal case heard at Lewes Crown Court that

"this was, on any view, a swift, thorough and highly professional police investigation. One aspect is worthy of particular mention. It is the cross-county and the cross-force cooperation between the Sussex Constabulary and the Thames Valley Constabulary. Cooperation of this sort is to be welcomed and encouraged. It makes it much more likely, in many cases, that perpetrators of crime are brought to justice swiftly, on the best possible evidence"

24.3 We are rising to the challenges identified in "Closing the Gap" in a variety of ways such as our uplift in Protective Services, Hi Tech Crime investigation and alignment to minimum standards. There is no justification for re-opening the mergers debate, which should now be regarded as firmly closed. The legal framework for collaboration seems broadly adequate, but if the police service identifies areas where the law might usefully be clarified, the Home Office should respond with new legislation.

The Green Paper poses a serious of related questions about possible changes in border policing.

Q. What more can be done to build upon present policing arrangements to improve the security of our borders?

25.1 This is of particular interest to Sussex, as a coastal county and the home of the country's second busiest airport at Gatwick. Given the challenges posed to the UK from terrorism, the importance of constantly reviewing how we keep our borders safe and secure remains a top priority for the police service and partner agencies. Our borders are therefore best protected by improving collaboration between the police and partners.

25.2 The Green Paper explores options to increase collaboration between agencies at borders, including the three main policing functions at ports: Special Branch, protective services and general policing. In Sussex, the Chief Constable has established a unified police command at Gatwick covering these three areas. Gatwick Division is a component of 'Operations Department' within Sussex Police which in turn delivers greater protective services capacity, particularly firearms assets. The police commander works closely with the other relevant agencies, including HM Borders Agency, but also the airport operator, the airlines and all those other organisations which make up the extensive and complicated airport community at Gatwick and whose work impacts, in varying ways, on the integrity of the national border.

25.3 The proposed Transport Security Bill to be introduced into Parliament this autumn will build upon the present policing arrangements to improve security at our borders. It requires airports to agree a local airport security plan with their key stakeholders. This process will improve inter-agency co-operation in establishing airport security arrangements, with greater clarity of roles and responsibilities, and introduce a systematic and regular assessment of how threats to an airport are being mitigated. The airport security plan will be a statutory document, ensuring that agencies understand what their shared priorities are and allocate resources to mitigate the threat.

25.4 The building blocks are therefore in place to secure our borders without the substantial investment and enormous structural changes inevitably needed to establish a separate border police force.

25.5 For these reasons, we urge the Home Office not to proceed with the proposal to establish a national border police force, but to rely on the

measures contained in the forthcoming Transport Security Bill to provide the desired benefits.

Q. How far should links with local forces and local accountability be preserved? Any border policing agency independent of local forces would require a police authority-like structure to scrutinize its activities?

26.1 Links with the local forces and the local community is a crucial element of keeping the public safe whether at a border or elsewhere. Neighbourhood policing teams operate very effectively in and around our airports, ports and borders engaging with local communities and gathering valuable community intelligence that contributes to our overall security. Officers and staff at Gatwick are drawn entirely from Sussex Police ensuring that they have a wide breadth of knowledge and experience that goes beyond what could be gained working solely in an airport environment. The turnover of staff to neighbouring divisions and departments ensures officers maintain and refresh their policing skills. Local accountability with operational responsibility remaining with the local chief constable is, in our view, vital in keeping our borders safe and secure.

26.2 The creation of a border policing agency will inevitably raise complications over jurisdiction with forces. It is likely to face even greater challenges from the devolved government in Scotland. Equally, as highlighted in the ACPO 'Next Steps' paper, this agency could not operate in isolation and recommends the introduction of Service Level Agreements with local forces. The ACPO paper also suggests that a border police agency (NBPS) would minimise the need to use local police resources for 'border related matters' and reduce the need to divert staff from delivering neighbourhood policing.

26.3 Neighbourhood policing clearly does not stop at or around our borders. Indeed it is the foundation upon which policing at Gatwick Airport, for example, is delivered. This is reinforced by maintaining important links with neighbourhood policing teams on nearby divisions both in Sussex and beyond.

26.4 A border policing agency would require separate and distinct governance arrangements to preserve the operational independence of the police. This would require the creation of an executive board/police authority and, in all likelihood, a dedicated chief constable.

26.5 For these reasons, we urge the Home Office not to proceed with the proposal to establish a national border police force, but to rely on the measures contained in the forthcoming Transport Security Bill to provide the desired benefits, without incurring the costs.

Q. What are the operational benefits and risks of creating a national police border force as proposed by ACPO?

27.1 The benefits proposed by ACPO focus on the need to simplify the

complexities of coordinating resources across a number of forces in order to maximise public safety. They include greater consistency in delivering protective security, flexibility in response to specific national demands and maximising intelligence opportunities.

27.2 One of the key risks is funding. The ACPO paper makes the assumption that any budget allocation committed by forces to ports together with central funding (DSP grant) would form the core funding for a National Border Police Service (NBPS). It also makes mention of customer levies and sensibly states the government may be reluctant to introduce it given issues associated with personal taxation and the economic downturn. The aviation industry would argue against it too. In addition, the Boys-Smith independent review specifically discounted this option.

27.3 As the lessons from the abortive police force mergers debate of 2005/06 show, the challenges involved in bringing together large and complex organisations cannot be underestimated and must be carefully costed. Before proceeding with any degree of confidence, the funding streams that would lead to the creation of a joint agency would need detailed scrutiny and must be clearly understood from the outset. In addition, it will be necessary to carefully consider the risks associated with making major structural changes to our national infrastructure as we prepare for the London Olympics in 2012.

Q. Are there any variations to that national policing model that could offer greater operational benefits than those currently being delivered under the present arrangements?

28.1 The Transport Security Bill will introduce new arrangements for airport security and implements many of the recommendations following the 2006 Independent Review of Airport Policing. This Bill is important as it will require airports (a small amendment would be required to include all ports) to agree a local airport security plan (ASP) with key stakeholders, based upon an agreed threat and 'risk' analysis. In short, the Bill could deliver precisely what is being asked for – greater collaboration and coordination at our borders.

28.2 It is worth noting that the ACPO paper and Lord Stevens' report do not make reference to the Transport Security Bill given that they seek greater collaboration at our borders. The importance of stakeholders collaborating closely in the interests of greater security is not new and was first acknowledged by the Boys-Smith review in 2006. Key elements of the Bill have been drafted in response to his recommendations which coincidentally did not support a single border agency or versions thereof.

Q. What would be the main costs? Proposals for changing present structures would need to be both affordable and cost effective.

29.1 Both the ACPO paper and Lord Stevens' proposals (single border agency) acknowledge that creating a National Border Police Service, or similar, will be challenging and complex. Indeed Lord Stevens states that, 'substantial investment' will be needed both initially and year on year to

ensure that a border police service (including the UKBA) has the vital technology to meet existing and emerging threats.

29.2 As referred to in answers above, the lessons from the abortive police force mergers debate of 2005/06 show that the challenges involved in bringing together large and complex organisations cannot be underestimated and must be carefully costed. Before proceeding with any degree of confidence, the funding streams that would lead to the creation of a joint agency would need detailed scrutiny and must be clearly understood from the outset.

Q. Will structural reform be required? The scope and timing of changes to police structures may be dependent upon new legislation. Some would require constitutional changes to the police service, others *just changes to working practices*.

30.1 The extent of structural reform will depend upon whether a border police service is introduced or a single border agency that combines the UKBA with the police. Both the ACPO 'Next Steps' paper and Lord Stevens' report acknowledge that their proposals would require significant structural reform and new legislation. The creation of a single agency (police and UKBA) is likely to require an Act of Parliament similar to that required for the creation of the Serious and Organised Crime agency.

30.2 It seems certain therefore that substantial structural and constitutional reform will be required to deliver a border police service/agency. As previously stated, the way forward could be to combine police resources at ports under a single police command, leaving operational responsibility with local chief constables and seizing on the opportunities presented in the Transport Security Bill. Collectively this will deliver the much sought after collaboration articulated in the above reports, underpinned in law, and achieved at nil cost.

Chapter 7: Improving performance in policing.

31.1 No consultation questions are posed in this section, but we wish to make three comments.

31.2 Firstly, we applaud the expressed intention of the Home Office to refocus its role on strategic issues and look forward to seeing evidence of this being translated into reality.

31.3 Secondly, we see no justification for the Home Secretary taking additional powers "to address persistent under performance (including poor resource management) by a police authority and the power to remove police authority chairmen and chief executives". This would amount to a serious rebalancing of the tripartite relationship in favour of the Home Secretary and, as such, should be resisted by police authorities.

31.4 Finally we have reservations about the overhead involved in the joint inspections by the HMIC and Audit Commission of authorities' and forces'

capability to secure better value for money. This seems a change of approach from the Government's position earlier in the year when the Police Minister wrote to authorities and forces about significant changes to reduce bureaucracy in efficiency planning and reporting. Given the existing inspection arrangements, including the Use of Resources evaluations, we are unclear as to how the Green Paper's proposals will add value.

Conclusion

- 32.1** The Green Paper holds no fears for Sussex, and this response demonstrates that we are already delivering many of its ambitions. Our neighbourhood policing teams are already engaging and empowering their local communities. The complexities of border policing, collaboration and national IT systems mean proposals in these areas will need to be developed carefully to ensure they add value.
- 32.2** We have significant concerns about the proposals in the Green Paper relating to local accountability and the way in which police authority members are appointed. We hope that the comments contained in this paper will enable the Government to amend its proposals, particularly in the local accountability area, in advance of the publication of any proposed legislation.

John Godfrey, Chief Executive

Martin Richards QPM, Chief Constable

SUSSEX POLICE AUTHORITY

Minutes of a meeting of the Sussex Police Authority held on Thursday, 31 July 2008 at County Hall, Lewes.

Present:

Mr L Barnard (Chairman), Mr P Bratton, Prof G Bull, 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.

CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

35. The Chairman welcomed Mr Gordon Marples, Leader of Mid Sussex District Council, Mr John Jory, Chief Executive of Mid Sussex District Council, Mrs Pam Doodes, Leader of Wealden District Council, Mr Charlie Lant, Chief Executive of Wealden District Council, and Miss Margaret Hulmes, external adviser to the independent member appointment process.
36. The Chairman also welcomed Supt Jane Rhodes representing the Superintendents' Association and Inspector Ivor Fabb, representing the Police Federation.

DR SUE ILES-JONAS JP

37. The Chairman presented a certificate of meritorious service to Dr Sue Iles-Jonas JP who was attending her last meeting of the full Police Authority before her term of office ended on 30 September 2008. The Chairman referred to the major contribution which Dr Iles-Jonas had made to the policing of Sussex since her appointment as a magistrate member of the Police Authority in 2004 with particular reference to her work as the lead member for Criminal Justice. The Police Authority wished Dr Iles-Jonas all good wishes for the future.

MR MARTIN RICHARDS QPM

38. The Police Authority congratulated the Chief Constable Mr Martin Richards on being awarded the Queen's Police Medal in HM The Queen's Birthday Honours List.

DR JOHN GODFREY

39. The Authority also congratulated the Chief Executive Dr John Godfrey on his being appointed an assessor at the Senior Police

National Assessment Centre, which selects senior officers to take part in the Strategic Command Course.

DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL INTERESTS

40. No disclosures of personal interest were made.

MINUTES

41. **Resolved** – that the minutes of the last meeting of the Police Authority held on 12 June 2008 be confirmed.

REPORTS

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

POLICING GREEN PAPER

43. The Police Authority considered a report by the Chief Executive, Chief Constable and Treasurer.
44. The Chief Executive reported the publication of the Government's Green Paper "From the Neighbourhood to the National Policing of our communities together" which made a number of proposals for changing the way in which policing in England and Wales was currently governed and managed. The Green Paper proposed fundamental changes in the composition of police authorities and a strengthening of their responsibilities in a number of areas. It also made proposals about aspects of present policing practice and the relationship between the tripartite partners (the Home Secretary, police authorities and chief constables). It was pointed out that the timing of the consultation meant that the response would be needed before the next meeting of the Authority on 23 October 2008. Each member of the Police Authority commented briefly on their initial thoughts in respect of the contents of the Green Paper. It was strongly felt that elements of the proposals within the Green Paper would create fundamental risks that could undermine some of the critical features of the present system which had enabled the police service to deliver reductions in crime. Members were asked to submit any further comments on the Green Paper to the Chief Executive and these would be taken into account when preparing the response to the Government.
45. **Resolved** – that
- (1) the Chief Executive, Chief Constable and Treasurer be asked to prepare a joint response to the Green Paper on behalf of the Police Authority and Sussex Police, and
 - (2) the Chairman and Vice-Chairman be authorised to agree the final response to the Government following consultation with all members of the Authority.

POLICING AND RESOURCE PLANNING 2009 TO 2012

46. The Police Authority considered a report by the Chief Executive, Chief Constable and Treasurer.
47. The report outlined the priorities for the proposed policing and resource planning process for the next three years. The planning process would aim to ensure that the Local Policing Plan and Budget proposals were substantially complete by late November 2008. The Police Authority welcomed the planning framework which would help to enable Sussex police to continue to deliver a high level of performance over the next three year cycle. It was pointed out that the existing high level of performance had been supported by a record of delivering efficiency gains, despite Sussex receiving comparatively low grant funding and one of the lowest levels of precept for policing in shire counties.
48. The Chief Executive drew attention to the report of the Planning and Performance Steering Group which had given detailed consideration of the proposed planning process for the three year period to March 2012, and to the recommendations at paragraph 3.4 on page 54 of the agenda papers.
49. **Resolved** – that
- (1) the approach to policing and resource planning to 2012 and the timetable set out in the report at agenda item 6 be approved;
 - (2) the financial assumptions in section 3 of the report be noted; and
 - (3) the proposal that frontline staff should be seen in future as a measure of workforce strength instead of solely police officer establishment, be approved.

REPORT ON BUDGET MONITORING TO 31 JUNE 2008

50. The Police Authority considered a report by the Chief Constable, the Treasurer and the Chief Executive.
51. The report outlined the Authority's financial position to the end of June 2008 including comparisons of actual expenditure, committed expenditure and income with the 2008-09 revenue and capital budgets. Members were also informed of the latest financial performance by expenditure type, department and division, including the latest position on police officer pensions. The report outlined the latest position of spending against the Home Office grant for Basic Command Units, and gave details of budget transfers, specific grants received, reserve changes and movements and the latest debtor position.
52. **Resolved** - that

- (1) the latest position on the revenue and capital budgets for 2008-09, and the position on outstanding debts and budget transfers be noted;
- (2) the revised capital budget set out in Section 4 and Appendix F be approved; and
- (3) the amendments and transfers to and from reserves as set out in Section 7 be approved.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND IMMIGRATION ACT 2008

53. The Police Authority considered a report by the Chief Executive and Treasurer.
54. The attention of members was drawn to the new provisions which were contained in the Act regarding the inspection of police authorities. The details regarding inspection arrangements were currently being developed in consultation between the Association of Police Authorities and the Home Office, and a pilot programme of inspections would take place over the Autumn.
55. The Chief Executive indicated that he proposed to establish a small working group with members to prepare for and oversee the introduction of the inspection regime.
56. **Resolved** – that
 - (1) the report be noted; and
 - (2) Mr P Bratton, Prof G Bull and Mr B Tidy be appointed to the working group.

BICHARD REPORT UPDATE

57. The Police Authority considered a report by the Chief Executive, Chief Constable and Treasurer.
58. The report outlined the background to the steps taken by the Police Authority and Sussex Police following the publication of the Bichard Report concerning the management of information. The Police Authority's attention was drawn to the areas which had been identified jointly by the Police Authority and Sussex Police Group as needing continuing review. In particular reference was made to the progress of the IMPACT programme, both nationally and locally, and concerns relating to the delays in the transfer to the courts of the responsibility for inputting details of convictions onto the Police National Computer (PNC). It was noted Sussex had established an in-force IMPACT Programme Board which was chaired by an Assistant Chief Constable on which the Authority was represented by Prof G Bull the Lead Member for IS.

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

SOUTH-EAST REGION COLLABORATION

60. The Police Authority considered a report by the Chief Constable, Chief Executive and Treasurer.
61. The report highlighted the considerable amount of work which was being undertaken by all five forces in the South East Region to achieve greater collaboration. The Police Authority was engaged fully in discussions regarding the development of improved, cost-effective integrated protective services for the South East region. The individual Lead members regarding the various business areas under discussion were being briefed and consulted where necessary.
62. **Resolved** – that the Authority and Sussex Police continue to seek collaborative solutions in the region and press for innovation on shared service delivery wherever possible.

CHIEF CONSTABLE'S UPDATE REPORT

63. The Police Authority considered a report by the Chief Constable.
64. The Police Authority thanked the Chief Constable for his comprehensive report which highlighted a number of very successful operations which had been carried out in Sussex together with an overview of the work of Sussex Police across the County.
65. **Resolved** – that the report be noted.

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT CUSTODY VISITING COMMITTEE

66. The Police Authority considered the report of the Independent Custody Visiting Committee's meeting held on 19 June 2008.
67. **Resolved** – that the report be noted.

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

68. The Police Authority considered the report of the Corporate Governance Committee's meeting held on 26 June 2008.
69. The Police Authority discussed the draft financial statements for 2007-08 and expressed concerns about the enhanced assurance requirements being placed on them by the District Auditor. Members were particularly concerned regarding how they could respond to questions raised in the external audit progress report. The Police Authority felt that the questions asked by the District Auditor were almost impossible for a lay person to be able to answer without heavy reliance on the advice received from officers, and the internal audit. The Police Authority was entitled to place reliance on the work the auditors to highlight any material misstatements in respect of the Police Authority's financial arrangements. The Police Authority also commented on the year end surplus achieved by the Audit Commission in its annual accounts and questioned whether the surplus had been taken into account when setting the increased fee levels for 2008-09, and which had resulted in higher fees than were necessary.
70. **Resolved** – that (1) the report be noted; and (2) the Chairman be asked to write to the Audit Commission regarding the comments contained in minute 69.

REPORT OF THE PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE STEERING GROUP

71. The Police Authority considered a report of the Planning and Performance Steering Group's meeting held on 11 July 2008.
72. **Resolved** – that the report be noted.

REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STEERING GROUP

73. The Police Authority considered the report of the Community Engagement Steering Group's meeting held on 10 July 2008.
74. The Police Authority welcomed the first indications that the new community engagement strategy the Police Authority was beginning to access a wider cross section of the communities in Sussex. Attendance at the South of England Show had enabled the Authority to engage with approximately 424 Sussex residents over the three day event. The Police Authority had also attended Brighton Pride on the 2 August 2008. The report drew members' attention to the Stakeholders Conference which the Authority would be hosting on 21 November 2008. Representatives from local authorities and other agencies would be invited to attend.
75. **Resolved** – that the report be noted.

REPORT OF THE PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE

76. The Police Authority considered the report of the Complaints Committee's meeting held on 16 July 2008.

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

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

78. **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.

79. The Police Authority considered exempt reports on the appointment of independent members of the Police Authority and the appointment of an independent member of the Standards Committee, and an urgent exempt item regarding the Custodial Services Agreement.

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 11 September 2008.

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

Councillor Marsh was welcomed as a new Fire Authority Member from the City of Brighton & Hove.

250. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 250.1 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.

251. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 252.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs Healy.

252. URGENT ITEMS AND CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

- 252.1 The Chairman informed Members that Councillor Kemble, the Vice-Chairman, would be undertaking a sponsored cycle ride in aid of the Firefighters' Charity between 14 of the fire stations in East Sussex and the City of Brighton & Hove. This would start from Hove on Wednesday 17 September and finish there on Saturday 20 September, and Members were encouraged to give Councillor Kemble as much support as possible.

253. TO CONSIDER PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS, IF ANY

- 253.1 There were none.

254. MINUTES

- 254.1 **RESOLVED** – That the non-confidential Minutes of the meeting held on 5 June 2008 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

255. **CALLOVER**

255.1 Members reserved the following items for debate:

- 256. Notes of the Policy & Resources, Scrutiny & Audit and Standards Panel meetings held since the last meeting of the Fire Authority
- 257. Regional Management Board Issues including the minutes of the meeting held on 9 July 2008
- 258. South East Fire & Rescue Control Centre Limited
- 259. Draft 2009/10 Strategic Plan preparations
- 260. Draft 2009/10 – 2011/12 Integrated Risk Management Plan – public consultation version
- 261. Equality & Diversity Standard for Local Government
- 262. 2007/08 Performance Outcome
- 263. Progress Review of False Alarms from Automatic Fire Detection Systems 2007/08
- 264. Carbon Trust Survey of East Sussex Fire Authority Premises
- 267. Fire Authority Quarterly Report

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

256. **NOTE OF THE POLICY & RESOURCES, SCRUTINY & AUDIT AND STANDARDS PANEL MEETINGS HELD SINCE THE LAST MEETING OF THE FIRE AUTHORITY**

256.1 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).

256.2 **RESOLVED** – That the Fire Authority:

- a) note the report; and

Scrutiny & Audit Panel (25 June 2008)

- b) determine that capital payments totalling £4.201m be financed as shown in paragraph 2.3ii of the report;

Policy & Resources Panel (4 September 2008)

- c) approve the draft public consultation version of the 2009/12 Integrated Risk Management Plan as amended (see also item 260 below);

Standards Panel (10 July 2008)

- d) approve the amendment of the constitution to record that a quorum of the Standards Panel should be at least two Members of the Fire Authority and one independent person;
- e) formally acknowledge that Members serving on the Standards Panel are not subject to the party whip in relation to any decisions of the Panel or its sub committees;

Standards Panel (4 September 2008)

- f) note Members' request that the Assessment Review Panel carry out its review within a maximum of three months of receiving the request, in line with the Standards Board for England's guidance, rather than the 20 days suggested in the appendix – this could be reviewed at a later date in line with experience.

257. **REGIONAL MANAGEMENT BOARD ISSUES**

- 257.1 The Fire Authority considered the minutes of the meeting of the Regional Management Board (RMB) held on 9 July 2008. (Copy in Minute Book).
- 257.2 The Chairman reminded Members that they were welcome to attend meetings of the Board which took place at Surrey FRS HQ on a quarterly basis.
- 257.3 The Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive informed Members that an Away Day had taken place where the Business Case for the South East was discussed. It had been confirmed that the £1.48m savings identified for the South East would come to the region, although it was not yet known how this would be distributed within the region, or how out of scope work would be financed.
- 257.4 The Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive had met with Ministers and Shadow Ministers who had made it clear that, even with a possible change of government, it was now unlikely that the Regional Control Centre project would be cancelled.
- 257.5 **RESOLVED** – That the report be noted.

258. **SOUTH EAST FIRE AND RESCUE CONTROL CENTRE LIMITED**

- 258.1 The Fire Authority considered a report of the Vice-Chairman that informed Members of the meetings of the South East Fire & Rescue Control Centre Limited held on 20 June and 14 July 2008, a workshop held on 15 August and gave an oral update on the meeting of the company held on 5 September. (Copy in Minute Book).
- 258.2 The relationship between the SEFRCC, RMB and LGA had been considered and it had been agreed that the relationship between the RMB and LACC was that of customer and supplier. SEFRCC Ltd had considered an overview of the CLG's business case and proposals on how the RCC would meet those costs; several concerns had been discussed, particularly that the business case assumptions were unclear and based on regional rather than local information. Many of the concerns were for FRAs to take through the RMB as the LACC could only concentrate on LACC costs.
- 258.3 Members were concerned that ESFRS might not be able to send a substitute member if the Vice-Chairman was unavailable for a meeting of the SEFRCC, as they had not provided a named substitute. This was, apparently, required to enable security clearance to be obtained, but the Monitoring Officer is investigating whether this was necessary.
- 258.4 **RESOLVED** – That report be noted.

259. **DRAFT 2009/10 STRATEGIC PLAN PREPARATIONS**

259.1 The Fire Authority considered a report of the Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive that advised Members of the preparations in hand for the development of the draft 2009/10 Strategic Plan. (Copy in Minute Book).

259.2 The Policy & Resources Panel and the Fire Authority would consider further reports between November 2008 and January 2009 culminating in the precept setting meeting on 5 February 2009.

259.3 **RESOLVED** – That the preparations in hand for the development of the draft 2009/10 Strategic Plan over the forthcoming months, as previously agreed by the Policy & Resources Panel on 10 July 2008, be noted.

260. **DRAFT 2009/10 – 2011/12 INTEGRATED RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN (IRMP) – PUBLIC CONSULTATION VERSION**

260.1 The Fire Authority considered a report of the Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive that sought approval to the public consultation version of the draft 2009/10 – 2011/12 Integrated Risk Management Plan. (Copy in Minute Book).

260.2 Members were informed of the call-off contract which provides the Service with a translation and interpretation service on an 'as required' basis and Members asked that the IRMP include that the information is also available in Braille format.

260.3 **RESOLVED** – That the public consultation version of the draft 2009/10 – 2011/12 Integrated Risk Management Plan be approved.

261. **EQUALITY & DIVERSITY STANDARD FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

261.1 The Fire Authority considered a report of the Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive that set out progress on preparations to achieve Level 3 of the Equality Standard for Local Government. (Copy in Minute Book).

261.2 The Fire Authority aimed to achieve Level 3 by 31 March 2009, and a detailed action plan would be developed as the self-assessment in Levels 2 & 3 was undertaken. Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) workshops were scheduled for the Autumn to ensure that EIAs were integral to the risk management process.

261.3 The Chairman thanked Councillor Scott for his support as lead Member for Equalities & Diversity and ACO Rolph and her staff were complimented on the progress they were making in this field.

261.4 **RESOLVED** – That

- i) the progress made against the Standard and, in particular, against key areas for improvement, be noted; and
- ii) the revised terms of reference for the Equality & Fairness Steering Group be noted.

262. **2007/08 PERFORMANCE OUTCOME REPORT**

- 262.1 The Fire Authority considered a report of the Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive that presented the 2007/08 Performance results. (Copy in Minute Book).
- 262.2 The report highlighted the overall performance improvement and demonstrated that the Fire Authority was continuing to build upon achievements made in previous years.
- 262.3 **RESOLVED** – That the 2007/08 performance results be noted.

263. **PROGRESS REVIEW OF FALSE ALARMS FROM AUTOMATIC FIRE DETECTION SYSTEMS 2007/08**

- 263.1 The Fire Authority considered a report of the Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive that set out details of the annual 2007/08 performance results for false alarm calls from automatic fire detection (AFD) systems. (Copy in Minute Book).
- 263.2 It was noted that Table 3 of the report should have been for 2007/08 and not 2006/07 as shown.
- 263.3 In overall terms, the number of calls from AFDs had increased, and the level of unwanted signals from AFDs placed a significant burden on the service. One of the proposals within the 2009/10 to 2011/12 IRMP was to review the speed of attendances to calls, including those from AFDs which had not been corroborated by a confirmed report of fire.
- 263.4 Members also considered lobbying the government, via the LGA, to change legislation to enable FRAs to charge for attendance at false alarm calls from AFDs.
- 263.5 **RESOLVED** – That the following be noted:
- i) annual 2007/08 statistics for false alarm calls; and
 - ii) actions being taken to reduce the incidence of unwanted calls both within ESFRS and nationally.

264. **CARBON TRUST SURVEY OF EAST SUSSEX FIRE AUTHORITY PREMISES**

- 264.1 The Fire Authority considered a report of the Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive that set out the outcomes of a survey undertaken by the Carbon Trust into the energy consumption on ESFA properties. (Copy in Minute Book).
- 264.2 The survey had been carried out to ascertain the Authority's carbon footprint and to assess the potential for future financial savings on energy. It had identified that savings had been made since the earlier survey carried out in 2004, but that additional savings could be made with further investment. The Property Strategy Group was developing an action plan and further savings would be brought forward via the Policy & Resources Panel.

264.3 It was noted that it was a legal requirement to have display energy certificates in place by next year.

264.4 **RESOLVED** – That

- i) the Assessment of Energy Savings Opportunities Report ('The Report) compiled by the Carbon Trust, be noted;
- ii) it be noted that an Internal Action Plan will be developed based on the Report with regular monitoring reports to be provided to the Scrutiny & Audit Panel; and
- iii) the principle of investment to deliver savings in energy usage and costs over the medium to long term, be approved.

265. **MEMBERS' SEMINAR 11 JULY 2008**

265.1 The Fire Authority considered a report of the Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive that informed Members of the details of the Seminar held on 11 July 2008 and sought their approval of dates for future Members' Seminars. (Copy in Minute Book).

265.2 **RESOLVED** – That the report and dates of future Members' Seminars be noted: Fridays 24 October 2008, 13 March 2009, 10 July 2009 and 23 October 2009.

266. **PROGRESS UPDATE ON CURRENT FIRE AUTHORITY BUSINESS ISSUES**

266.1 The Fire Authority considered a report of the Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive that gave an update on business issues impacting upon the fire service generally and also those relating to the Authority specifically. (Copy in Minute Book).

266.2 Notably, Members were advised of the following appointments:
Shona Dunn as Director of Fire and Resilience
Peter John Field Esq DL as Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for East Sussex
Max Hood as County Fire Officer with West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service

266.3 **RESOLVED** – That the report be noted.

267. **FIRE AUTHORITY QUARTERLY REPORT (APRIL TO JUNE 2008)**

267.1 The Fire Authority considered a report of the Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive that considered the quarterly results for the period April to June 2008. (Copy in Minute Book).

267.2 The Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive drew Members' attention to the appointment of nine RDS staff and to the wide variety of work being undertaken in community safety – Councillor Carden had secured £100 from Brighton, Hove & Worthing Football Association for the Coaching in the Community project.

267.3 **RESOLVED** – That the report be noted.

268. **FIRE AUTHORITY AND PANEL MEETINGS**

268.1 The Fire Authority considered a report of the Clerk to the Fire Authority setting out dates for future meetings of the Authority and its Panels. It was noted that it was still not known whether local elections would be held on 4 June 2009 and, therefore, whether the Fire Authority could meet on that day.

268.2 **RESOLVED** – That the following dates be approved:

- 1) Fire Authority meetings be held on the following Thursdays, at 10.30 hours (unless otherwise stated) at East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service Headquarters, Eastbourne:

11 December 2008

15 January 2009 – special meeting to consider IRMP

05 February 2009

04 June 2009 – to be confirmed once election date known

10 September 2009

- 2) Panel meetings be held on the following Thursdays at East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service Headquarters, Eastbourne:

25 September 2008 Scrutiny & Audit

21 November 2008 Scrutiny & Audit, Policy & Resources, Standards
(Friday)

9 January 2009 Scrutiny & Audit, Policy & Resources and Standards

21 May 2008 Scrutiny & Audit, Policy & Resources and Standards

25 June 2009 Scrutiny & Audit Panel

09 July 2009 Policy & Resources and Standards Panels

03 September 2009 Policy & Resources and Standards Panels

24 September 2009 Scrutiny & Audit Panel

Commencement times for these Panels, to be notified in advance of the meetings, are generally likely to be: Scrutiny & Audit 10.00 hours; Policy & Resources 11.00 hours; and Standards 14.00 hours. Members to note there may be some delay in start times if earlier meetings over-run.

269. **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC.**

269.1 **RESOLVED** – That items 270 and 271 be exempt under paragraphs 1, 3 and 4, that item 272 be exempt under paragraph 1, 4 and 7, and that item 273 be exempt under paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006 and accordingly are not open for public inspection on the grounds that they include information relating to any individual; information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information); information relating to any consultations or negotiations or contemplated consultations or negotiations in connection with any labour relations

matter arising between the Authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under, the Authority; and information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime.

The meeting concluded at 13.23 hours.

Signed

Chairman

Dated this day of

2008.