





**Brighton & Hove  
City Council**

# Community Safety Forum

Title:	<b>Community Safety Forum</b>
Date:	<b>9 March 2009</b>
Time:	<b>4.00pm</b>
Venue	<b>Council Chamber, Hove Town Hall</b>
Members:	<b>Councillors:</b> Simson (Chairman), Carden (Opposition Spokesperson), Duncan, Elgood, Hyde, Janio, Kennedy, Morgan, Smart and Young, <b>Representatives from Communities of Interest</b>
Contact:	<b>Jane Clarke</b> 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

### 37. 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.*

### 38. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

1 - 10

Minutes of the previous meeting held on 12 December 2008 (copy attached).

Contact Officer: Jane Clarke

Tel: 29-1064

Ward Affected: N/A

### 39. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

### 40. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

(The closing date for receipt of public questions is 12 noon on Monday 2 March 2009).

No public questions received by date of publication.

### 41. COMMUNITY SAFETY ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS AND COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

- a) Written question received from Councillor Ben Duncan:

“As a local Councillor I have had a number of queries raised with me regarding the taking of photographs by police officers in  
(continued overleaf)

## COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM

relation to members of the campaign group 'Earth First.' I wondered if the police representatives could update the forum on procedure for monitoring such activities?"

**42. LETTER REGARDING THE USE OF 'MOSQUITO' DEVICES IN THE BRIGHTON & HOVE AREA** **11 - 12**

Letter from Councillor Gill Mitchell (copy attached).

**43. SCRUTINY OF COMMUNITY SAFETY AND OLDER PEOPLE**

Report of the Assistant Director of Public Safety (presentation).

*Contact Officer: Linda Beanlands Tel: 29-1115*

*Ward Affected: All Wards*

**44. CRIME TRENDS AND PERFORMANCE IN BRIGHTON AND HOVE** **13 - 18**

Report of the Assistant Director of Public Safety (copy attached).

*Contact Officer: Ruth Condon Tel: 29-1103*

*Ward Affected: All Wards*

**45. ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR UPDATE**

Report of the Assistant Director of Public Safety (presentation).

*Contact Officer: Linda Beanlands Tel: 29-1115*

*Ward Affected: All Wards*

**46. POLICING DIVISIONAL SERVICE PLAN**

Report of the Sussex Police (oral report).

**47. PUBLIC REASSURANCE AND PROFILING THE WORK OF THE CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION PARTNERSHIP**

Report of the Assistant Director of Public Safety (oral report).

*Contact Officer: Linda Beanlands Tel: 29-1115*

*Ward Affected: All Wards*

**48. SUSSEX POLICE AUTHORITY: MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 23 OCTOBER AND 18 DECEMBER 2008** **19 - 34**

Minutes of the previous meetings of the Sussex Police Authority (copies attached).

**49. EAST SUSSEX FIRE AUTHORITY: MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 11 DECEMBER 2008, 15 JANUARY 2009 AND 5 FEBRUARY 2009** **35 - 38**

Minutes of the previous meetings of the East Sussex Fire Authority (copies attached).

## COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM

The City Council actively welcomes members of the public and the press to attend its meetings and holds as many of its meetings as possible in public. Provision is also made on the agendas for public questions to committees and details of how questions can be raised can be found on the website and/or on agendas for the meetings.

The closing date for receipt of public questions and deputations for the next meeting is 12 noon on the fifth working day before the meeting.

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Meeting papers can be provided, on request, in large print, in Braille, on audio tape or on disc, or translated into any other language as requested.

For further details and general enquiries about this meeting contact Jane Clarke, (01273 291064, email [jane.clarke@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:jane.clarke@brighton-hove.gov.uk)) or email [democratic.services@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@brighton-hove.gov.uk)

Date of Publication - Friday, 27 February 2009



### BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

### COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM

4.00pm 8 DECEMBER 2008

### COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL

### MINUTES

**Present:** Councillor G Theobald (Chairman); Carden (Opposition Spokesperson), Elgood, Janio, Kennedy, Morgan, Smart and Young

**Sussex Police:** Chief Superintendent Paul Pearce, Chief Inspector Laurence Taylor, Sergeant Peter Castleton, Mr Mark Rowe, Head of Finance, Mr Paul Price, Consultation Officer

**Communities of Interest:** Derek Peacock (St James Street Area Action Group), Faith Matyszak MBE (Racial Harassment Forum and Whitehawk Community Development Project), John Stevens (Leach Court Area Housing Panel), Bill Gandey (Bevendean LAT), Ted Harman (Stanmer and Coldean LAT), George Brooker (Stanmer and Coldean LAT)

**Officers:** Judith Macho (Assistant Director, Public Safety), Linda Beanlands (Head of Community Safety), Simon Court (Senior Solicitor) and Jane Clarke (Democratic Services Officer)

### PART ONE

#### 27. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

##### 27a Declarations of Substitutes

27.1 There were none.

##### 27b Declarations of Interest

27.2 As a statement of Personal Interest Councillor G Theobald declared that he was a member of the Sussex Police Authority.

27.3 As a statement of Personal Interest Councillor B Carden declared that he was a member of the East Sussex Fire Authority.

##### 27c Exclusion of Press and Public

27.4 In accordance with section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 ('the Act'), the Community Safety Forum considered whether the press and public should be excluded

from the meeting during an item of business on the grounds that it was likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the press or public were present during that item, there would be disclosure to them of confidential information (as defined in section 100A(3) of the Act) or exempt information (as defined in section 100(1) of the Act).

**RESOLVED** – that the press and public be not excluded from the meeting.

## **28. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

28.1 **RESOLVED** – that the minutes of the meeting held on 6 October 2008 are approved and signed by the Chairman.

## **29. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS**

29.1 The Chairman referred to a question raised at the last meeting regarding the voting rights of the Community Safety Forum. On the advice of solicitors he advised the Forum members that the function of the Community Safety Forum was to make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Environment, and if appropriate, to the Cabinet, in relation to matters that require council decisions. This meant that no formal voting was required on resolutions of the committee, but the Chairman could take an *indicative* vote if he so wished. The Chairman highlighted that the Council's Executive was not bound by any resolutions made by the Community Safety Forum.

29.2 The Chairman went on to say that in January the Forum would scrutinize older people's safety and consideration was currently being given as to who should be involved at this stage.

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

30.1 A Member raised the issue of the new Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Community Officer post, and asked for the Head of Community Safety for confirmation that the post had been appointed.

30.2 The Head of Community Safety informed the Forum that the post had been filled recently and the post holder was currently working closely with the Community Safety Team and the Anti-Victimisation Unit.

30.3 A member of the Forum asked about the theft of blue badges from motor vehicles, which was an issue that had been raised at the last Forum. It was stated previously that the victims of this crime would be able to use their Crime Reference Number to avoid being issued a parking ticket whilst waiting for their new badges to arrive. The Forum member asked the Police how people would know that if their badge was stolen they could use their Crime Reference Number. Sergeant Peter Castleton replied that when a Crime Reference Number was given, the officer issuing the number would be able to provide further information on how this could be used.

30.4 A question was raised about whether the new City Park Ranger positions would also be able to monitor behaviour around the war memorials in the centre of the city, and in



particular the ones on the Old Steine, which were suffering from particularly bad anti-social behaviour. The Chairman replied that this was more likely to be dealt with by the Police as it would be unlikely that the Park Rangers would patrol outside of the park areas. However, the Chairman was happy to recommend that the Park Rangers liaise closely with the Police to manage people in the area more effectively.

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

- 31.1 Mr Mark Rowe, Head of Finance for Sussex Police and Mr Paul Price, Consultation Officer for Sussex Police addressed the Forum and presented a report on the Revenue Budget 2009-10 and 2011-12.
- 31.2 Mr Price began by noting that the Revenue Budget was going out to consultation and a survey had been placed on the internet to consult with residents of Sussex. There was also a panel of residents from across the region, including many Neighbourhood Watch members who were being consulted with directly.
- 31.3 Mr Rowe went on to detail the current financial landscape for Sussex Police and noted that the largest amount of income for the organisation came from the Central Government grant and the Council Tax.
- 31.4 The three year settlement for the period 2008 to 2011 showed that Sussex Police could expect a 2.5 per cent increase in grant year on year, but it was noted that this was below average and that some Police Authorities could expect to receive up to 3.8 per cent.
- 31.5 It was noted by Mr Rowe that the grant formula used by Central Government appeared to be unfair to 'shire' authorities and at present grant payments were protected by the grant floor arrangements. These arrangements were under threat from 2011 onwards however. It was also noted that Sussex Police had challenging efficiency targets to achieve that added to the funding problem.
- 31.6 Mr Rowe went on to highlight the priorities for the coming budget period and felt that more needed to be spent on the terrorism agenda and local policing.
- 31.7 He noted that consultation with the population and stakeholders was greater now than it had ever been and that year on year levels of confidence in Sussex Police were improving. This was resulting in greater visibility, accessibility and familiarity and improved levels of public satisfaction, which was a key target for the organisation.
- 31.8 Councillor Young asked if the grant funding from Central Government fell, would this result in a rise in the Council Tax levy to compensate. Mr Rowe replied that this could be the case, but efficiency gains would be sought first to cover any funding gap.
- 31.9 The cost implications of the recent green paper titled "From the Neighbourhood to the National – Policing our Communities Together" was highlighted by Councillor Smart and Mr Rowe noted that the Police Authority would look to the government grant to fund the initial costs of implementing these initiatives.

- 31.10 Increased staffing levels were noted as a potentially large cost increase and Mr Rowe agreed, recognising that there would be an increase in frontline staff of 29 FTE posts in 2008/9 and 31 FTE posts in 2010/11. A member of the Forum asked how many of these posts would be positioned in Brighton & Hove and Mr Rowe replied that he did not know. The Chairman undertook to ask this question at the next Police Authority meeting he attended.
- 31.11 Councillor Morgan asked whether Sussex Police had always received below average funding and how the area compared with other Police Authorities. Mr Rowe replied that it had always been a low baseline for this area and that other Authorities such as Surrey had increased Local Council Tax funding by up to 50 per cent to compensate for this.
- 31.12 The Chairman noted that Sussex Police was subject to other costs such as preparing for the terrorism risks associated with Gatwick Airport, Newhaven Port and the regional proximity to London and felt that this expenditure was often forgotten by the general populace. It was noted by Councillor Morgan that Sussex Police charged Gatwick Airport for the service they provided, so this would lessen the overall cost.
- 31.13 The Chairman thanked Sussex Police for the budget presentation.
- 31.14 **RESOLVED** – to note the contents of the report.

## **32. CRIME TRENDS AND PERFORMANCE IN BRIGHTON AND HOVE**

- 32.1 The Head of Community Safety addressed the Forum and advised them of a correction to the performance report that had been dealt with on the last agenda. There was an error in the calculations for one of the statistical results, which had resulted in the percentage for overall crime being recorded as falling by 22 per cent. In fact this percentage should have been recorded as an 11.3 per cent reduction.

The Head of Community Safety apologised to the Forum members. She confirmed that the total number of crimes in the report was accurate and the general conclusions of the Forum for that item were unaffected. The Head of Community Safety offered to distribute the corrected report to the Forum members if they so wished. The Chairman thanked the Head of Community Safety for the updated information and agreed that the conclusions of the Forum remained unchanged.

- 32.2 Sergeant Castleton addressed the Forum and presented the latest Crime Trends and Performance in Brighton & Hove report. He began by informing the members that information had been omitted in the report before the Forum, but confirmed that an amended report which included information on Domestic Violence Crimes and Incidents, Racist and Religiously Motivated Crimes and Incidents and Homophobic, Biphobic and Transphobic Crimes and Incidents would be sent out with the minutes of the meeting.
- 32.3 Sergeant Castleton stated that overall crime was down by 9.5 per cent when comparing figures from April to October 2007 and April to October 2008. Serious Violent Crime reduction was targeted at 10 per cent but had only fallen by 2 per cent. Domestic Burglary was up by 20.5 per cent, and Theft from/of a Motor Vehicle had also increased by 14.6 per cent. Sergeant Castleton noted that acquisitive theft was a particular problem across the area and this could be due to the current economic situation. He

also stated that Theft from a Motor Vehicle was extremely variable depending on whether certain individuals were currently in the area or not.

- 32.4 Despite some disappointing results, Sergeant Castleton reminded the Forum that it was important to consider long term trends when scrutinising levels of crime, which had been falling in Brighton & Hove over the past 20 years. It was noted that there had been a spike in Serious Violent Crimes, but Sergeant Castleton felt that this was possibly due to a reclassification of certain crimes and the police would be watching this closely.
- 32.5 Bicycle theft was increasing but Sergeant Castleton believed this was due to the increase in bicycle usage within the city in the last few years.
- 32.6 Domestic Violence was noted to be an on-going concern for Sussex Police and it was believed to be regularly underreported. Sergeant Castleton lastly noted that Hate and Religiously Motivated Crimes had fallen, which was due to the work that had been done in the city to reduce this, and Hate Crimes were comparatively small for the size of the population.
- 32.7 Councillor Morgan welcomed the statistics but noted that they needed to be read with caution as if the baseline for a particular crime was low, then there would only need to be a few extra incidents of this crime across the city for the statistics to rise dramatically. He noted that Domestic Burglary for example would have been far higher 15 or 20 years ago compared with today's figures.
- 32.8 Mr Peacock asked about the peak in Violent Crimes and noted that if this was due to a reclassification of certain crimes which raised these statistics then it should not register as a spike but as a permanent rise. Chief Superintendent Paul Pearce felt that the spike was due to backdating of crime figures for this area that had now levelled off.
- 32.9 Councillor Kennedy raised concern over the rise in Incidents of Domestic Violence and was worried that this crime was spiralling. She asked if there were any initiatives in place to limit and reduced this.

Chief Superintendent Pearce stated that Domestic Violence was not spiralling, but was unfortunately always recorded at a high level. It was noted that Sussex Police had recently visited neighbouring authorities to assess how they dealt with this type of crime and measures had been put in place to ensure that where possible a statement from the victim was taken immediately to help lower the possibility of withdrawal the following day. It was also recognised that the Magistrates Court would now prosecute without a witness statement if they felt the evidence was strong enough.

The Head of Community Safety added that a comprehensive plan had been put in place in the city to deal with this type of crime. Multi-agency risk assessment panels were being developed in conjunction with the Police and a very high arrest rate of around 90 per cent was being achieved. The Head of Community Safety recognised that there was still a lot of work to do in this area in terms of introducing common risk assessments across all agencies, but tremendous progress had been made in the last 18 months.

- 32.10 Mr Peacock asked what the breakdown was for same sex domestic violence and although the Police did not have the figures to hand the Head of Community Safety

stated that a part-time advisor for LGBT domestic violence had been appointed and these figures could be distributed to the Forum members.

- 32.11 Councillor Janio asked whether the Police felt that national targets distorted the priorities of the Police and asked how well Brighton & Hove was performing compared to other areas. Sergeant Castleton replied that there was some element of national targets interfering with local priorities, but noted that the recent Green Paper went some way to rectify this. When comparing the area nationally, it was noted that Brighton & Hove was one of the lowest burglary risks in the group of families used to assess this information, and with an average or below average crime risk. There were clear comparative graphs demonstrating this information. Sergeant Castleton offered to distribute this information to the Forum and the Chairman welcomed this.
- 32.12 Councillor Young asked about the high incidence of repeat offenders for Theft from a Motor Vehicle and asked what could be done to reduce this. Chief Superintendent Pearce noted that this crime was mostly committed by drug users who would re-offend as soon as they were out of prison. Councillor Young asked why these people were not receiving rehabilitation in prison and the Head of Community Safety noted that ongoing work was being conducted by the CDR Partnership which had a range of packages to help prolific offenders. The initiative did not target offenders whilst in prison but was initiated immediately on their release, and was immensely successful.

32.13 **RESOLVED** – to note the contents of the report.

### **33. REPORT OF THE SUSSEX POLICE AUTHORITY**

33.1 **RESOLVED** – to note the contents of the report.

### **34. ACTION TO DEAL WITH DRUG AND ALCOHOL RELATED ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR AND UPDATE ON LONDON ROAD - ORAL PRESENTATION**

- 34.1 The Head of Community Safety, Linda Beanlands, addressed the Forum and presented a report on Action to Deal with Drug and Alcohol Related Anti-Social Behaviour and Update on London Road.
- 34.2 She began by stating that “hotspot” areas had come out of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 which gave local authorities powers to tackle street drinking. The power was introduced in Brighton & Hove in 2003 and money from the Trailblazer fund allowed the Council to appoint street outreach workers for joint patrols and also allowed the Council the option to tackle begging.
- 34.3 A snapshot of figures showed that there is an immense throughput in the city as street drinkers arrive from outside areas and are quickly relocated or placed into treatment.
- 34.4 Further work being done in the city included finding appropriate hostels for those street drinkers who could not be treated for alcoholism and work being done by the Council’s solicitors to investigate further powers to use Anti Social Behaviour Orders.
- 34.5 Lastly, the Head of Community Safety noted that there was a need to re-design signs in the city starting with the hotspot areas and work had already begun to achieve this.

- 34.6 The Assistant Director of Public Safety, Judith Macho, then addressed the Forum and stated that specialist work was currently being done in London Road and the Council was aware of the need to involve and listen to the community. There was a formal LAT meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2009 to discuss local concerns and more specialist meetings to talk about regeneration issues, crime reduction measures and licensing issues were being set up.
- 34.7 The Assistant Director of Public Safety highlighted the need to increase cooperation with the business community in London Road and to extend initiatives such as improved lighting, increased CCTV coverage and repainting certain areas. There was also negotiating taking place with the Police for a satellite station on London Road.
- 34.8 Councillor Morgan raised concerns over displacement of antisocial behaviour from London Road to other areas and asked if officers and the Police were considering this. He also asked what areas were included in the London Road hotspot.
- 34.9 The Head of Community Safety replied that both the Police and the Council were aware of the potential problem of displacement and had set up joint patrols in 2003. Offenders in the London Road area were carefully tracked and monitored to ensure that if they were moved on from the area, they were not creating problems elsewhere. It was noted that the Level was included in the London Road area and work would be commencing to improve this area.
- 34.10 A member of the Forum asked if the three day centres that provided services for street drinkers and homeless people were still open, and the Head of Community Safety replied that two of the centres were commissioned by the Supporting People service. One had now closed.
- 34.11 A Forum member highlighted the growing problem of alcoholism in young people and asked what was being done to improve this situation. The Head of Community Safety recognised that this was a particular problem and stated that the Council now had a joint-service patrol and that action was taken quickly when this was identified. Sergeant Castleton agreed and noted that the Police were working with groups that targeted young drinkers to engage with them and improve the situation.
- 34.12 **RESOLVED** – to note the contents of the report.

### **35. PROGRESS UPDATE ON LOCAL ACTION TEAMS IN THE CITY - ORAL PRESENTATION**

- 35.1 Chief Inspector Laurence Taylor addressed the Forum and presented an oral report on Local Action Teams in Brighton & Hove.
- 35.2 He began by stating that since April 2008 district boundaries for neighbourhood policing had been removed. A single point of contact for each Local Action Team (LAT) had improved processes and 41 new neighbourhoods had been created to reflect areas rather than political boundaries.

- 35.3 In each of the 41 neighbourhoods there were two PCSOs and one Support Officer and the key focuses were now on addressing issues that created problems early on and engagement with the local neighbourhood.
- 35.4 Chief Inspector Taylor stated that LATs were vital in finding out what was important for the area and LAT work was now creating priorities and charting progress.
- 35.5 Councillor Morgan recognised the excellent work that was being done by LATs in his ward, but noted that the PCSOs seemed to waste a lot of time in transit, especially when returning to the Station for rest breaks. He asked if it was possible to provide satellite stations in local areas that would provide hot food, drink and toilets for PCSOs.
- 35.6 Chief Inspector Taylor agreed that this was a problem, particularly in the North and East of the city. There was a requirement for the PCSOs to return to the Station but Community Outlets were in use across the city to provide services for staff and volunteers. Chief Inspector Taylor noted that there was a need to identify new sites however.
- 35.7 Councillor Carden noted that there had been a dedicated Police Constable for each area in the past which had worked particularly well in terms of continuity and acquiring local knowledge and wondered if this was still the case. Chief Inspector Taylor noted that unfortunately there was not enough staff to provide a dedicated Police Officer to each area, but that Police Officers would cover a group of areas exclusively.
- 35.8 It was noted by Forum members that there was significant work being done by LATs, and new teams were being formed but there was a lack of publicity to match this and Chief Inspector Taylor agreed but highlighted to Forum members that a city-wide review of Action Teams was being undertaken to ensure that each team was locally sustainable in their objectives. He noted that representation was crucial but that effectiveness was also necessary and questioned whether there would be the same number of LATs after the review.
- 35.9 A Forum member asked whether the Police felt that PCSOs should have increased powers of arrest, and it was noted that the type of ground level policing that PCSOs performed was vital to communities. Chief Superintendent Pearce noted that the PCSO service was welcomed by all interested parties who were incredibly positive about the service but the success of PCSOs depended on their not having powers as this would result in increased levels of paperwork, taking them away from the communities they served and thereby negating the positive effects so far experienced. He stated that it was crucial to keep PCSOs free to serve communities at ground level.
- 35.10 **RESOLVED** – to note the contents of the report.

## **36. SUSSEX POLICE AUTHORITY: MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 31 JULY 2008**

- 36.1 **RESOLVED** – that the minutes be noted.

**37. EAST SUSSEX FIRE AUTHORITY: MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11 SEPTEMBER 2008**

37.1 **RESOLVED** – that the minutes be noted.

The meeting concluded at 6.15pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of





Mr Alan McCarthy  
Chief Executive  
Brighton & Hove City Council

26<sup>th</sup> January 2009

Dear Mr McCarthy,

**‘Mosquito’ noise machines used as a teenage deterrent.**

I would like this letter to be placed on the agenda of the next meeting of the Cabinet and to be able to speak to it.

I would ask that the Cabinet notes the increasing use of mosquito noise machines to disperse teenagers from open spaces and buildings and that these machines will soon become more readily available via cheaper imports sold in high street shops directly to householders.

Mosquito noise deterrent machines are largely used in a negative way, actively discouraging all young people from visiting areas of towns and cities.

There is no evidence supporting the effectiveness or benefits to a community of this method of group dispersal but evidence is coming to light that they can adversely affect those suffering from conditions such as tinnitus and autism.

There is no information on the long term effects of exposure to this high frequency noise and that the noise is not truly restricted to teenagers alone. Significant numbers of people in their 20s to early 30s have reported being able to hear the high frequency noise.

I would ask the Cabinet to;

- Consider ruling out the use of mosquito noise deterrent machines on all council owned buildings and land.
- Consider writing to the Home Secretary asking her to review the sale and use of these devices as a matter of urgency and to consider legislation to ban them.
- Consider a specific programme to raise awareness amongst businesses and residents of alternative methods for tackling anti-social behaviour by working alongside existing services provided by the government and the council such as Local Action Teams, neighbourhood police teams, schools and community groups.

Yours sincerely,

Councillor Gill Mitchell  
Leader of the Labour Group



### Crime trends and performance in Brighton & Hove

This report describes crime trends up to January 2009 and reports progress against key crime targets relating to the Community Safety, Crime Reduction and Drugs Strategy, 2008-11.

#### 1. Performance against Targets for Key Crime Types, 2008/09

April 2008 to end of January 2009	number of crimes Apr 07- Jan 08	number of crimes Apr 08- Jan 09	reduction target (from 2007/08 baseline)	2008/09 performance to end January compared with same period in 2007/08		better or worse than same period in 2007/08		rank within 15 benchmarked CDRPs <sup>a</sup>
				on target	not on target	better	worse	
<b>areas with targets</b>			target					(lower rank is better)
Total Crimes	23,302	21,166	-5%	-9.1%		☺		5
Criminal Damage	3,988	3,498	-5%	-12.3%		☺		11
Serious Violence (GBH/more serious violence)	120	132	-10%		+10.0%		☹	9
Assault: Less Serious Injury (ABH)	1,904	1,638	-5%	-14.0%		☺		8
Domestic Burglary	939	1,016	-5%		+8.2%		☹	3
Theft from/of a Motor Vehicle	1,619	1,901	-6%		+17.4%		☹	3
Pedal Cycle Theft	724	857	-10%		+18.4%		☹	6
Domestic Violence Crimes	1127	1013	no target	-10.1%				
Racist Crimes and Incidents	494	278	-5%	-43.7%				
LGBT Hate Crimes and Incidents	164	106	+5%		-35.4%			

#### Main points

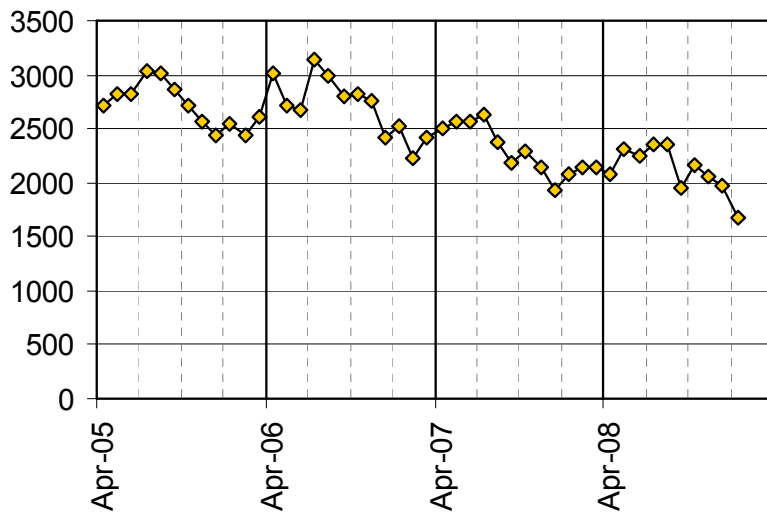
After 10 months (April 2008 – January 2009) total crimes have reduced by 9.1% compared with the same period in the previous year, in excess of the target.

Criminal damage and assaults with less serious injury, both high volume crime types, continue to show very good reductions. Acquisitive crimes are continuing to show a notable increase compared with last year, but the position with domestic burglaries has improved since the last report.

<sup>a</sup> See Appendix for further information around the benchmarking arrangements

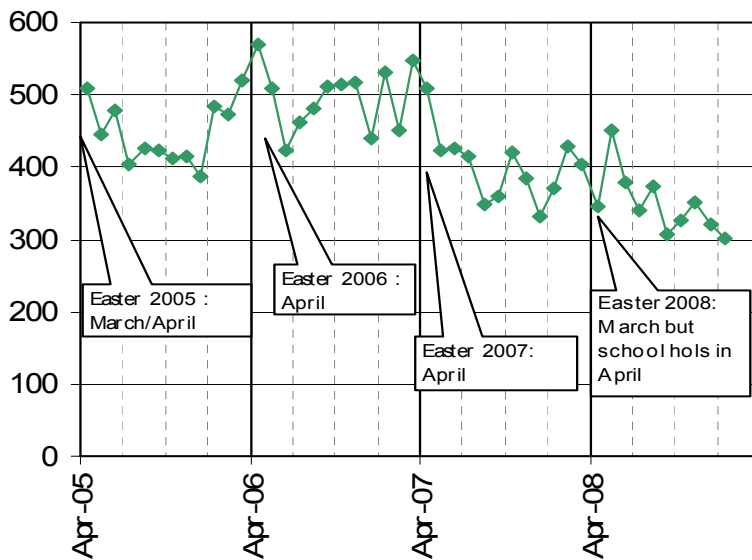
## 2. Crime trends up to January 2009

Total Crimes, April 2005 to January 2009



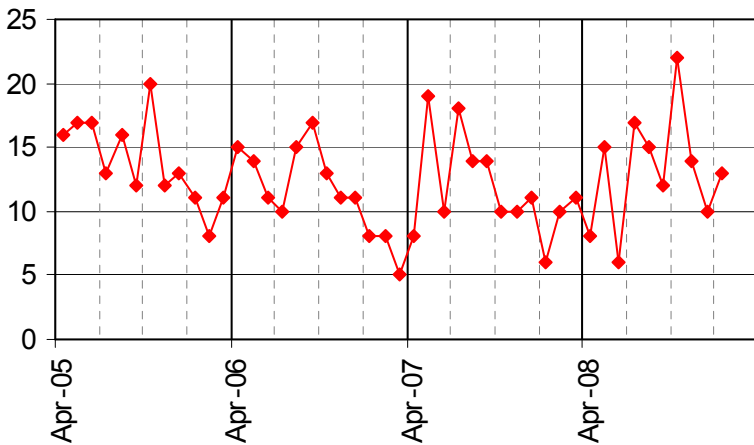
- The number of total crimes in the first 10 months of 2008/09 is 9.1% lower than in the same months last year. The number of crimes in the month January has dropped to its lowest level since April 2005.

Criminal Damage, April 2005 to January 2009



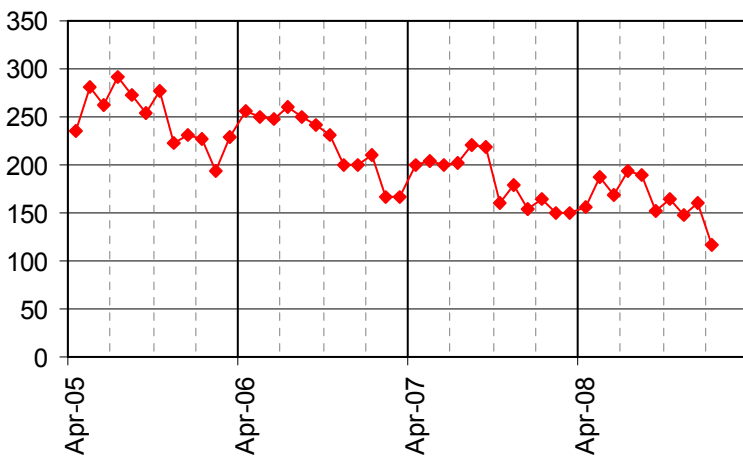
- The number of police recorded criminal damage remain well below last year's level, with recent months showing among the lowest levels of recent years.

Serious Violence (GBH+)  
April 2005 to January 2009



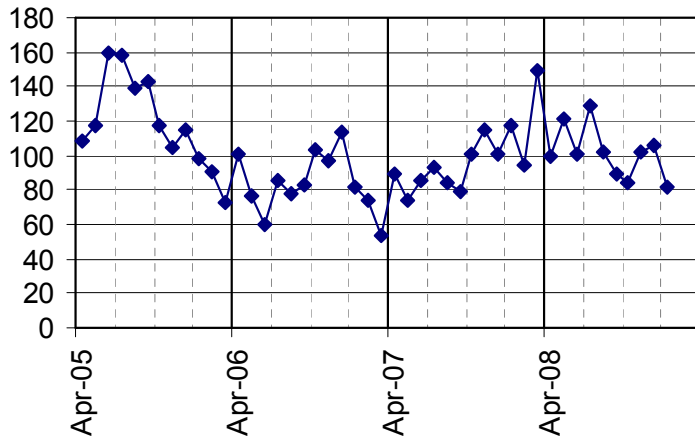
- The number of serious violent crimes (GBH and more serious) is higher between April 2008 and January 2009 than in the same months in the previous year by 12 crimes. (Crimes recorded within this category have been subject to recent review and this has resulted in the numbers in recent months being slightly increased.)

Assault with Less Serious Injury (ABH)  
April 2005 to January 2009



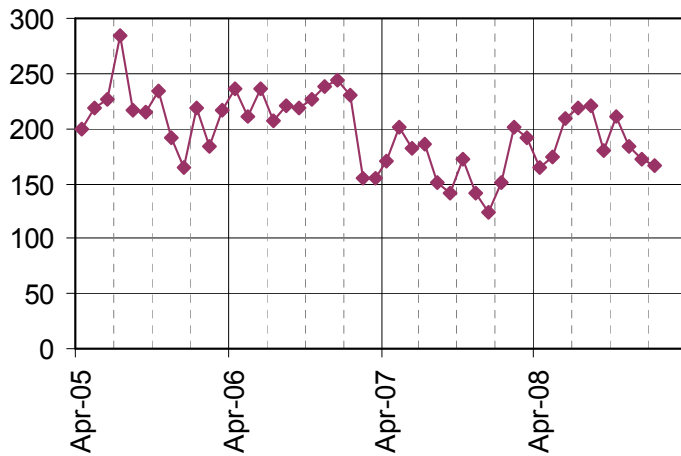
- The year on year decline in assaults with less serious injury is continuing with the number in the first 10 months of 2008/09 being 14% fewer than the same months in 2007/08. The number in January is much lower than in previous months and years.

Domestic Burglary, April 2005 to January 2009



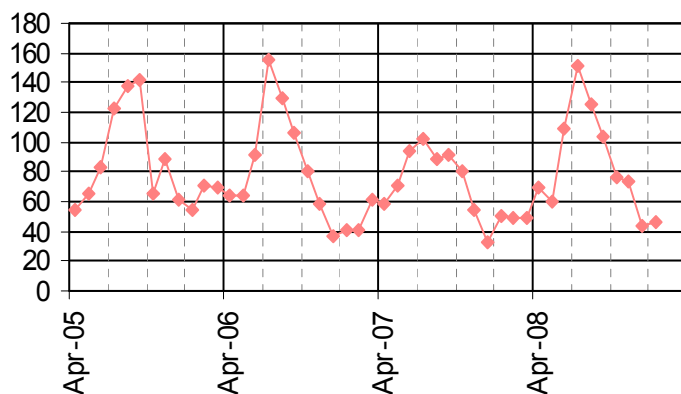
- Numbers of domestic burglaries were showing a long term declining trend in the years up to 2006/7 but rose consistently during 2007/8. Since March 2008 the numbers have resumed a downward trend, but remain 8% higher in 2008/9 to date compared with 2007/8.

Vehicle Crime, April 2005 to January 2009



- Comparing levels in the first five months of 2008/9 with same months in 2007/8, theft of and from (all vehicle crime) has increased by 17%. However, thefts from a vehicle have risen by 33% while thefts of a vehicle have fallen by 11%.

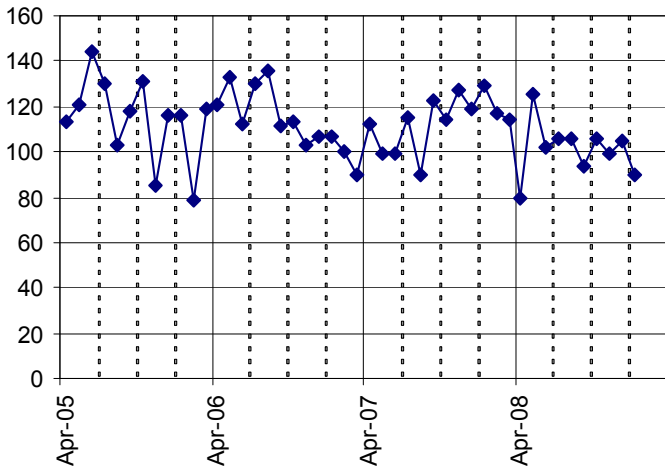
Theft of a Pedal Cycle, April 2005 to January 2009



- Pedal cycle theft shows a strong seasonal effect related to the months when more people cycle. Numbers in the first ten months of 2008/9 are 18% greater than in 2007/8 and also slightly higher than the level recorded in 2006/7.

Police crime data presented in this report only reflect those crimes which are reported and recorded. There is likely to be a level of underreporting in many crime types. However, domestic violence and the hate crimes on this page are likely to be particularly liable to underreporting.

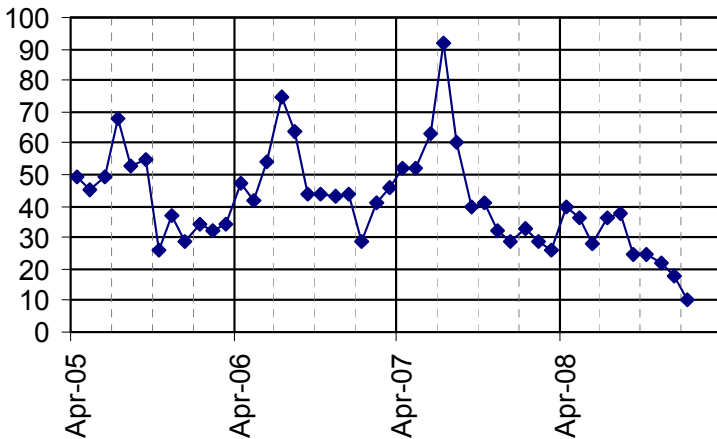
Domestic Violence Crimes, April 2005 to January 2009



- The number of domestic violence crimes remains between about 95 and 105 per month over the last 5 months. The number of crimes has fluctuated over the period shown in the graph, but recent months have shown lower than average numbers.

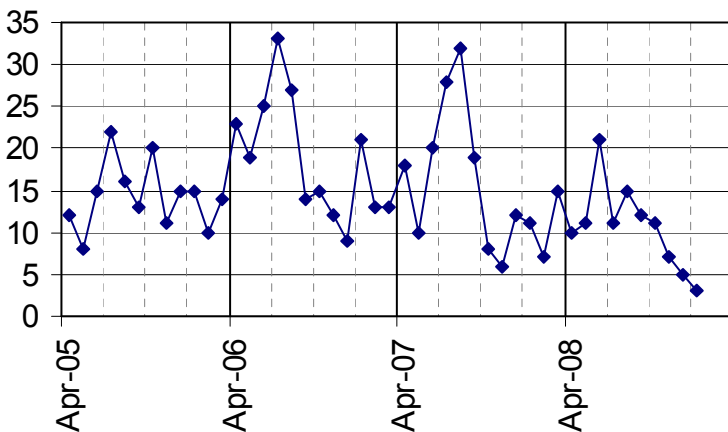
*Please note that crimes and incidents data would normally be reported here. However, there is a problem with the reliability of DV incident data at the moment so these have been omitted from the current report.*

Racist and Religiously Motivated Crimes and Incidents, April 2005 to January 2009



- A long term rising trend, as well as a seasonal pattern (with enhanced levels in the summer, particularly the month of July), has previously been evident in the data on racist and religiously motivated crimes and incidents. However, levels in the first ten months of 2008/9 have been consistently lower than in the same months in 2007/8.

LGBT Hate Crimes and Incidents, April 2005 to January 2009



- A seasonal pattern continues to be evident in the data on homophobic, biphobic and transphobic crimes and incidents, with higher levels tending to occur in the summer. Numbers recorded in 2008/09 to date are lower than in recent years, only 3 crimes and incidents recorded by the police in January 2009.

## **Appendix.**

### **A note on how Brighton & Hove's performance is compared with other CDRPs.**

For the purposes of assessing the relative performance of Brighton & Hove CDRP in reducing crime, our performance is compared (benchmarked) with the performance of 14 other 'Most Similar' CDRPs. The Home Office have created these groupings to help provide information on how CDRPs, police forces, etc. are performing.

CDRPs within a 'Most Similar' grouping have been assessed as having similar characteristics in terms of 24 socio-demographic and geographic variables which are strongly linked to increased levels of crime, fear of crime, or incidents.

We are able to compare our crime trends and current performance with our Most Similar CDRPs. The data presented on page 1 of this report (see right-most column of the table) shows our ranked position within this group of 15 CDRPs. For example, a ranking of 1 indicates that a CDRP is performing best within the group, and a ranking of 8 shows that the CDRP is in the middle ranked position.

### **Other Members of Brighton & Hove's Most Similar CDRP Group (from Apr 2008) area as follows:**

LB Barnet  
Bournemouth  
Cheltenham  
LB Croydon  
LB Ealing  
Eastbourne  
LB Hackney  
LB Hammersmith & Fulham  
LB Kensington & Chelsea  
LB Lambeth  
Reading  
LB Southwark  
LB Wandsworth  
Wycombe



### SUSSEX POLICE AUTHORITY

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Minutes of a meeting of the Sussex Police Authority held on Thursday, 23 October, at Hove Town Hall.

#### **Present:**

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

#### **CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

80. The Chairman welcomed Mr Peter Field, Lord Lieutenant of East Sussex, Mr Hugh Burnett OBE DL, High Sheriff of East Sussex, Major Tom Wye MBE DL, Member of Worthing Borough Council, Mr Peter Evans, Cabinet Member for Public Protection, West Sussex County Council, and Ms Emma Daniel, member designate of the Police Authority.
81. The Chairman also welcomed Supt Jane Rhodes representing the Superintendents' Association and Inspector Brian Stockham, representing the Police Federation.

#### **LORD LIEUTENANT OF WEST SUSSEX**

82. The Police Authority congratulated Mrs Susan Pyper DL on her appointment as Lord Lieutenant of West Sussex in succession to Mr Hugh Wyatt. Mrs Pyper would be attending the next meeting of the Authority.

#### **DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL INTERESTS**

83. No disclosures of personal interest were made.

#### **MINUTES**

84. **Resolved** – that the minutes of the last meeting of the Police Authority held on 31 July 2008 be confirmed.

#### **NOTIFICATION OF URGENT ITEMS**

#### **HERITABLE BANK**

85. The Chairman made a short statement regarding the money invested in Heritable Bank a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of these minutes.

## REPORTS

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

## POLICING GREEN PAPER

87. The Police Authority considered a report by the Chief Executive, Chief Constable and Treasurer.
88. The Chief Executive reported that further to minutes 43 to 45 of 31 July 2008, a joint response on behalf of the Police Authority and Sussex Police in respect of the Policing Green Paper had now been agreed, and submitted to the Home Office. A copy of the final response is attached as an appendix to the signed copy of the minutes.
89. The response pointed out that it was very encouraging that in publishing the Green Paper the Government acknowledged 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. This had been achieved 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 was now awaited and, it was hoped, will be available for consideration at the Authority's December meeting.
90. **Resolved** – that
- (1) the report be noted; and
  - (2) the Chief Executive be asked to ensure that the joint response is widely circulated to partner agencies and other interested organisations and individuals.

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

91. The Police Authority considered a report by the Chief Constable and Chief Executive.
92. The Authority was informed that the results of recent inspection activity by HMIC and the Audit Commission had now been received. Both bodies had reported good performance and progress in each of the Authority's strategic priorities. The Authority was pleased to receive HMIC's positive assessments of performance on keeping people safe and neighbourhood policing which recognised 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 confirmed a strong record of financial standing with good levels of achievement in securing value for money.
93. The Authority was particularly pleased to note that the assessment reflected 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. The inspection results

provided 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.

94. HMIC had also been testing the delivery of the national neighbourhood policing programme, which was required to be in place in all forces by April 2008, 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 had invested, and had supported the significant amount of activity undertaken by Sussex Police. The Authority had also implemented a substantial consultation programme to seek the views of the community which would be fed into the preparation of the Local Policing Plan.
95. The scores achieved by the Authority in respect of police use of resources were very high, and placed 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 was the maximum grade of 4, which demonstrated that the Authority was continuing to perform strongly. A copy of the full document would be available on the Authority’s website.
96. **Resolved** - that
  - (1) the assessments by HMIC and the Audit Commission of Sussex’s activity and achievements, including its progress to date in closing the protective services “gap”, be welcomed;
  - (2) the endorsement of the strategic decisions taken by the Authority be welcomed; and
  - (3) the remaining work to develop capacity and capability in aspects of neighbourhood policing and keeping people safe be acknowledged.

## **LOCAL POLICING PLAN 2009-2012**

97. The Police Authority considered a report by the Chief Executive, Chief Constable and Treasurer.
98. The Authority was advised that each year police forces and police authorities were required to produce strategic plans which looked ahead to the next three years. The resulting Local Policing Plan represented the contract between the Authority and Sussex Police. A Local Policing Plan Board had been formed to oversee the development of the Plan. The Authority was represented on the Board by the Chairman of the Planning and Performance Steering Group and the members who sat on each Force Strategic Board – Neighbourhood Policing, Keeping People Safe and Best Use of Resources.
99. Timescales for the production of the 2009-12 Plan had been tightened to enable a draft of the text to be brought to the Authority’s December meeting alongside proposals on budget and targets. The consultation activities of the Authority and Sussex Police had an important influence in setting the direction of the Force, and included the round of public and stakeholder consultation events taking place during the Autumn. Similarly, the production of the Force

Strategic Assessment had been timed so it could be fed into the Local Policing Plan.

100. **Resolved** – that the progress towards producing the 2009-12 Local Policing Plan be noted.

### **POLICING AND RESOURCE PLANNING: BUDGET STRATEGY TO 2012**

101. The Police Authority considered a report by the Chief Executive, Chief Constable and Treasurer.
102. The Authority 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 would 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.
103. The Authority continued to be badly affected by central government funding because it had traditionally been a low spending Authority and suffered disproportionately from the capping regime which the Government had stated that it expected to maintain. However, the Authority and the Chief Constable were 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 faced significant revenue budget pressures. The Authority was firmly committed to maintaining and where possible improving local neighbourhood policing across Sussex, providing a service that was visible, accessible and responsive to local concerns. At the same time Sussex Police needed to strengthen the services which allowed neighbourhoods to flourish and help keep people safe, such as tackling serious and organised crime and counter-terrorism.
104. **Resolved** – that the officers be asked 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%.

### **REPORT ON BUDGET MONITORING TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2008**

105. The Police Authority considered a report by the Chief Constable, the Treasurer and the Chief Executive.
106. The report outlined the Authority's financial position to the end of September 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.
107. **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 D be approved; and
- (3) the amendments and transfers to and from reserves as set out in Section 7 and Appendix D be approved.

## **REVIEW OF RESERVES**

108. The Police Authority considered a report by the Treasurer and Chief Constable.

109. **Resolved** – that

- (1) the changes to specific reserves set out in Section 5 be approved; and
- (2) the revised Reserves Policy set out in Appendix C of the report be adopted.

## **CAPITAL STRATEGY TO 2013**

110. The Police Authority considered a report by the Chief Constable, the Chief Executive and the Treasurer.

111. The Capital Strategy identified proposed major investments to support the Force's priorities. The Police Authority discussed the funding options for the Capital Programme bearing in mind the forecast of available resources.

112. **Resolved** – that Capital Strategy as set out in the Appendix be approved subject to:

- (1) the Chief Constable re-prioritising expenditure plans across the three year Capital Programme; and
- (2) the option to increase the borrowing ceiling over the longer term be noted.

**CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS** - The Police Authority considered the report by the Chief Executive.

113. **Resolved** – that

- (1) the recommendations in the report be approved and, amendments be made to reflect the latest position regarding lead member roles; and
- (2) the revised schedule of member responsibilities be circulated.

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

114. The Police Authority considered the report of the Corporate Governance Committee's meeting held on 25 September 2008.

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

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

116. **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.
117. The Police Authority considered exempt reports on the enhancement of Protective Services, the Olympics 2012 and Operation Quest

Chairman

## SUSSEX POLICE AUTHORITY

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Minutes of a meeting of the Sussex Police Authority held on 18 December 2008 at County Hall, Lewes.

### **Present:**

Mr L Barnard (Chairman), Mr P Bratton, Prof G Bull, Dr L Bush (Vice-Chairman), Ms E Daniel, Mr B Duncan, 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.

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs M Collins DL and Mr F Faiz.

### **CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

118. The Chairman welcomed Ms Emma Daniel to her first meeting of the Police Authority and wished her every success during her term of office as a member of the Police Authority
119. The Chairman also welcomed Ms Sandra Prail, Audit Commission Mr James McGough, Member of West Sussex County Council and Mr Peter Evans, Cabinet Member for Public Protection, West Sussex County Council and Mrs Christine Swan OBE, the Independent Chairman of the Authority's Standards Committee.
120. The Chairman also welcomed Inspector Brian Stockham and Police Constable Mark White representing Police Federation and Mrs Sarah Reed representing UNISON to the meeting of the Police Authority.

### **DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL INTERESTS**

121. No disclosures of personal interest were made.

### **MINUTES**

122. **Resolved** – That the minutes of the last meeting of the Police Authority held on 23 October 2008 be confirmed.

### **REPORTS**

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

### **POLICING GREEN PAPER**

124. The Police Authority considered a report by the Chief Executive, Chief Constable and Treasurer.
125. The Chairman was pleased to announce that the Government had listened to police authorities, including the Sussex Police Authority, by deciding not to

introduce direct elections of crime and policing representatives in the Policing and Crime Bill. There had been major opposition to the proposal because introduction of direct elections would have compromised the balanced accountability provided through the current composition of police authorities which worked in the interests of local communities.

126. The Authority was also pleased to note the Government's decision not to proceed with the creation of a national border police force. It was reported that the Chairman had been appointed as the Association of Police Authorities Lead Member on Border Policing. The Chief Executive indicated that the Police Authority would continue to work to seek to influence the Policing and Crime Bill as it progressed through Parliament.
127. **Resolved** – that
- (1) the Police Authority welcome the Government's decision not to proceed with the introduction of direct elections to police authorities or a national border police force; and
  - 2) the Chairman and Chief Executive be authorised to continue to monitor the passage through Parliament of the Crime and Policing Bill and to take any necessary action to represent the views of the Police Authority.

## **LOCAL POLICING PLAN 2009-12 AND TARGETS**

128. The Police Authority considered a report by the Chief Constable, Chief Executive and Treasurer.
129. The Police Authority discussed the draft Local Policing Plan (LPP) 2009-12 and the associated targets which set out the priorities for policing in Sussex, and focused on neighbourhood policing, keeping you safe, and how resources would be used to deliver the best performance of Sussex Police. The draft Plan had been prepared much earlier than usual which was welcomed by the Authority. The preparation of the Plan would be considered in conjunction with the preparation of the budget which would make the planning and budget process more resilient. The policies in the LPP identified local needs, and reflected the policing priorities set by the Government. The LPP aimed to sustain the strong performance of Sussex Police through continued development of neighbourhood policing, and the capacity to ensure Sussex remained a safe place in which to work and live.
130. The draft LPP had been prepared in the light of the strategic assessment of Force performance including the possible impact of the current financial downturn. In considering targets it was pointed out that Sussex Police was only part way through the current performance year. Members raised a number of points which were noted for consideration in finalising the draft LPP including, the need to reinforce policing standards, achieving targets for roads policing and the challenge of achieving environmental targets. The Authority expressed its thanks to the Chief Constable for producing the draft LPP earlier in the planning cycle with indicative targets which now meant that there was a strengthened link between the LPP and the budget.



131. **Resolved** – that

- (4) the attached text of the draft 2009-12 Local Policing Plan and the approach to setting targets for 2009-10 be endorsed, and the proposed list of draft targets be noted. and
- (5) the Authority notes that the Local Policing Plan Development Board will oversee the final revisions to the Plan, including any revisions to the targets, and its presentation and design for approval by the Police Authority at its February 2009 meeting in conjunction with consideration of the Budget 2009-10.

**POLICING AND RESOURCE PLANNING: PROPOSED REVENUE BUDGET AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME TO 2012**

- 132. The Police Authority considered a report by the Chief Constable, Treasurer and Chief Executive.
- 133. Further to minutes 105–107 of 23 October, 2008 the Police Authority considered the preparatory work which had been undertaken in developing a draft revenue budget for 2009-10 and investment plans for delivering the priorities of the Local Policing Plan for Sussex to 2012. The Treasurer outlined the implications of the budget settlement and the factors which would confront the Police Authority in setting the budget strategy to 2012 against a tightening financial outlook. In particular the Treasurer drew attention to the fact that in agreeing the budget strategy, the Authority would need to take into account the Government's expectation that average council tax increases should be substantially under 5% in 2009-10. This message was reiterated in the provisional grant settlement that the Government would not hesitate to use capping powers to deal with excessive council tax increases.
- 134. The Police Authority examined in detail the Chief Constable's outline business case for proposed developments, the linkage to the Draft Local Policing Plan and the total revenue financial forecast.
- 134. The Authority discussed the outline business cases and performance impact statements for the development proposals in the light of the impact on the council tax payers in Sussex. Mr P Jones proposed an amendment to the recommendation that the officers be asked to re-examine the draft budget proposals and come forward with an additional budget option which could be contained within a precept increase of around 4%. The proposed amendment was seconded by Mr R Tidy. The amendment was lost.
- 135. In the light of further discussion Mr Duncan proposed an amendment to the recommendation that the officers be asked to bring forward a draft budget based on a precept of no more than 4.9% to be considered at the meeting of the Authority on 12 February 2009. The proposed amendment was seconded by Mr J Mortimer. The amendment was approved.
- 136. **Resolved** - that
  - (1) in preparing the revenue budget to be submitted for approval at the Authority's meeting on 12 February 2009, the Chief Constable be asked to continue with

the preparation of the 2009-10 budget on the basis of the financial impact being contained within a precept increase of no more than 4.9%;

- (2) the Chief Executive responds to the provisional grant settlement in consultation with the Chief Constable, Treasurer, Chairman and Vice-Chairman and Lead Member for Resources by 7 January 2009, taking into account the views expressed at the meeting; and
- (3) the Chief Executive, Chief Constable and the Treasurer progress arrangements for further external consultation on the budget including with the business community in Sussex.

## **BUDGET MONITORING**

138. The Police Authority considered a report by the Chief Constable, Treasurer and Chief Executive.

139. **Resolved** – that

- (1) the latest position on the revenue and capital budgets for 2008-09, the position on outstanding debts and budget transfers be noted;
- (2) the revised capital budget of £16.081m set out in Section 3 be approved; and
- (3) the amendments and transfers to and from reserves as set out in Section 5 and Appendix D be approved.

## **POLICING SUSSEX CONFERENCE 2008**

140. The Police Authority considered a report by the Chief Executive, Chief Constable and Treasurer.

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

## **ASSOCIATION OF POLICE AUTHORITIES: UPDATE**

142. The Police Authority considered a report by the Chief Executive.

143. **Resolved** – that

- (1) the report be noted; and
- (2) the Minister's decision not to create a national border police force be welcomed.

## **CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS**

144. The Police Authority considered a report by the Chief Executive.

145. **Resolved** – that

- (1) the recommended amended terms of reference for the Professional Standards Committee set out in paragraph 4 be approved; and

- (2) the amendment to standing orders set out in paragraph 5 be approved.

## **CHIEF CONSTABLE'S UPDATE**

146. The Police Authority considered a report by the Chief Constable.
147. The Deputy Chief Constable tabled an amendment to the report, a copy of which was circulated to the meeting, which updated paragraph 7.2 of this report which related to Operation Adio 2.
148. **Resolved** – that
  - (1) the report including the amendment to paragraph 7.2 be noted; and
  - (2) the congratulations of the Police Authority be passed to the Specialist Search Teams and the Criminal Asset Recovery Team for the excellent results which they had achieved in the period covered by the report.

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

149. The Police Authority considered the report of the Professional Standards Committee's meeting held on 29 October 2008.
150. The Report drew attention to the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) which had published its analysis of figures on complaints about the police in England and Wales for 2007-08. Following the publication of the figures which revealed a significant increase in the number of complaints recorded in Sussex, the Chairman of the Authority had asked the Chairman of the Professional Standards Committee and the Chief Executive to conduct an immediate review of the reasons for the increase.
151. The review had now been concluded and the Committee had received a report indicating that the Chief Constable, in conjunction with the Police Authority, had instituted a number of changes which were set out in the review report to strengthen complaints handling.
152. **Resolved** – that
  - (1) the report be noted; and
  - (2) the action taken by the Committee in response to the increase in complaints in Sussex referred to in the IPCC's annual report for 2007-08 be welcomed and endorsed.

## **REPORT OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

153. The Police Authority considered the report of the Standards Committee's meeting held on 31 October 2008.
154. **Resolved** – that
  - (1) an Assessment Sub-Committee, a Review Sub-Committee and a Hearing Sub-Committee as set out in paragraph 3.2 be established;

- (2) the terms of reference for the Standards Committee as set out in paragraph 3.4 be amended; and
- (3) the Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Independent Chairman of the Standards Committee be authorised to make any further adjustments to the arrangements in order to implement the Code of Conduct regulations.

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

155. The Authority considered a report of the Planning and Performance Steering Group's meeting held on 6 November 2008.
156. **Resolved** - that the report be noted.

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

157. The Police Authority considered the report of the Community Engagement Steering Group's meeting held on 13 November, 2008.
158. **Resolved** – that
- (1) the report be noted; and
  - (2) the Single Equality Scheme referred to at paragraph 6 be approved.

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

159. The Police Authority considered the report of the Corporate Governance Committee's meeting held on 20 November, 2008.
160. **Resolved** – that
- (1) the report be noted; and
  - (2) a Statement of Accounts Committee, comprising the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Authority, Vice-Chairman of the Corporate Governance Committee and Mr P Bratton be established to approve the Statement of Accounts 2008-09.

#### **REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT CUSTODY VISITING COMMITTEE**

161. The Police Authority considered the report of the Independent Custody Visiting Committee's meeting held on 27 November 2008.
162. **Resolved** – that
- (1) the report be noted; and
  - (2) paragraph 2.3 of the report be amended by the deletion of the words "by Panel Co-ordinators" in the fourth sentence.

## WRITTEN QUESTION PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 24.1

163. The Police Authority noted the following written question from Mr D Rogers OBE for reply by the Chairman of the Police Authority:

Given the judgment of the European Court of Human Rights on 4 December, concerning the retention of DNA samples on the national database, please provide the following information:

1. How many DNA samples from residents of Sussex are currently held on the database?
2. Of these, how many (a) adults and (b) children have been arrested only, but not charged or convicted?
3. How many (a) adults and (b) children have been arrested and subsequently charged, but not convicted?
4. Does Sussex Police plan to implement the judgment of the ECHR? If so, when?

164. The Chairman provided the following answer to the question :

### **Answer 1:**

There are currently 119,675 suspect samples taken in Sussex on the National Database although it is not possible to say how many of them are from residents of Sussex. Even if Sussex residents could be identified from Sussex Police's own systems, it would not account for those Sussex residents who were sampled in other counties.

### **Answers 2 and 3:**

The system does not readily provide the data required to answer these questions. If Mr Rogers wishes to discuss this in greater detail, the Chief Constable will be pleased to help. The National Police Improvement Agency (NPIA) is undertaking some national research regarding access to DNA data held on the national database. The Chairman of the NPIA will be visiting Sussex on 12 March 2009, and I will raise this issue with him and report back to Mr Rogers.

### **Answer 4:**

Sussex Police are adhering to the national ACPO guidance dated 9 December, the relevant parts of which state:

"The Government is expected to provide a considered response to this ruling, which is currently under consideration by their lawyers.

Whilst this judgment has gone against the Government, it does not have any impact on the current retention fingerprint and DNA policy until the law is changed by Parliament. It therefore follows that the current legislation and procedures remain unaffected by this ruling".

Consequently, there will be no changes to procedures in Sussex unless and until Sussex Police are advised differently.

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

165. **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 as specified in Part 1 of Schedule 12(A) of the Local Government Act 1972.
166. **Resolved** – that the Police Authority approved the exempt minutes of the meeting of the Authority held on 23 October 2008.

Chairman

## **REVIEW OF RESERVES**

108. The Police Authority considered a report by the Treasurer and Chief Constable.
109. **Resolved** – that
- (1) the changes to specific reserves set out in Section 5 be approved; and
  - (2) the revised Reserves Policy set out in Appendix C of the report be adopted.

## **CAPITAL STRATEGY TO 2013**

110. The Police Authority considered a report by the Chief Constable, the Chief Executive and the Treasurer.
111. The Capital Strategy identified proposed major investments to support the Force's priorities. The Police Authority discussed the funding options for the Capital Programme bearing in mind the forecast of available resources.
112. **Resolved** – that Capital Strategy as set out in the Appendix be approved subject to:
- (3) the Chief Constable re-prioritising expenditure plans across the three year Capital Programme; and
  - (4) the option to increase the borrowing ceiling over the longer term be noted.

**CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS** - The Police Authority considered the report by the Chief Executive.

113. **Resolved** – that
- (1) the recommendations in the report be approved and, amendments be made to reflect the latest position regarding lead member roles; and
  - (2) the revised schedule of member responsibilities be circulated.

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

114. The Police Authority considered the report of the Corporate Governance Committee's meeting held on 25 September 2008.

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

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

116. **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.

117. The Police Authority considered exempt reports on the enhancement of Protective Services, the Olympics 2012 and Operation Quest

Chairman





### EAST SUSSEX FIRE AUTHORITY

#### Report of a meeting of the East Sussex Fire Authority held at Fire & Rescue Service Headquarters at 10.30 hours on Thursday 11 December 2008.

Members present: Councillors Carden, Freeman, Gadd, Harmer-Strange, Mrs. Healy, Howson, Kemble, Kirby, Marsh, Murphy (Chairman), Pidgeon, Scott, Skilton, Sparks, Waite and Wilson. Mrs. Redman, Independent Person and Chair of the Standards Panel and Mr. Wheeler, Independent Person.

#### 1. NOTE OF THE PRINCIPAL OFFICER APPOINTMENTS, POLICY & RESOURCES, SCRUTINY & AUDIT AND STANDARDS PANEL MEETINGS HELD SINCE THE LAST MEETING OF THE FIRE AUTHORITY

- 1.1 The Fire Authority has considered a report that set out the reports of the Chairmen and Chair of the Panels that had met since the last meeting of the Fire Authority.
- 1.2 Councillor Scott proposed a motion that the resolution by the Policy & Resources Panel on 21 November 2008, item 537 (to remove the Service day crewed housing allowances for council tax, water and sewage rates and the annual redecoration allowance) be referred back to an appropriate panel for further discussion and consideration.
- 1.3 The resolution by the Policy & Resources Panel was that 'the action taken with regard to the recommendation 8 of the Management Action Plan be approved, as amended, to be phased in over a three year period'. Councillor Skilton suggested that this item be added to the agenda for the next meeting of the Way Forward Working Group on 9 January 2009, to allow for discussion with members of staff and the representative bodies.
- 1.4 The motion was seconded by Councillor Carden, and was subsequently lost.

#### 2. FIRE AUTHORITY SERVICE PLANNING

- 2.1 The Fire Authority gave initial consideration to a projection of the draft 2009/10 Fire Authority Service Planning and Resource Management issues which would be finalised over the period from December 2008 to February 2009.
- 2.2 Members were informed that the announcement of the detailed Formula Grant for the period 2008/09 to 2010/11 had been made last year. The financial context for local government remained one of continued and significant financial constraint, with requirements to meet the latest efficiency savings targets for 3 years from 2009/10 as well as a potential to have to meet losses on collection funds, a reduction in the council tax base and other budget impacts as the economic conditions hardened. Government had restated guidance that council tax increase should be 'substantially below 5%' but it was still not clear exactly what this meant. Members requested that officers should model the impact of a council tax increase below 4% for future meetings. The use of balances to ease any one-off pressures would also be examined.
- 2.3 The Fire Authority confirmed the current planning assumptions; considered the draft service investment proposals, including the revenue consequences of the draft Capital Programme, and considered the draft savings proposals. Members noted that the Fire Authority must set its precept for 2009/10 on 5 February 2009.

- 2.4 **RESOLVED** – That the Fire Authority supports the indicative budget proposals set out in the report.
3. **FURTHER REVISIONS TO THE FIRE AUTHORITY TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY AND POLICY STATEMENT FOR 2008/09**
- 3.1 The Fire Authority has considered revisions to the Treasury Management Strategy for 2008/09, following the earlier approval of this on 7 February 2008, and amended on 5 June 2008 due to the worsening situation in the financial markets.
- 3.2 Under the Local Government Act 2003 and the Prudential Code for Capital Finance 2004, the Fire Authority was required to determine its authorised borrowing limit, to adopt treasury management prudential indicators and limits, to approve the Minimum Revenue Provision Statement and to agree the treasury management strategy and policy statement. The Fire Authority agreed these for 2008/09 at its meeting on 7 February 2008 and an amendment to the strategy was approved on 5 June 2008. Members were informed of the details of the latest revision for 2008/09, which applied only to the treasury management strategy.
- 3.3 It was noted that the strategy prioritised access and security and consequently was likely to result in reduced investment income and, together with the recent cut in the base rate, would mean that investment income would be lower than originally expected. This position was likely to continue into 2009/10 if interest rates were reduced by further base rate cuts.
- 3.4 Members thanked the Treasurer for his continued work in this area, and his wise and prudent approach to Treasury management which had ensured that none of the Authority's money was invested in Icelandic banks and that appropriately cautious approaches had been adopted on all related matters.
- 3.5 **RESOLVED** – That the further revisions to the Treasury Management Strategy for 2008/09 be approved.

**COUNCILLOR MIKE MURPHY**  
**CHAIRMAN OF EAST SUSSEX FIRE AUTHORITY**  
12 December 2008

## **EAST SUSSEX FIRE AUTHORITY**

### **Report of a meeting of the East Sussex Fire Authority held at Fire & Rescue Service Headquarters at 10.30 hours on Thursday 15 January 2009.**

Members present: Councillors Carden, Ensor, Freeman, Gadd, Harmer-Strange, Mrs. Healy, Howson, Kemble, Kirby, Marsh, Murphy (Chairman), Pidgeon, Scott, Sparks, Thomas and Wilson.

N.B. Councillor Ensor attended the meeting in place of Councillor Livings, having been nominated by the Monitoring Officer in consultation with the relevant Group spokesperson.

#### **1. DIANA WILLIAMS, MBE – ASSISTANT CHIEF OFFICER (CORPORATE SERVICES)**

1.1 The Fire Authority has congratulated Diana Williams, Assistant Chief Officer (Corporate Services) on her award of an MBE in the New Year's Honours, for services to local government. Diana, who had worked for 35 years in local government, started her career at Brighton Borough Council, then moved to East Sussex County Council, with the last 15 years with East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service.

#### **2. GARY WALSH – APPOINTMENT TO POST OF DEPUTY CHIEF FIRE OFFICER**

2.1 The Fire Authority has congratulated Gary Walsh on his appointment to the post of Deputy Chief Fire Officer. He will be taking up the post from 9 April 2009.

#### **3. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CHARTER FOR FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY MEMBERS**

3.1 Members of the Fire Authority have demonstrated their commitment to equality and diversity by publicly signing the Local Government Association's five-point Equality and Diversity Charter for Fire & Rescue Authority Members.

#### **4. CONSULTATION OUTCOMES REPORT ON THE DRAFT 2009/10 INTEGRATED RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN AND STRATEGIC PLAN**

4.1 The Fire Authority has given consideration to the results of the consultation exercise relating to the Integrated Risk Management Plan for 2009-12. Opinions from staff, partners, stakeholders and the public were sought through various methods.

4.2 The Fire Authority was required statutorily to consult on the 3-year IRMP Plan and staff, partner organisations, stakeholders and the public had been consulted. The overall net response was that generally the respondents were supportive of the Plans.

4.3 The Fire Authority approved the Integrated Risk Management Plan for 2009-12.

#### **5. FIRE AUTHORITY SERVICE PLANNING PROCESS FOR 2009/10 AND BEYOND – DRAFT REVENUE BUDGET 2009/10 AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2009/10 TO 2013/14**

5.1 The Fire Authority has given consideration to the initial draft service planning document.

5.2 Members considered the draft detailed Service Planning documents, recognising the need for the continuation of existing service commitments in addition to the approved Improvement Agenda, and within the context of a tight financial regime.

- 5.3 The Fire Authority noted that the implications of the Revenue Budget and Capital Programme will be incorporated into the 2009/10 Strategic Plan and the 2009/10 Annual Plan once the Fire Authority has given final approval on 5 February 2009 for their publication by 30 June 2009 in line with amended legislation.
- 5.4 The following key issues were noted by the Fire Authority:
- a) the projected expenditure for 2008/09 of £36.892m which was unchanged from the original estimate;
  - b) the continued Revenue Budget consultations taking place; and
  - c) the proposed restricted budget pressures being considered this year and the compensatory savings already identified for subsequent consideration by the Fire Authority at its next meeting on 5 February 2009, which should help to contain Council Tax increases below the Fire Authority's original target of 4%, subject to the final Council Tax figures yet to be published.
- 5.5 The following key issues were approved by the Fire Authority:
- a) a committed budget of £37.927m for 2009/10 including provision for pay awards, price increases and net escapable commitments;
  - b) Increases to fees and charges;
  - c) an amended Capital Programme for 2008/09 totalling £3.911m and Capital Programme for 2009/10 totalling £5.162m and the related revenue consequences.

**6. DRAFT 2009/10 SERVICE PRIORITIES FOR INCLUSION WITHIN THE FIRE AUTHORITY'S 2009/10 IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

- 6.1 The Fire Authority has considered proposed key Service Improvements for the draft 2009/10 Improvement Plan which takes account of the Fire Authority's own improvement priorities, longer term projects being undertaken through Key Task Areas (corporate projects) and priorities arising from the Fire & Rescue Service National Framework 2009/11. Members considered the corporate priorities that will continue on into 2009/10 as well as the following new Key Task Areas for 2009/10:
- KTA 5 Land acquisition for a new City Fire Station
  - KTA 6 Review fire cover and resilience in non-urban areas (IRMP outcome)
  - KTA 10 Implementation of VFM Review of Learning & Development
  - KTA 11 Review the long term needs of operational service delivery in order to sustain improvements in operational competence (IRMP outcome)
  - KTA 15 Expansion in capacity of Wide Area Network
  - KTA 16 Review the effectiveness of other support services in relation to local service delivery needs and corporate governance requirements (IRMP outcome).
- 6.2 The Fire Authority approved the proposed 2009/10 Service Improvements detailed in the report.

**COUNCILLOR MIKE MURPHY**  
**CHAIRMAN OF EAST SUSSEX FIRE AUTHORITY**  
16 January 2009