



Brighton & Hove
City Council

Community Safety Forum

Title:	Community Safety Forum
Date:	18 January 2011
Time:	4.00pm
Venue	Council Chamber, Hove Town Hall
Members:	Councillors: Simson (Chairman), Barnett, Carden, Deane, Hyde, Janio, Morgan (Opposition Spokesperson), Phillips, Watkins and Young, Representatives from Communities of Interest
Contact:	Penny Jennings Democratic Services Officer 01273 291065 penny.jennings@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
Local Action Team Representatives
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

Part One

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24. 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.

25. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

1 - 10

Minutes of the meeting held on 18 October 2010 (copy attached)

26. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

27. PETITIONS

11 - 12

To receive and consider joint paper and e petitions received in relation to Protection of Front Line Policing – Report of the Strategic Director of Resources (copy attached).

28. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

(The closing date for receipt of public questions is 12 noon on 10 January 2011)

No public questions received by date of publication.

29. MEMBERS QUESTIONS

13 - 14

To consider a question received from Councillor Deane (copy attached)

COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM

30. COMMUNITY SAFETY ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS AND COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

31. DEALING WITH ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Oral presentation by the Lead Commissioner for Community Safety.

32. CRIME TRENDS AND PERFORMANCE FIGURES

15 - 26

Report of the Lead Commissioner for Community Safety (copy attached)

33. LATE NIGHT ON-STREET NOISE DISTURBANCE

Presentation by representatives from the Noise Abatement Society.

Please note this presentation will mirror that which was given to LAT Chairman recently.

Following a brief presentation there will be the opportunity to ask questions.

34. COMMUNITY RESOLUTION AND RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

Oral Report by Sergeant Castleton on behalf of the Superintendent of Police.

35. EAST SUSSEX POLICE AUTHORITY: MINUTES

27 - 32

Minutes of the meeting held on 28 October (copy attached)

36. EAST SUSSEX FIRE AUTHORITY: MINUTES

33 - 38

Minutes of the meetings held on 21 October and 9 December (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 Penny Jennings, (01273 291065), email penny.jennings@brighton-hove.gov.uk or email democratic.services@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Date of Publication - Monday, 10 January 2011

COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM

Agenda Item 25

Brighton & Hove City Council

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM

4.00pm 18 OCTOBER 2010

COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillor Simson (Chairman); Barnett, Carden, Morgan (Opposition Spokesperson), Phillips and Watkins

Sussex Police: Chief Superintendent Bartlett, Sergeant Castleton

Communities of Interest: Councillor Mo Marsh, Bevendean LAT; Sylvia Howell, Bevendean LAT; Bill Gandey, Devendean LAT; Ted Harman, Stanmer and Coldean LAT (SCLAT); Chris El Shabba, Whitehawk LAT; Christina Summers, London Road LAT

Officers: Linda Beanlands, Head of Community Safety; Liz Woodley, Senior Solicitor and Penny Jennings, Democratic Services Officer

PART ONE

14. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

14a. Declaration of Substitutes

14.1 There were none.

14b. Declarations of Interest

14.2 There were none.

14c. Exclusion of Press and Public

14.3 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 consideration of any item of business on the grounds that it was likely in view of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that

if members of the press and public were present during that item there would be disclosure to them of confidential information (as Defined in Section 100(1) of the Act).

- 14.4 **RESOLVED** – That the press and public be not excluded from the meeting during consideration of any item on the agenda.

15. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

- 15.1 It was noted that although John Stevens had given his apologies he wished it to be noted that he had been present at the previous meeting. In relation to Paragraph 11.4 of the minutes he wished it to be noted that he had expressed concern at the time it had taken for the emergency services to break into a flat which had been fitted with one of the new security doors. He had been assured that the new doors had been tested and that these could now be accessed within minutes if needed by the emergency services and Mears. Mr Stevens had raised other matters in relation to Item 19 on that day's agenda and it was noted that a separate written response would be provided in relation to those issues.
- 15.2 **RESOLVED** - That the Chairman be authorised to sign the minutes as a correct record subject to the amendments set out above.

16. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

ASB Minimum Service Standards

- 16.1 The Chairman explained that a week or so ago the ASB Minimum service standards for victims and witnesses of anti-social behaviour. Under this, organisations involved in dealing with anti-social behaviour committed to a set of standards which residents could rely on and victims and witnesses received named person to support them. Many of those present at this meeting had been able to be at the launch, the Chairman hoped that they had enjoyed it and were reassured about the high quality service that people would receive when they reported anti-social behaviour.

Family Intervention Project

- 16.2 The Family Intervention Project, which combines support and help for families in trouble alongside being clear when offending behaviour is not acceptable was currently achieving an 85% reduction in anti-social behaviour amongst those families, this was great news.

Training for Housing Staff

- 16.4 The Chairman explained that a training event had taken place in September for Housing Staff. The purpose of the training had been to help them understand all the different ways in which those who reported domestic violence would be supported and protected. Over 70 staff attended and the event had been a great success. It had illustrated the value of a good partnership approach to skill sharing amongst staff and helping vulnerable victims.

Collaborative Working : St James' Street Local Action Team

- 16.4 The Chairman explained that during August reports had been received that a particular car park off St. James Street was being used as a venue for drug dealing and a site for criminal damage, including to cars. Working with the Local Action Team, the neighbourhood police and communities against drugs team the Environment Improvement Team and Sussex Probation had painted the whole car park a brilliant white and an old attendants kiosk now looking remarkably like a police box in a 'Dr. Who' style. Regular clean up days were continuing, flower planters were going in and there was little doubt that a real reduction in the unacceptable behaviour that was going on in that car park would be seen.

Response to Noise Problems

- 16.5 The Head of Community Safety and the Environment Improvement Team had been doing a lot of work to try and respond to the noise problems experienced in a number of places in the city caused by those walking along narrow residential streets as they went home late at night. This issue had been raised by members of the St. James Street LAT, by those within the North Laines LAT and others. The next LAT Chairs meeting on was to be held on 12th November and everyone was invited as there would be an important workshop session at that meeting with every intention of getting some new initiatives in place to deal with the problem.

Hate Crime Vigil

- 16.6 The Chairman stated that she would also like to invite those present to the Hate Crime Vigil which this year is being hosted by LGBT Switchboard. It would take place on Saturday 23rd October at 7.00pm at the Old Steine Fountain. The candle lit vigil allow those present to stand shoulder to shoulder with other supporters on what was to be the first International Day against Hate Crime.

White Nights 2010

- 16.7 The offices of the Partnership Community Safety Team at 162 North Street were to be used by the organisers of the White Nights event which would take place on Saturday 30th October. The balcony of the building would be used from 7.00pm every hour on the hour by representatives of different faith communities who would be singing their calls to prayer joined by some wonderful singers and performers who would truly represent the diversity of the city. It would be a wonderful event and all were urged to attend.

- 16.8 **RESOLVED** – That the content of the Chairman's Communications be noted.

17. COMMUNITY SAFETY ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS AND COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

- 17.1 There were none.

18. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

- 18.1 There were none.

19. CRIME TRENDS AND PERFORMANCE IN BRIGHTON & HOVE : POSITION AT END AUGUST 2010

19.1 The Forum considered a report of the Head of Community Safety setting out crime trends in Brighton and Hove up to the end of August 2010.

19.2 Sergeant Castleton re-iterated his Total Police Recorded Crime comments made at the previous meeting that in consequence of new Home Office directives some of the targets previously imposed had been removed. However it was considered very important that trends continued to be reported in a meaningful way which provided a useful basis for comparison. At present the Police were continuing to work with their existing targets.

Total Recorded Crime

19.3 After the first five months of 2010/11 (to end of August) there was a reduction in overall crime of 4.8% compared to the same months of 2009/10 and this exceeds our 3% reduction target. This is a continuation of the long term downward trend experienced in the past ten years.

Violent Crime

19.4 The number of violent offences involving injury (including both serious and other injury) had reduced in the first five months of 2010/11 by 9% compared with the same months in 2009/10. On going work was continuing with partners in relation to an overarching alcohol strategy.

Sexual Offences

19.5 Sergeant Castleton stated that the figures for sexual offences continued to be a cause for concern. Recorded figures had peaked in July and it was considered that this figure was largely historical and reflected the fact that victims were encouraged to come report such crimes.

Motor Vehicle and Cycle Theft

19.6 The number of vehicle thefts had decreased by 9%. This decrease applied both to thefts of and thefts from motor vehicles. There had been a number of city wide initiatives including initiatives during the summer months to address the problem of stolen mopeds.

19.7 The recorded number of cycle thefts had increased by 5.5% during the first five months of 2010, with the number of thefts during June/July being particularly high with over 120 thefts each month. A number of initiatives had taken place at key locations across the city, involving registration of cycles on immobilise.com, giving out crime prevention advice, post coding cycles and leaving crime prevention tips on cycles left unattended in cycle theft hot spots.

Domestic Violence

- 19.8 The number of reported domestic violence incidents continued to increase and overall figures were 3% higher for 2010/11 than for the previous year. Whilst seeking to decrease the incidence of domestic violence, on going work was taking place to increase reporting. The Police were responding promptly and other processes around the handling of such cases, as a consequences more offences were being detected and charged than had previously been the case. The percentage of finalized court cases with successful outcomes remained at over 70%.

Hate Incidents and Crimes

- 19.9 The number of racist and religiously motivated incidents recorded continued to decline, although the number recorded through the multi-agency Racist Incident Report , recently superseded by a generic form, remained constant. The number of recorded LGBT motivated hate crimes and incidents had continued to fall. It was anticipated however that the generic Hate Incident Report Form which was being widely promoted across agencies working in the city would encourage further reporting.
- 19.10 Gail Gray, RISE welcomed the increased reporting of crimes of domestic violence as traditionally such crimes had been under reported.
- 19.11 Councillor Morgan welcomed the on-going good news in terms of the reductions in overall crime figures but in view of projected and on going service pressures and removal of a number of targets he considered that it was important for figures to continue to be recorded in such fashion that it would enable like to be compared with like down future years. The Chairman, Councillor Simson was in agreement that it was important for some bench marks to remain in place to enable comparisons to be made in future years.
- 19.12 Mr Tonks, Older People's Council referred to the need to ensure that adequate measures were in place to safeguard vulnerable adults. He referred in particular to targeted initiatives which were already in place e.g., operation Cranberry in relation to increased domestic violence in the run up to Christmas and during World Cup football matches.
- 19.3 Councillor Marsh queried whether there were more frequent initiatives in relation to other major football tournaments bearing in mind that the World cup only occurred every four years. Chief Superintendent Bartlett explained that similar initiatives also took place during other major events, such as the European Cup.
- 19.4 Councillor Phillips enquired regarding whether there were any specific targeted initiatives aimed at the student population across the city, especially in relation to sexual violence for example. Sergeant Castleton stated that a Central Strategy Group was responsible for assessing such issues including those in relation to domestic violence and in implementing targeted campaigns as appropriate. The Head of Community Safety explained that in response to the findings of the Scrutiny Panel dealing with sexual violence, there had been a Police led approach to putting strategies in place citywide to improve support for victims, deal with perpetrators and examine the relationship between alcohol and peaks in offences at certain time(s) in

the year. This work was being carried forward in addition to work systems already in place.

19.15 Councillor Phillips referred to the model which was already in place in Edinburgh and it was noted that the Police would be happy to receive details regarding that scheme.

19.16 **RESOLVED** - That the content of the report be noted.

20. MANAGEMENT OF DEMONSTRATIONS IN THE CITY

20.1 Sergeant Bartlett referred to the principles used in policing demonstrations in the city with particular reference to the recent "Smash Edo" demonstration which had taken place on 10 October 2010. Whilst recognising that the right to demonstrate was a necessary part of democracy it could also be disruptive to lives of those living and working in the city who were seeking to go about their day to day business and could give rise to incidents of anti-social behaviour.

20.2 A balance needed to be struck between the rights of demonstrators and the local populace. The Police were under a duty to protect all sections of the public including those taking part in any demonstration. EDO was carrying on a lawful business and was entitled to do so ,notwithstanding that some people had strong views in relation to that business, and there was an onus on the Police to seek to prevent crime and disorder.

20.3 Councillor Marsh spoke both in her capacity as a member of the Local LAT and as a Ward Councillor commending the Police for the level of co-ordination which had taken place on the day to ensure that local residents were aware of precisely what was going on and were in consequence able to go about their normal daily lives with a minimum of disruption.

20.4 Mr Harman, SCLAT, referred to the fact that Police had been brought into the area from across Sussex and expressed concern that areas of the city could be left un-policed when large numbers of officers were deployed to deal with any large demonstration. He also expressed concern that the burden of such costs would fall on local council tax payers. Chief Superintendent Bartlett explained that no area of the city was left un-policed in consequence of any demonstration as all leave was withdrawn in advance of such events. Costs were kept down to the lowest level possible, although the precise cost of policing the recent demonstration was not yet known.

20.5 Mr. Tonks, Older People's Council referred to the counter demonstration which had taken place over a bank holiday weekend earlier in the year had been attended by individuals with acknowledged racist views. These individuals had been escorted from the station along a pre-determined route which had kept them separated from the opposing demonstration. Mr Tonks wanted to know whether it was possible from banning such demonstrators from entering the city.

20.6 Chief Superintendent Bartlett explained that the circumstances under which demonstrations could be prevented were heavily proscribed, for instance repeated racist chanting and that the demonstration in Brighton had not reached such levels.

- 20.7 Mr. Gandey Moulsecoombe and Bevendean LAT stated that a number of students had been uncertain regarding areas of the locality affected by the recent EDO demonstrations, but as a result of the proactive approach by the Police information had been shared effectively, this highlighted how situations could be contained when the Police and local residents worked together.
- 20.8 Councillor Marsh stated that it was rumoured that a further demonstration was due to take place in the near future. Chief Superintendent Bartlett stated that a de-brief regarding the latest demonstration had yet to take place to ensure that any “lessons learnt” could be applied to future events. Generally however, the Police were very satisfied with the manner in which the event had been policed.
- 20.9 **RESOLVED** - That the contents of the report be noted.

21. **SUPPORT SERVICES FOR VICTIMS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE:RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 21.1 The Forum considered a report of the Head of Community Safety in relation to the scrutiny panel which had been set up by the Environment and Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Committee following a referral from full council to support victims of sexual violence. The report setting out the Panel’s findings and recommendations was appended.
- 21.2 The Head of Community Safety explained that purpose of the report was to inform the Forum of the progress that had been made in meeting the recommendations and that further updates would be brought to future meetings of the Forum.
- 21.3 The agreed terms of reference were set out and it was explained that the report had identified four recommendations in relation to putting in place joint strategic arrangements across the Partnership which were integrated with those for domestic violence. Those recommendations would be put into place from 1 November when the lead Commissioner for Community Safety would come into post. The Commissioner would further develop the joint commissioning processes already in place for sexual violence, informed by the outcome of the Intelligent Commissioning Pilot on domestic violence.
- 21.4 The Panel had also made a number of recommendations in relation to the development and funding of support and other services and in relation to building the capacity of local independent support services and establishing networks and partnership support structures between statutory and third sector service providers in order to better develop strategic approaches and services which met local need. The Head of Community Safety explained how these recommendations would be carried forward. She went on to delineate remaining recommendations how in turn they would be carried forward.
- 21.5 Councillor Watkins had Chaired the scrutiny panel stated that work of the Panel and the accompanying reports were comprehensive and that domestic violence had been a thread which had run through the whole process. The evidence gathered had confirmed that the situation was as had long been suspected. This represented a major on-going and very important piece of work, it was important that Members took

ownership of this too and the fact that the report was destined for the November meeting of Cabinet and ultimately for full Council was seen as integral to that. It was important that progress was reported back to the Forum regularly.

- 21.6 Gail Gray RISE, stated that a programme that they had developed and delivered in schools for five years no longer had funding and it was therefore very important to develop what was already in place in rolling support forward across the city.
- 21.7 The Head of Community Safety confirmed that regular updates would be provided to the Forum.
- 21.8 **RESOLVED** - (1) That the progress described in detail in the body of the report is noted. As recommended the report will in due course be taken to Cabinet and the Local Strategic Partnership.

(2) The Forum also notes that a further report will be brought to its meeting next year, which brings together the work to deal with sexual and domestic violence within the wider policy framework of dealing with “Violence Against Women and Girls”, this is continuing to be developed nationally. The authority has been invited to submit the outcome of its Commissioning Pilot on domestic violence as an example of good practice within that national framework.

22. INTELLIGENT COMMISSIONING PILOTS:PROGRESS

- 22.1 The Head of Community Safety gave an oral presentation in relation to Intelligent Commissioning. She explained that in order to streamline and protect key services in the current economic climate local authorities needed to assess how they would carry services forward. Within Brighton & Hove an intelligent commissioning approach was being taken forward in concert with partnership organisations in order to better meet the services needed within the available resources. Three areas fell within community safety and would form the subject of pilots:
- Drug abuse (the number of drug related deaths annually in the city was very high);
 - Domestic violence;
 - Alcohol
- 22.2 These areas were addressed by a number of a different agencies across the city and it was intended (and recognised as being necessary) that the current overarching structures and partnership approach needed to be built upon further over coming years. In the case of alcohol in particular, issues of good management were key, there was a need to control the sale of alcohol, without detracting from the city’s vibrancy. In order to ensure that effective structures were in place a re-mapping exercise of the city’s services had commenced in order to enable detailed analysis to take place. The PCT was also actively involved in this exercise and once it had been completed “gaps” in existing provision could be identified
- 22.3 Ted Harman, SCLAT, referred to the fact that notwithstanding the number of alcohol related incidents which occurred across the city, alcohol licences continued to be granted. The Chairman, Councillor Simson responded by stating that cross-party the

Council had lobbied central government directly, setting out its concerns regarding the presumption towards the granting of alcohol licences as set out in the Licensing Act 2003 which effectively limited the powers of local authorities. However, Panels of the Licensing Committee were rigorous and consistent in their decision making had set up a Cumulative Impact Area (CIA) in the city centre and sought to encourage best practice in the responsible management of the sale of alcohol. It was hoped that lobbying to seek to prevent the sale of cheap alcohol at below cost price would be successful.

- 22.4 Councillor Morgan enquired whether the Chief Executive had identified any other local authorities who had adopted an intelligent commissioning approach and whether any assessment could be made as to how/ whether it would be appropriate to adopt their approach in Brighton & Hove. The Head of Community Safety stated that models used in Westminster and Suffolk had been looked at but that the three areas of work identified would be subjected to scrutiny and any recommendations would not be adopted without the support of scrutiny members. A holistic city wide inter disciplinary approach was necessary, as clearly alcohol/ drug use could have implications in terms of various types of abuse including domestic violence and child protection issues.
- 22.5 Gail Gray, RISE, stated that it was very important for service users to be able to outline the outcomes that they wanted for themselves
- 22.5 Councillor Morgan stated that whilst not opposed to the approach outlined he considered it was very important that Members were involved at the service design stage, he was not aware that members had been involved in the process to date.
- 22.6 The Head of Community Safety confirmed that members would be involved in designing services, however that point had not yet been reached.
- 22.7 **RESOLVED** - That the content of the report be noted.

23. POLICING IN THE TWENTY FIRST CENTURY

- 23.1 Chief Superintendent Bartlett gave an oral presentation and referred to the key points set out in the Government consultation document "Policing in the Twenty First Century" which would form the basis of new legislation.
- 23.2 Chief Superintendent Bartlett explained that it was proposed that by 2012 Police Authorities would be replaced by a single elected individual in each area. In the case of Brighton & Hove it was envisaged this would result in one individual having responsibilities Sussex wide. Potentially, that individual would have wider community safety and criminal justice remit and would be responsible for representing the views of local people and was likely to be elected on that mandate. Some practical barriers remained to be addressed by the legislation and a response was awaited from government regarding how these issues could be overcome.
- 23.3 There would be a greater emphasis on getting more officers into an operational role and top down targets were to be abolished. Locally however it was recognised as being very important to record crime figures in such a way to ensure that it was

possible to establish year on year whether crime figures were improving or not. The principles behind the policing pledge were important in that they sought to provide a greater degree of local accountability and to improve outcomes whilst streamlining and reducing bureaucracy.

- 23.4 A National Crime Agency would be set up which would bring together a lot of areas such as control of contraband and immigration control which already existed, this had broadly been welcomed as it brought together a number of strands of police work.
- 23.5 Councillor Morgan expressed concern that one individual could be responsible for an area covering up to three counties. This could encompass very different demographic areas and he was surprised that the government was pursuing this course. The Chairman Councillor Simson explained that the responsible minister had attended the recent policing conference and had set out the government's rationale for the course proposed.
- 23.6 **RESOLVED** – That the contents of the report be noted.

24. EAST SUSSEX POLICE AUTHORITY: MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 29 JULY 2010

- 24.1 **RESOLVED** - That the contents of the minutes be noted.

25. EAST SUSSEX FIRE AUTHORITY: MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 9 SEPTEMBER 2010

- 25.1 **RESOLVED** - That the contents of the minutes be noted.

The meeting concluded at 6.10pm

Signed

Chairman

Dated this

day of

Subject: Petition(s) "Save Our Frontline Policing"
Date of Meeting: 18 January 2011
Report of: Strategic Director, Resources
Contact Officer: Name: Penny Jennings Tel: 29-1065
E-mail: Penny.jennings@brighton-hove.gov.uk
Key Decision: No
Wards Affected: Various

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

1.1 To receive any petitions presented at Council, any petitions submitted directly to Democratic Services or any e-Petition submitted via the council's website.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

2.2 That the Chairman of the Forum responds to each petition and in each case gives consideration to a range of options, including the following:

- taking the action requested in the petition
- holding an inquiry into the matter
- undertaking research into the matter
- holding a public meeting
- holding a consultation
- holding a meeting with petitioners
- referring the petition for consideration by the council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- calling a referendum
- writing to the petition organiser setting out the council's views about the request in the petition
- noting the petition
- requesting a further report

3. PETITIONS

"Save Our Frontline Policing"

3.1 To receive the following joint e-Petition and paper petition submitted via the council's website and presented at Council on 21 October by Mr C Cooke and signed by 580 people (162 e. petition) (418 paper petition):

"We the undersigned petition the Council to oppose any cuts to Police Community Support Officers either by the SPA or the Government.

As residents of Brighton, Hove and Portslade we urge the city council, through its Community Safety Forum and representative on Sussex Police

Authority (SPA), to support our PCSOs who are a vital part of Neighbourhood Policing Teams, are the eyes and ears of the police in our communities and are the visible and approachable face of Sussex Police in local neighbourhoods.

PCSOs have proved themselves invaluable in reducing crime and the fear of crime in the areas in which we live.”

Subject:	Member Question		
Date of Meeting:	18 January 2011		
Report of:	Strategic Director of Resources		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Penny Jennings	Tel: 29-1065
	E-mail:	penny.jennings@brighton-hove.gov.uk	
Key Decision:	No		
Wards Affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 To consider and respond to the following question which will be put by Councillor Lizzie Deane a Member of the Community Safety Forum.

“Could Sussex Police and the Council provide an update on trafficked women and children in Brighton and Hove?”

- (a) How widespread is this issue (confirmed and estimated cases)
- (b) Is there a dedicated team assigned to finding/tackling trafficking criminals?
- (c) How many prosecutions have there been?
- (d) What support is available for victims from the time they seek help and being officially determined as a victim?
- (e) What support is available for child victims during court proceedings?

COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM

Agenda Item 32

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject:	Crime trends and performance in Brighton & Hove: Position at end October 2010		
Date of Meeting:	18 January 2011		
Report of:	<i>Director of Environment</i>		
Contact Officer:	Name:	<i>Ruth Condon</i>	Tel: 29-1103
	E-mail:	ruth.condon@brighton-hove.gov.uk	
Wards Affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 This report is intended to keep members of the Community Safety Forum apprised recent developments relating to priority areas in the Brighton & Hove Community Safety, Crime Reduction and Drugs Strategy, 2008-11. It describes some recent activities and also provides statistical police data on key crime types up to October 2010 and progress against targets.
- 1.2 Graphs with monthly data going back to April 2006 are also provided. This enables recent data to be interpreted in the context of both longer term trends and also seasonal crime cycles (where appropriate).

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (1) The Community Safety Forum notes the information provided in this report and invited to:
 - i) comment on any developments they may be aware of from their own or their organisation's experience which may help to understand and interpret the police crime data contained in this report.
 - ii) consider the potential for supporting crime reduction and community safety when their organisations develop and take forward projects.

3. INFORMATION:

Total Police Recorded Crime

- 3.1 After the first seven months of 2010/11 (to end of October) there was a reduction in overall crime of 3.8% compared to the same months of 2009/10 and this exceeds our 3% reduction target. This is a continuation of the long term downward trend experienced in the past ten years.

Criminal Damage

- 3.2 Criminal damage offences during the first seven months of 2010/11 were 15% fewer than in the same months in 2009/10. Numbers experience between July and September were particularly low for the time of year.
- 3.3 Work referenced in the last commentary around work to tackle chewing gum and flyers/stickers continues and the number of Cityclean officers with responsibility for enforcement has increased. Local Action Team and Joint Action Group meetings review reports of criminal damage and resources are targeted as appropriate. For example, a recent partnership response to a spike in damage to vehicles in Whitehawk resulted in good partnership working with the production of area and incident specific interventions which resulted in the cessation of daily occurrences of damage to vehicles.
- 3.4 Partnership work led by the Environment Improvement Team has resulted in the renovation and conversion of an underground car park kiosk in the form of a 'tardis' for use as a base for linking up the police and other services with residents. Community Payback has been involved in the project and local residents and businesses have also made other improvements in the local area. The project is hoped to be a deterrent to anti-social behaviour and vandalism in the area.
- 3.5 The number of fire service recorded arson incidents over the last few months has been particularly low compared with the same months in previous years, supporting the long term decline. Proactive work by the Fire and Rescue Service and partners in taking action to reduce such incidents continues.

Violent Crime

- 3.6 The number violent offences involving injury (including both serious and other injury) has reduced in the first seven months of 2010/11 by 6% compared with the same months in 2009/10, which is better than the 3% reduction target. Because not all violent crimes come to the attention of the police, work to improve the quality of data collected at A&E on assault-related attendances is continuing to be taken forward. This information is beginning to be shared with the police and others for the targeting of preventative work.
- 3.7 Alcohol consumption in the city, while bringing certain economic benefits, also brings with it problems related to violence as well as other health and wellbeing issues. Steps are being taken through the 'intelligent commissioning' process to explore what the future direction of the city's approach towards alcohol should be and what services are needed to address alcohol-related problems.

Sexual Offences

- 3.8 In the first seven months of 2010/11 there have been 214 sexual offences, roughly the same number as in the same months of 2009/10. Arrangements between the Sexual Assault Referral Centre and our local rape crisis, ISVA (Independent Sexual Violence Advisor) and counselling services continue to support local victims. Our local provider, Survivors Network, have began receiving referrals directly from the SARC. Recommendations arising from the scrutiny of sexual violence services also continue to be taken forward.

Domestic Burglary

- 3.9 The number of domestic burglaries in the first seven months of 2010/11 is 24% lower than in 2009/10, continuing a longer term decline since 2008/9. Problems involving domestic burglary by a small group of youth offenders last year has been addressed by both preventative and enforcement work. Police work to speed up DNA analysis and other processes has led to offenders are being identified and arrested a lot quicker thereby reducing the opportunities to commit more offences.

Motor Vehicle and Cycle Theft

- 3.10 The number of vehicle thefts during 2010/11 to date have decreased by 11% compared with 2009/10. This decrease applies both to thefts of and thefts from motor vehicles. Vehicle crime prevention advice has continued to be distributed across the city, helping to maintain this decrease.
- 3.11 During the first seven months of 2010/11 police recorded cycle thefts increased by 11% compared with last year, with numbers of thefts in each of the last seven months being between about 100 and 130 per month, remaining relatively high into the autumn when numbers in previous years may have begun to decline. Cycle theft prevention advice continues to be distributed across the city. Over two hundred cyclists have now registered on immobilise.com after our recent campaign.

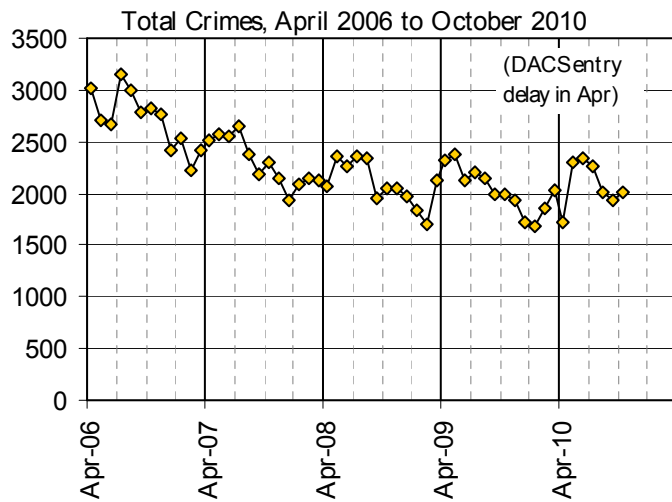
Domestic Violence

- 3.12 The number of domestic violence crimes and crime-related incidents reported to the police continues to increase, with numbers since May at least 300 per month. So far during 2010/11 numbers are 6% higher than the same months last year. While seeking to decrease the incidence of DV, there is also ongoing work to increase reporting. The police are responding promptly with investigating offences and improving other processes around their handling of domestic violence cases. As a consequence more offences are being detected and charged than in previous months and years. The 'Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)' process which plans appropriate responses to support high risk victims of DV is working effectively and the percentage of finalised court cases which have successful outcomes remains at over 70%. Over twenty agencies involved in the Brighton & Hove MARAC have received training in the effective use of the Domestic Abuse, Stalking, Harassment and so-called Honour Base Risk Assessment Tool and participants will now cascade this learning to their teams. The wide range of services provided around domestic violence are being examined through the 'intelligent commissioning' process to make sure that services provided are aligned to the needs of victims, perpetrators, young people and children.
- 3.13 A GBT (Gay, Bisexual and Trans) DV worker is now employed by RISE. Also a new online resource has been produced to assist LGBT people who have experienced or are experiencing domestic violence. It is accessed via the Safe in the City website (<http://www.safeinthecity.info/?q=node/199>).

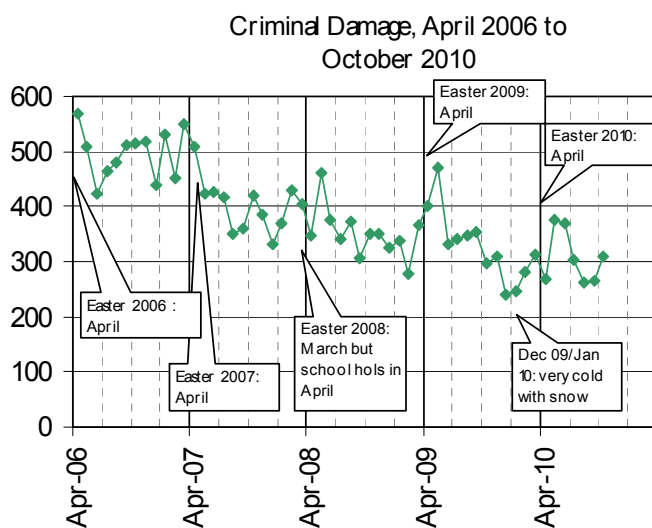
Hate Incidents and Crimes

- 3.14 The number of racist and religiously motivated incidents (RRMI) recorded by the on the police crime database continues to decline, although the number recorded through the multi-agency Hate Incident Report Form remains relatively stable. Work to manage tensions arising from the English Nationalist Alliance march and other incidents has required robust tension monitoring arrangements. A DVD and resource pack is being prepared to promote reporting of RRMI in schools and young people's settings. Also, work to encourage more reporting and information sharing around incidents in the health sector is being planned.
- 3.15 Police recorded LGBT-motivated hate crimes and incidents also continue to fall. New LGBT hate crime information sheets will shortly available for the public and professionals with updated advice and contact information. LGBT World Aids Day at the beginning of December this year is themed around challenging stigma and this is being supported by the Community Safety Partnership. Also, the international Transgender Day of Remembrance in November was supported locally by partnership work with the Clare Project and this work has been recognised nationally. Work in co-operation with the Universities of Sussex and Brighton student unions has enabled the Partnership Community Safety Team and LGBT police officers to engage with students through Freshers Week and other student events using a range of media, especially non-paper-based communication technologies (eg. Blue tooth technology aimed at smart phones).
- 3.16 There were 18 disability hate incidents reported to the Partnership Community Safety Team between April and September 2010. Although numbers are increasing over the period since a disability hate casework service has been in place, there is believed to be much scope for increased reporting. 'True Vision' easy read self reporting forms and headline messages to raise the profile of disability hate incidents are being launched in early December.

Crime trends up to October 2010



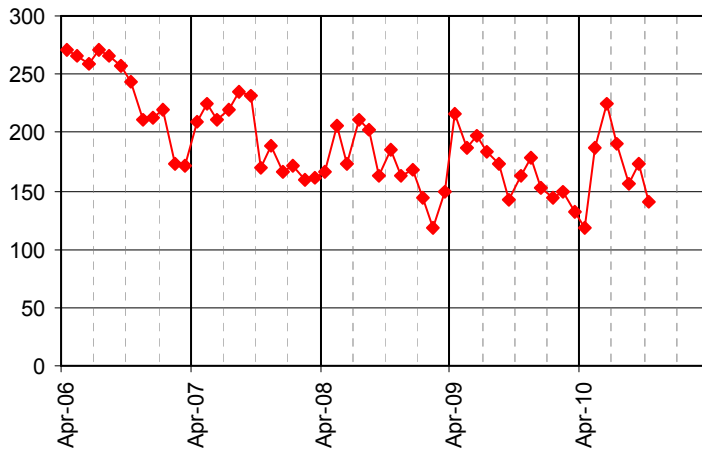
3.17 The typical seasonal pattern in crime levels has continued with numbers of crimes falling again since their summer peak, averaging about 2,000 total crimes per month in the last three months¹.



3.18 Recent months have continued to record relatively low levels of criminal damage compared with previous years.

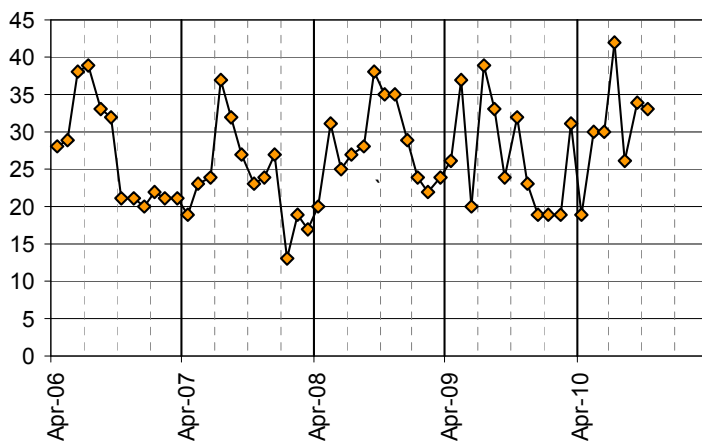
¹ There was a delay in entering crimes into the police data recording system in April, so numbers are showing fewer in that month, and numbers in the following two months are correspondingly enhanced. This effect is seen in a number of the crime types shown in this document.

All Injury Violence
April 2006 to October 2010



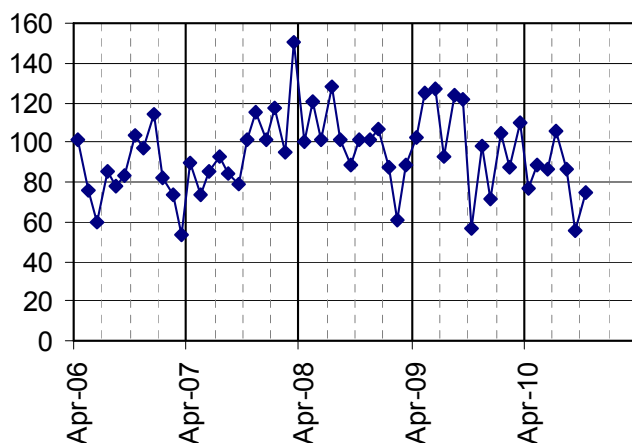
3.19 There is a clear seasonal pattern in injury violence. Monthly numbers have shown a significant drop since the peak in June.

Sexual Offences
April 2006 - October 2010

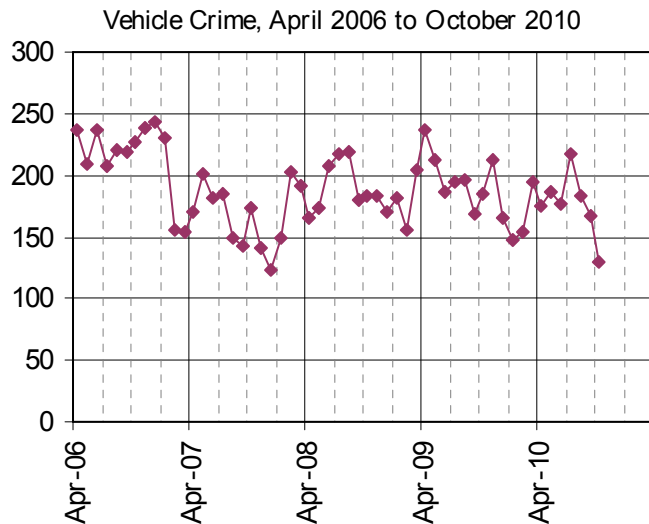


3.20 Due to the relatively low numbers of sexual offences, numbers tend to fluctuate from month to month and it is difficult to be certain about trends. In the first 7 months of 2010/11 numbers are very slightly higher than in the same months in 2009/10.

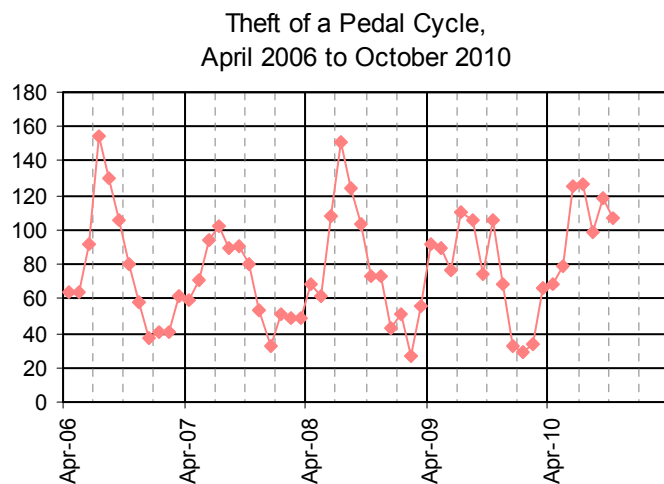
Domestic Burglary, April 2006 to October 2010



3.21 The number of domestic burglaries dropped to a particularly low level in September and have remained relatively low during October.



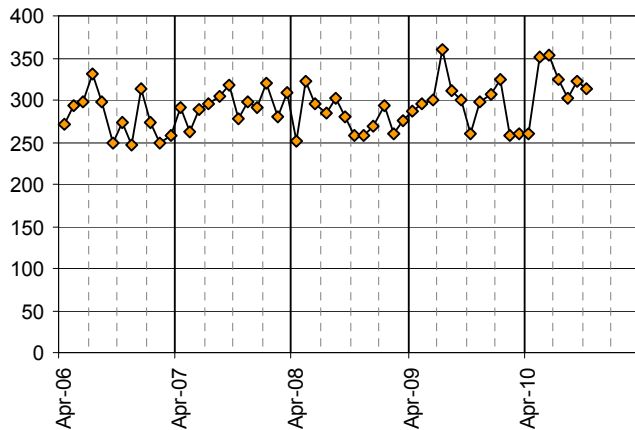
3.22 The number of vehicle crimes in October dropped to its lowest level (129 crimes) since December 2007. There has been a downward trend in both thefts of and thefts from vehicles since the summer months



3.23 While the consistent rise in pedal cycle thefts since last winter until the summer is in line with seasonal expectations, numbers in September and October have remained higher than in previous years.

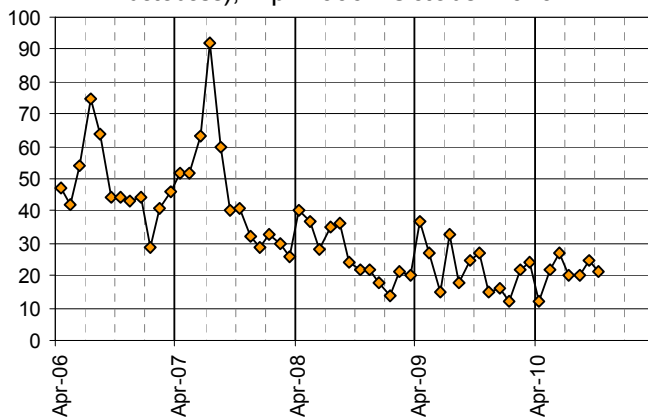
3.24 Police crime data presented in this report only reflect those crimes which are reported and recorded. There is likely to be a level of underreporting in many crime types. However, domestic violence and the hate crimes on this page are likely to be particularly liable to underreporting.

Domestic Violence Crimes and Incidents,
April 2006 - October 2010



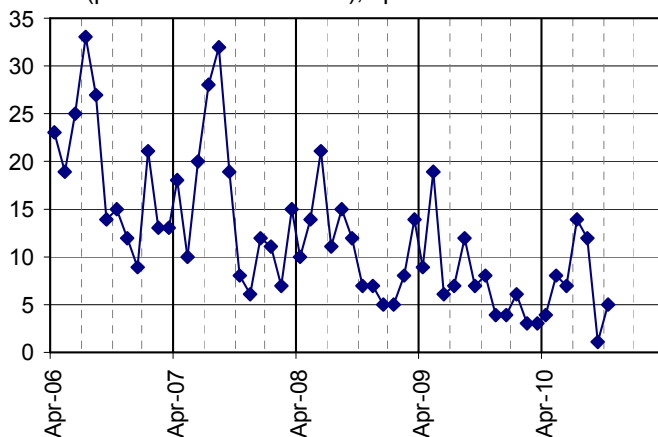
3.25 The number of domestic violence crimes and crime-related incidents have remained at over 300 per month over the last few months, generally higher than previous years. The number of crimes, while showing a declining trend up to 2009/10 is now showing an increase.

Racist and Religiously Motivated Crimes and
crime-related Incidents (police crime
database), Apr 2006 - October 2010



3.26 The declining trend in racist and religiously motivated incidents and crimes appears to be continuing with between 20 and 30 per month over recent months.

LGBT Hate Crimes and crime-related Incidents
(police crime database), Apr 2006 to Oct 2010



3.27 The number of police-recorded LGBT hated crimes and crime-related incidents continue to show a seasonal pattern overlaying a long term decline. There was just a single incident on the database in September.

Performance data for key crime types, 2010/11

Police recorded crimes April to October (inclusive)	number of crimes Apr 09- Oct 09	number of crimes Apr 10- Oct 10	reduction target (from 2009/10 baseline)	performance against target to date		rank within 15 bench- marked CSPs
				on target		
Total Crimes	15165	14596	-3%	on target		8
Criminal Damage	2544	2155	-5%	on target		12
Injury Violence ²	1261	1189	-3%	on target		9 ³
Sexual Offences	211	214	-	-		10
Domestic Burglary	750	574	-	-		2
Theft from/of a Motor Vehicle	1382	1235	-	-		5
Pedal Cycle Theft	655	726	-	-		7
Domestic Violence Crimes and Incidents	2112	2231	-	-		n/a ⁴
Racist/Rel. Crimes and Incidents	196	147	-	-		n/a
LGBT Hate Crimes and Incidents	68	51	-	-		n/a

² As defined by Sussex Police

³ iQuanta category 'wounding (serious and other)'

⁴ Because DV and hate crimes are locally 'flagged' crimes and do not have nationally defined classification codes, comparative/benchmarking data are not available. Also, because DV, hate crimes and sexual offences are subject to underreporting and local work is being undertaken to increase reporting of these crimes, it is not appropriate to judge performance in comparison with other CSPs based on the number of police recorded crimes.

Appendix.

A note on how Brighton & Hove's performance is compared with other Community Safety Partnerships

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

CSPs 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 CSPs. 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 CSPs. For example, a ranking of 1 indicates that a CSP is performing best within the group, and a ranking of 8 shows that the CSP is in the middle ranked position.

Other Members of Brighton & Hove's Most Similar CSP Group (from Apr 2010) are as follows:

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

SUSSEX POLICE AUTHORITY

Minutes of a meeting of the Sussex Police Authority held on 28 October 2010 at Sackville House, Lewes.

Present:

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

Apologies for absence were received from Mr P Evans, Mrs S Knight and Assistant Chief Constable Robin Merrett.

CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

80. The Chairman welcomed to the Authority Special Constable Christine Smith who had been a Special Constable for six years and represented the excellent contribution made by Special Constables in helping to police Sussex.
81. The Chairman also welcomed Phil Woolf of the Serving Sussex Team who had recently been appointed as Director of Performance at the Metropolitan Police Force. On behalf of the Authority, the Chairman wished Mr Woolf well in his new position.
82. The Chairman also welcomed Mark Rowe, Head of Finance, David Paul, Head of Corporate Communications, Marion Fanthorpe, Director of Human Resources, Sue George, Head of Corporate Communications, Chief Superintendent Graham Bartlett, representing the Superintendents' Association, Superintendent Lisa Pearcy, Temporary Superintendent Neil Honor, Nick Cloke, Head of Media Services, Inspector Bob Brown representing the Police Federation, Sarah Reed and Lyn Cook, representing Unison.

DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL INTERESTS

83. No personal interests were declared.

MINUTES

84. On behalf of the Authority, the Chairman conveyed congratulations to all who had been involved in the South East Collaboration Programme in respect of Air Support. The agreement which had now been signed had been developed in close alignment to the national programme of collaboration within air support.
85. **Resolved** - that the minutes of the meeting of the Police Authority held on 29 July 2010 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

REPORTS

86. Copies of reports referred to in the minutes below are included in the minute book.

UPDATED MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL FORECAST TO 2015

87. The Police Authority considered a report by the Treasurer, Chief Constable and Chief Executive.
88. The Government's Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) had been announced on 20 October 2010, with the detailed settlement for the Authority anticipated during December 2010. In light of the CSR it was suggested that officers be requested to work up options for further savings, or a rephrasing of the savings already identified, in order to give the Authority extra flexibility to react to the settlement expected during December. The exact date for the settlement announcement was unknown and therefore it was indicated that it might not be before the Authority meeting on 9 December 2010.
89. **Resolved** - that
- (1) the latest assumptions, based on the information in the Comprehensive Spending Review be used for the Medium Term Financial Planning be agreed;
 - (2) the approach to revenue and capital budget planning as set out in the report be agreed; and
 - (3) the Chief Constable, Treasurer and Chief Executive be asked to work up further options for savings, or reconsider the phasing of existing savings, in preparation for the settlement anticipated during December 2010.

SERVING SUSSEX 2015

90. The Police Authority considered a report by the Chief Constable, Chief Executive and Treasurer.
91. The report updated the Authority on Serving Sussex 2015 and detailed, the programme of work being undertaken for the development of the right model for policing in the future within a context of achieving budgetary savings. The Authority had been actively engaged within the programme through chairing the Serving Sussex 2015 Strategic Board, membership of the delivery group, engagement to each of the work streams and participation in the joint seminars held in July and September 2010.
92. All areas of Force expenditure were being subjected to close scrutiny with divisions and departments identifying potential savings in addition to the themes being examined by the Serving Sussex 2015 work streams. The report provided further details on the impact on police

officer and police staff posts. Members were briefed on how the need to reduce police officer and police staff posts would be handled.

93. The Authority discussed the further potential for savings and the possibilities of collaboration with other public sector partners. The Authority welcomed the levels of savings identified and the ethos of change which had been adopted across the Force. On behalf of the Authority, the Chairman thanked all the officers involved on the Serving Sussex 2015 Programme for the work which they were undertaking and for providing such a detailed and comprehensive report.
94. **Resolved** – that
- (1) the governance structure for Serving Sussex 2015 at Appendix A be approved;
 - (2) the Serving Sussex 2015 design principles at Appendix B be reaffirmed;
 - (3) the summary of potential revenue savings at Appendix C be noted;
 - (4) the progress towards the financial targets and the cost of change be noted; and
 - (5) the Chief Executive be requested to update Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary on a regular basis on the progress and achievements that the Serving Sussex 2015 Programme had made.

REVIEW OF RESERVES 2010

95. The Police Authority considered a report by the Treasurer and Chief Constable setting out the latest position on reserves.
96. The importance of considering the Authority's Reserves at the same time as the budget was highlighted and ensured that resources were available to fund spending at a level commensurate with the needs of Sussex. Any such changes made to the reserves would directly impact on the 2011-12 budget and the Medium Term Financial Plan.
97. The Chief Constable and the Treasurer had reviewed the level and usage of specific reserves in accordance with the regulatory framework and identified a series of findings which were detailed in section 5 of the report.
98. **Resolved** – that
- (1) the proposed changes to reserves set out in Section 5 of the report be approved and the Treasurer and Chief Constable be requested to work up specific recommendations as part of the budget setting report to the December meeting of the Authority;
 - (2) the use of £3m of the estimated balance of £3.8m on the Major Change Reserve to be applied at 31 March 2011 to fund the implementation of a voluntary severance scheme be approved; and
 - (3) the revised Reserves Policy as set out in Appendix B to the report be approved.

LOCAL POLICING PLAN 2011-14

99. The Police Authority considered a report by the Chief Constable, Treasurer and Chief Executive outlining the process for the development of the Local Policing Plan 2011-14.
100. Initial consultation had suggested that the LPP should be developed and structured around the performance targets and in line with the development of the budget. The primary focus on targets required that the structure of the Plan aligns with the most relevant scrutiny committee and it had been further suggested that the number of targets should be reduced from the 30 within the current plan.
101. **Resolved** - that the proposals for developing the 2011-14 Local Policing Plan be approved.

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

102. The Police Authority considered a report by the Chairman of the Corporate Governance Committee which outlined the matters considered at the meeting of the Committee held on 23 September 2010.
103. It was pointed out that the Committee had considered and approved the Authority's final Statement of Accounts for 2009-10 financial year and that the District Auditor had issued the Authority with an unqualified audit opinion and had issued an unqualified value for money conclusion.
104. **Resolved** - that the report be noted.

REPORT OF RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

105. The Police Authority considered a report by the Chairman of the Resources Scrutiny Committee which outlined the matters considered at the meeting of the Committee held on 7 October 2010.
106. In presenting the report the Chairman of the Committee highlighted the financial position to the end of August 2010. He indicated that the Committee had discussed the issue of significant debtors and were reassured that robust internal credit control procedures were in place.
107. **Resolved** – that
- (1) the transfers to reserves as set out in the budget monitoring report be approved;
 - (2) the increase to the capital programme as set out in the budget monitoring report be approved;
 - (3) the outstanding debt of £8,427 be written off in accordance with financial regulations; and
 - (4) the report be noted.

REPORT OF NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

108. The Police Authority considered a report by the Chairman of the Neighbourhood Scrutiny Committee which outlined the matters considered at the meeting of the Committee held on 10 June 2010.

109. The Committee welcomed the change in format to the structure of scrutiny committee meetings which included a more streamlined and focused agenda and seminar sessions being held prior to the meeting.
110. During the discussion of partnership working, members of the Authority suggested that consideration needed to be given to working with the voluntary sector organisations. It was agreed that further information would be presented to the Neighbourhood Policing Scrutiny Committee.
111. **Resolved** – that the report be noted.

REPORT OF PROTECTIVE SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

112. The Police Authority considered a report by the Chairman of the Protective Services Scrutiny Committee which outlined the matters considered at the meeting of the Committee held on 22 September 2010.
113. The Committee welcomed the collaboration work underway regionally which included the sharing of good practice, development of partnerships and alignment of business processes allowing for greater sharing of resources. It was reported that a scientific support model for Surrey and Sussex was working towards the provision of combined services which included fingerprinting, laboratory and external service provision and was being scoped under the "Working with Surrey" workstream of Serving Sussex 2015 Programme.
114. **Resolved** – that the Authority, through its work with the Serving Sussex 2015 team, be requested to oversee the budgetary restrictions and risks associated with service delivery.

REPORT OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE

115. The Police Authority considered a report by the Chairman of the Professional Standards Committee which outlined the matters considered at the meeting of the Committee held on 13 October 2010.
116. The Chairman of the Committee provided an update on the position regarding ventilation at Hastings Custody Centre. It was reported that maintenance on the airflow system had been undertaken which identified a problem and blockage with the grills which had since been rectified.
117. It was suggested that consideration should be given to the system of complaints against officers. Consideration would be given to the fact that complaints against police officers were considered by the Professional Standards Department in contrast to complaints against Police Community Support Officers which were dealt with by Human Resources.
118. **Resolved** – that the report be noted.

Chairman

COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM	Agenda Item 36 (a) Brighton & Hove City Council
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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 21 October 2010.

Present: Councillors Belsey, Bennett, Carden, Fawthrop, Freebody, Freeman, Harmer-Strange, Heaps, Howson, Kemble (Chairman), Kenward, Livings, Marsh, Ost, Pidgeon, Rufus, Scott and Sparks.

1. COMMUNICATIONS, CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT UPDATE

- 1.1 The Fire Authority considered the outcomes of the consultation and engagement process as part of its deliberations on the final outcomes of the Rural Review to assist with its determinations regarding the next steps as set out in the agenda item entitled 'Rural Review – The Next Steps'.
- 1.2 The form in which the consultation and engagement process had taken in order to collect the opinions of staff, partners, stakeholders and the public was summarised. Members noted that the transparency in which the views had been collected, recorded and presented to Members had been comprehensive and exacting and that every effort had been taken to ensure comments had been appropriately laid out for their consideration.
- 1.3 Reassurance was given that each watch and station that the recommendation may have had an impact on, both wholtime and retained duty system firefighters, had received a visit by a team of Officers to answer questions, listen to comments and suggestions and seek to allay fears over the proposed recommendations. All other staff not directly affected by the review had an invite to attend staff meetings.
- 1.4 Full commitment had been given by Officers to ensure that everyone's views and comments were captured effectively and that all staff comments were carefully considered.

2. RURAL REVIEW

- 2.1 The Fire Authority gave consideration to the options and proposals developed following completion of the Rural Review consultation and engagement process following full consideration and approval by the Policy & Resources Panel on 7 October 2010.
- 2.2 Officers gave professional advice on each of the recommendations in turn on the best way to proceed to ensure all Members were suitably informed of the key challenges, key implications, overall conclusions drawn and the various options to proceed where relevant.
- 2.3 The Review had been undertaken as part of the Integrated Risk Management Plan, the primary focus of which was to ensure that services were delivered in the most effective way to meet community needs and risks and that service effectiveness was

maximised. The Review had not been financially driven and overall, the proposals were expected to be broadly cost neutral. Capital receipts received from the proposed service housing sales over a 4 year period would help reduce the need for future capital borrowing on operational service investments and therefore, achieve a revenue budget saving.

- 2.4 Whilst some of the recommendations received almost universal support, others were deliberated upon. Of particular concern, was the transitional period regarding the removal of service housing and it was agreed that the period reported by officers should be extended from 3 to 4 years. All parties felt reassured by the compromise, although Councillor Rufus, Member of Brighton & Hove City Council, wished it to be recorded that he voted against recommendation 7.
- 2.5 Members considered the outcomes of the consultation and engagement processes together with the detailed results as well as the key concerns set out within the report. Members agreed the amended recommendations of the Rural Review following their approval by the Policy & Resources Panel on 7 October 2010 together with the additional amendment of extending the transitional period regarding the removal of service housing from 3 years to 4 years.

COUNCILLOR TED KEMBLE
CHAIRMAN OF EAST SUSSEX FIRE AUTHORITY
24 October 2010

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 9 December 2010.**

Present: Councillors Carden, Fawthrop, Freebody, Harmer-Strange, Healy, Heaps, Howson, Kemble (Chairman), Kenward, Livings, Marsh, Ost, Pidgeon, Rufus, Scott, Sparks, Thomas and Waite.

Also present:

Mrs Redman, Chair of the Standards Panel.

1. **FIRE AUTHORITY SERVICE PLANNING PROCESSES FOR 2011/12 AND BEYOND**

1.1 The Fire Authority has considered the outcomes so far achieved as part of the service prioritisation work, following the earlier approval of a set of principles within which the service prioritisation work would be conducted, as well as a timetable and methodology. In November 2010, the Policy & Resources Panel had considered the key findings of the service prioritisation work. The following outcomes have been achieved:

- A schedule of approximately 140 separate ESFRS functions has been placed in a draft corporately agreed priority order in terms of service with a separate classification for operational incident types that are undertaken by stations; and
- A schedule of the same service functions has been placed in a draft corporately agreed priority order in terms of value for money prioritisation using the same methodology.

1.2 There remains some further work to do prior to bringing the final outcomes before Members for approval. In addition, whilst some functions may have been determined as lower priority either in terms of service priority or value for money, it does not necessarily mean that they are either appropriate or suitable to be considered as savings and vice versa for functions deemed to be of higher priority. The outcomes achieved to date have helped with the value judgements made prior to Member consideration of the medium term service planning strategy – but they are not the only factors which will need to be considered over the forthcoming months. The draft medium term service planning proposals remain confidential until further consideration by Members in January 2011 bearing in mind current projections were very likely to need changing once the Local Government Finance Settlement was announced.

2. **EXTENSION OF INDEPENDENT PERSONS' APPOINTMENTS**

2.1 The Fire Authority has considered and approved extending the appointment of two Independent Persons who serve on the Standards Panel. The terms of appointment of Jennifer Redman and Michael LeGarst are due to expire at the Fire Authority's annual meeting in June 2011. Given the amended advice that had been given by Standards for England, and the uncertain future of the standards regime, the Fire Authority has agreed to extend the appointments of Jennifer Redman and Michael LeGarst for a further year until the annual meeting of the Fire Authority in June 2012.

3. **FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITIES – FUTURE STRUCTURAL ARRANGEMENTS**

3.1 The Fire Authority has considered and approved the progressing of a joint business case for future consideration by the Fire Authority and West Sussex County Council regarding the future and progressive merger of West and East Sussex Fire & Rescue Services towards a combination for a Sussex Combined Fire Authority in due course.

3.2 Members approved:

- i) the preparation of a joint business case for future consideration by the Fire Authority and West Sussex County Council regarding the future and progressive collaboration of West and East Sussex Fire & Rescue Services towards a combination for a Sussex Combined Fire Authority in due course;
- ii) the creation of a Joint Steering Group to assist the officer team preparing the business case; and
- iii) a special meeting of the Fire Authority on 17 March 2011 to consider the business case outcomes which will then be considered by the West Sussex County Council Cabinet at its meeting on 22 March 2011.

COUNCILLOR TED KEMBLE
CHAIRMAN OF EAST SUSSEX FIRE AUTHORITY
13 December 2010

