

REPORT OF THE SUSSEX POLICE AUTHORITY

The Sussex Police Authority met at County Hall, Lewes, on 9 June 2005. Attendances:

Mr P Jones (Chairman),
Mr L H Barnard, Mrs M G Bishop, Mr K C Bodfish OBE, Dr L E Bush, Mrs M Collins DL, Mr M Dunn, Mr F H Faiz, Miss A Graves JP, Dr S Iles-Jonas JP, Mr J Mortimer, Mr D O Rogers OBE, Mrs C Shaves MBE JP, Mrs A Swain (Vice -Chairman), Mr R Tidy, Mrs M C Turner and Mr S Waight.

1 Membership of the Police Authority

1.1 The Joint Committee, comprising members of Brighton & Hove City Council, East Sussex County Council and West Sussex County Council, met on 2 June 2005 to appoint the local authority members of the Police Authority. The following appointments were made for the period to 31 May 2007:

Brighton & Hove City Council	- Councillor K Bodfish OBE
East Sussex County Council	- Councillors P Jones, D O Rogers OBE and R Tidy
West Sussex County Council	- Councillors L Barnard, Mrs M Collins DL, M Dunn, J Mortimer and S Waight.

2 Appointment of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

2.1 The Police Authority appointed Mr Peter Jones as its Chairman and Mrs Ann Swain Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year up until the next Annual Meeting of the Police Authority.

3 Domestic Violence

3.1 Domestic violence remains a priority for Sussex Police who have adopted a robust approach to incidents of domestic violence. Sussex Police are working with other agencies to reduce the number of victims, particularly repeat victims. In the short to medium term, increasing confidence in the police response is likely to increase the level of reporting of the incidents of domestic violence. The table below shows the levels of reported domestic violence in Sussex. It is encouraging that there has been a decrease in the percentages of repeat victims.

Year	Number of Recorded Incidents	Number of Incidents recorded as Crimes	Percentage of Repeat Victims ¹
2001	11,169	5,189	24.2%
2002	13,332	5,580	22.7%
2003	13,692	5,898	21%
2004	15,266	6,571	20%

¹ Proportion of victims who had been a victim of domestic violence on at least one other occasion in the preceding 12 months

3.2 Sussex Police are also in the process of developing a risk assessment model, based on extensive research and best practice from the UK and abroad. The process will be used to identify those victims who are most at risk of experiencing violence in the future in order that a multi-agency problem-solving approach can be taken. This will ensure that Sussex Police provide a professional and committed approach to the protection of life, the investigation of all reported domestic violence incidents and the development of a proactive multi-agency approach to reducing and preventing domestic violence.

4 Review of the Efficiency Plan 2004-05

4.1 The Sussex Police Efficiency Plan 2004-05 established an efficiency target of £4.432m, equivalent to 2% of the net revenue budget. The Police Authority is pleased to report that the year-end position for 2004-05 shows efficiency gains totalling £9.838m. Of this, £6.247m represents cashable efficiency gains. However, the Home Office has now confirmed even more stringent efficiency targets for the Police Service from 2005-06. The minimum efficiency target has been increased to 3% a year including at least 1.5% cashable gains. This means an efficiency target totalling £6.9m in 2005-06, of which £3.5m must be cashable gains. Due to the efficiency gains in 2004-05 the Authority is able to carry forward £5.406m which is an encouraging position in which to enter 2005-06.

5 Public Consultation Meetings – Spring 2005

5.1 The Police Authority organises a programme of public consultation meetings twice a year across Sussex. The Spring series of public consultation meetings has now been completed. The meetings were generally well attended by members of the public and representatives from the three tiers of local authorities in Sussex, and local bodies including Neighbourhood Watch. The following main issues regarding policing were identified at two or more meetings (the full reports from each of the meetings are available on the Authority's website):

- *Anti-social behaviour* – featured as a clear concern at all the meetings. The Police Authority at its meeting on 21 April received a detailed report on the action being taken by Sussex Police and other organisations to tackle anti-social behaviour including the prevention and intervention measures currently in place. The report highlighted further work which can be commissioned to tackle anti-social behaviour. Members' support in promoting the work being done in Sussex assists in encouraging the community to report instances of anti-social behaviour, whilst reassuring the public that much is being done to tackle the problem. The Autumn series of public consultation meetings will focus on the actions being taken to address anti-social behaviour and the progress being made to tackle the matter. Sussex Police will be seeking support from partners for the further areas of work which need to be implemented to tackle anti-social behaviour.
- *Police Community Support Officers* – PCSOs have been well received in the community. There was support for the need to increase the time spent by PCSOs in frontline visible patrols. Sussex Police are currently carrying out a Best Value Review of Frontline Policing.
- *Speeding traffic* – speeding traffic and other traffic related issues also featured strongly at all the meetings. Sussex Police are committed to reducing the number of people killed or injured on the roads of Sussex and to achieve the Department of Transport's ten-year casualty reduction targets.
- *Neighbourhood Watch* – most of the meetings were attended by representatives of Neighbourhood Watch. Neighbourhood Watch continues to be an important partner of Sussex Police and provides a network in working with communities at a local level.

- *Local Action Teams* – LATs also have an important role to play in tackling very localised problems. There are some excellent examples across Sussex of LATs being established and consideration will be given to how the LATs can be maintained with the support of partners.
- *Licensing Arrangements* – the implications of the new licensing arrangements were raised at several of the meetings. The public are very concerned about the implications of extended drinking hours, and the link to Public Place Violent Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour. The Police Authority has highlighted these concerns at both a national and local level and will continue to monitor the situation in liaison with the local Licensing Authorities. The need to ensure continued partnership working with the local Licensing Authorities was expressed by the public and a further report will be submitted to Police Authority in due course regarding this issue.

5.2 The Police Authority has thanked Sussex Police for their significant contribution to the success of the public meetings. Arrangements are now being put in place for the Autumn round of meetings. The dates and venues will be widely advised and included in the Annual Report of the Police Authority and Sussex Police which will be published shortly.

6 Sussex Police Riding to Raise the Roof

6.1 The Police Authority has congratulated the Chief Constable and Sussex Police on their splendid effort in raising money to help the survivors of the Tsunami in Kamala, Thailand. In collaboration with Care and Compassion International, a Sussex-based charity, the Sussex Police bike ride event has raised funds towards rebuilding the school and 47 homes in Kamala. The sum raised by Sussex Police currently totals £17,700.

PETER JONES
Chairman

9 June 2005

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