

## SUSSEX POLICE AUTHORITY

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Minutes of a meeting of the Sussex Police Authority held on Thursday, 17 April 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, Mrs C Shaves MBE JP, Mr G Theobald OBE, Mr R Tidy and Mr S Waight

Apologies were received from Mr D Rogers OBE

### CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

207. The Chairman welcomed Councillor Keith Dollemore, Leader of Adur District Council, Mr Peter Latham, Corporate Director, Adur District and Worthing Borough Councils, Councillor Paul Yallop, Worthing Borough Council, and Ms Anne Dunn of the Sussex Police Strategic Independent Advisory Group. The Chairman also welcomed Chief Superintendent Kevin Moore representing the Superintendents' Association and Mrs Sarah Reed, representing Unison, to the meeting of the Police Authority.

### APPOINTMENT OF NEW DEPUTY CHIEF CONSTABLE

208. The Chairman also welcomed Mr Giles York, currently Assistant Chief Constable of South Wales, and congratulated him on his appointment as the new Deputy Chief Constable of Sussex (minutes 220 and 221 refer). Mr York would join Sussex Police on 9 June 2008. The Police Authority indicated that it looked forward to working with the new Deputy Chief Constable.

### DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL INTERESTS

209. No disclosures of personal interest were made.

### MINUTES

210. **Resolved** – that the minutes of the meeting of the Police Authority held on 14 February 2008 be confirmed.

### REPORTS

211. Copies of reports referred to in these minutes are included in the Minute Book.

## REVIEW OF POLICING

212. The Police Authority considered a report by the Chief Executive, Chief Constable and Treasurer.
213. Further to minutes 199 to 202 of 14 February 2008, the Chief Executive referred to the final response made to the Government in respect of the recommendations arising from the independent review of policing undertaken by Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Constabulary, Sir Ronnie Flanagan GBE, QPM, MA. The joint Police Authority and Sussex Police response supported much of the analysis and most of the recommendations of the Review. In particular the Authority supported the proposal that the Home Office should adopt a more strategic "hands off" approach to policing.
214. However, the Police Authority's response to the Review also referred to significant areas of concern regarding the analysis or recommendations which needed to be taken into account by the Government in preparing the Green Paper on Policing which was expected to be published in May 2008. The Police Authority was particularly concerned regarding the proposal to implement the revised formula for funding policing, with the removal of grant floors and ceilings. The recommendations arising from the Review would exacerbate existing inequalities between regions in the UK, discriminating further against residents of South East England. Removing grant floors and ceilings and full implementation of the funding formulae would make yet more dramatic the current inequity underlying current grant formulae. A copy of the full response would be available on the Police Authority website.
215. **Resolved** - that
- (1) the report be noted; and
  - (2) a report be prepared for the Authority on the Green Paper on Policing in order that a joint Police Authority and Sussex Police response could be agreed.

## CORPORATE MANSLAUGHTER AND CORPORATE HOMICIDE ACT 2007

216. The Police Authority considered a report by the Chief Executive, Chief Constable and Solicitor to the Authority.
217. The attention of the Police Authority was drawn to the provisions of the Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act 2007 which reformed the existing law on corporate manslaughter, making it easier to prosecute an organisation if the way in which its activities were organised or managed, led to the death of an individual to whom a duty of care was owed. The report outlined the key implications of the legislation and the actions being taken to mitigate the risk of a corporate manslaughter conviction. It was pointed out that the Act did not change the duties of the organisation but reinforced the need to ensure that good health and safety provisions were embedded throughout the organisation.
218. The Police Authority and Sussex Police would be undertaking a review of policies and procedures in the light of the new Act. It was pointed out

that there were already well defined procedures within the Force to minimise the risk of breaching health and safety standards and, while there was no room for complacency, the Authority and Sussex Police would seek to ensure that reasonable and proportionate action was being taken to address the implications of the new Act. The Authority discussed the training needs which were generated by the legislation.

219. **Resolved** - that

- (1) the content of the report and Appendix A be noted; and
- (2) the actions set out in the report be noted and consideration be given to any necessary training needs arising from the Act.

#### **REPORT OF CHIEF OFFICERS' APPOINTMENTS AND REMUNERATION COMMITTEE**

220. The Police Authority considered a report by the Chairman of the Committee. The report set out the procedures which had been adopted to appoint the Deputy Chief Constable resulting in the appointment of Mr Giles York.

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

#### **REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STEERING GROUP**

222. The Police Authority considered a report by the Chairman of the Steering Group.

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

#### **REPORT OF THE PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

224. The Police Authority considered a report of the Professional Standards Committee which was presented by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee. The Police Authority discussed the increase in complaints in Sussex which reflected the trend nationally. It was reported that the Committee would continue to examine the statistics to identify any emerging trends and carry out regular examination of the complaint registers.

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

#### **REPORT OF THE PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE STEERING GROUP**

226. The Police Authority considered a report by the Chairman of the Steering Group. The Lead Member reports highlighted the considerable engagement of members with the work of Sussex Police and reference was made, in particular, to the continued focus of Sussex Police in tackling domestic abuse which was a key local and national priority.

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

## **REPORT OF THE CORPORATE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

228. The Police Authority considered a report by the Chairman of the Corporate Governance Committee.
229. **Resolved** – that the report be noted.

## **CHIEF CONSTABLE'S UPDATE REPORT**

230. The Police Authority considered a report by the Chief Constable.
231. **Resolved** – that the report be noted.

## **DEPUTY TREASURER**

232. The Police Authority noted that the Treasurer was required under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 to appoint an officer to deputise for him in respect of his duties. The Treasurer had appointed Mr John Eagles as Deputy Treasurer to the Police Authority to replace Mr Julian Harris who was no longer undertaking work for the Police Authority.
233. **Resolved** – that Mr John Eagles be congratulated on his appointment and Mr Julian Harris be thanked for his significant contribution to the work of the Police Authority.

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

234. **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.
235. The Police Authority considered a report on counter-terrorism and noted action taken in respect of leases and contracts.

Chairman