

REPORT OF THE SUSSEX POLICE AUTHORITY

The Sussex Police Authority met at County Hall, Lewes, on 30 July 2009.
Attendances:

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

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN

- 1 The Authority has appointed Dr Laurie Bush as its Chairman and Mr Steve Waight as its Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year until the next Annual Meeting of the Authority.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE POLICE AUTHORITY

- 2 The Joint Committee, comprising members of Brighton & Hove City Council, East Sussex County Council and West Sussex County Council, met on 10 July 2009 to appoint the local authority members of the Authority. The following appointments were made for the period to 31 May 2011:

Brighton & Hove City Council	Mr B Duncan
East Sussex County Council	Mr G Daniel, Mr P Jones, and Mr R Tidy
West Sussex County Council	Mr L Barnard, Mr P Evans, Mrs S Knight, Mr A Smith and Mr S Waight

The Authority has appointed the following members to answer questions on policing matters at meetings of the principle local authorities:

Brighton & Hove City Council	Mr B Duncan
East Sussex County Council	Mr P Jones
West Sussex County Council	Mr L Barnard or Mr S Waight

APPOINTMENT OF NEW ASSISTANT CHIEF CONSTABLES AND DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

- 3 The Authority has congratulated Ms Olivia Pinkney and Mr Nick Wilkinson on their appointment as Assistant Chief Constables of Sussex, and Mr Mark Baker on his appointment as Director of Finance, Sussex Police.

FINANCIAL FORECAST AND STRATEGY

- 4.1 The Authority has agreed the broad approach to be adopted towards the production of the budget for policing Sussex over the coming three years.
- 4.2 Sussex, along with many other police authorities, continues to operate in a tight financial environment where the annual increases in government grants and council tax income are insufficient to fund increases in costs and growing demands for policing. The Authority will need to rely increasingly on the smarter and more efficient use of resources, including the workforce, building on the impressive record of efficiency savings which has been consistently achieved over recent years and in excess of Home Office targets.
- 4.3 To assist this process, the Authority has agreed the following principles to inform the preparation of budgets for the period 2010/13:
- Use the Local Policing Plan (LPP) priorities to prepare and evaluate proposals for further efficiencies and service development over the next three years
 - Work with Sussex Police in seeking performance improvements affecting policing in Sussex
 - Identify further cash-related efficiency savings by 2012/13
 - Plan on the presumption of a base 2.5 per cent precept increase for each of the next three years, based on the indicative levels of formula grant announced in the budget settlement
 - Review all capital expenditure in the current capital programme in light of the pressures on the revenue budget
 - Assume no changes in the level of revenue or capital grants in 2010/11

- Inclusion of unavoidable commitments and cost pressures.
- 4.4 Our forecasts suggest that the Authority is looking at a shortfall of 10 per cent in net revenue requirement over the next five years and, at worst, a shortfall of 16.6 per cent. Further work will now be done on budget preparation, based on these principles, and further reports considered by the Resources Scrutiny Committee on 30 September and the Authority on 15 October. Partners are being made aware of the situation facing the Authority and the possible implications for partnership activities.

CRIME AND DISORDER SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

5. The Authority has welcomed the opportunity presented by the establishment by local authorities of Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committees. To develop further the close working relationship between the Authority and local authorities in Sussex it is important that these new provisions do not in any way dilute or amend the role of local police authorities in holding their police forces to account on behalf of local people, and to ensure that the operation of these new powers does not confuse lines of accountability and governance. This is recognised in the Guidance issued by the Government, which states that "Police authorities occupy a unique position within the landscape of community safety partnerships. They have a clear, statutory role to hold to account the police. In this context, it is vital that local authorities' community safety scrutiny complements this role." The Authority and the Chief Constable look forward to working with local authority partners to ensure the successful implementation of the new arrangements required by the 2006 Act.

POLICING PUBLIC PROTEST

- 6.1 The Authority has considered a report on the policing of protests in Sussex in light of developments at the G20 protests in London in March 2009, a public order operation in Brighton on 4 May, and the initial findings of an enquiry by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) into the policing response to the G20 protests. Following the G20 protests in London the Authority accepted the Chief Constable's invitation to be involved in the planning and monitoring of the operation in Brighton on 4 May. As a result, five members of the Authority attended briefings and /or observed the operation on the day and reported to the Authority at its meeting on 30 July.
- 6.3 The operation was conducted effectively and efficiently, with minimal community impact. Members complemented Sussex police on the conduct of the operation and the Authority asked its Protective Services Scrutiny Committee to keep under review the policing of public protest in Sussex in the light of evolving national guidance and local experience.

SUSSEX POLICING PLEDGE

7. The Policing Pledge has been adopted in Sussex and its implementation will be monitored by the Authority through its new Neighbourhood Policing Scrutiny Committee. The Pledge, launched nationally on 1 January 2009, sets out a nationally agreed minimum level of service to the public. The ten pledge standards complement the Serving Sussex approach and touch on every aspect of policing delivery. A recent inspection by HMIC of the Policing Pledge has recognised the commitment of the Authority and Sussex Police, the activities of Lead Members and the changes to the Authority's Governance Structure, which will enable the Authority to monitor Force performance against the Pledge.

POLICE MUSEUM

- 8 The Police Authority has been informed of the continuing development of the Police Museum which is housed in the old police cells in the basement of Brighton Town Hall and offers visitors a unique insight into the history of policing in Sussex. The aim of the Museum is also to help to preserve the history of Sussex Police and provide its visitors with information on how Sussex Police has developed to become what it is today. The Museum was created thanks to the hard work and enthusiasm of retired and serving police officers, volunteers and staff of Brighton & Hove City Council. The Museum is open to the general public on a regular basis with guided tours details of which can be obtained from the website www.oldpolicecellsmuseum.org.uk. The longer term aim is to further develop the education programme based on the national curriculum (history and citizenship) to encourage schools to use the Museum as a teaching resource.

CHIEF CONSTABLE'S REPORT

- 9 The Authority has received a comprehensive report from the Chief Constable which sets out the key issues, highlights and work undertaken by Departments and Divisions of Sussex Police since the last meeting of the Police Authority. The report can be accessed on the Authority's website www.sussexpoliceauthority.gov.uk by clicking on the "Authority Meetings" link.

Dr LAURIE BUSH

Chairman
July 2009