

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

