

SUSSEX POLICE AUTHORITY

Minutes of a meeting of the Sussex Police Authority held on 14 February 2008 at County Hall, Chichester.

Present:

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

CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

175. The Chairman welcomed to the Police Authority Mr Henry Smith, Leader of West Sussex County Council and Mr Mark Hammond, Chief Executive of West Sussex County Council, and Mr Colin Rogers, Services Director of Arun District Council. The Chairman also welcomed Chief Superintendent Paul Pearce, representing the Superintendents' Association, and Sergeant Simon Payne, representing the Police Federation, to the meeting of the Authority.

DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL INTERESTS

176. No disclosures of personal interest were made.

MINUTES

177. **Resolved** – That the minutes of the meeting of the Police Authority held on 13 December 2007 be confirmed.

DEPUTY CHIEF CONSTABLE MR GEOFF WILLIAMS

178. Further to minute 116 the Chairman referred to the forthcoming retirement of Mr Geoff Williams, Deputy Chief Constable of Sussex. Mr Williams had made an outstanding contribution to Sussex Police as Assistant Chief Constable from 16 December 2002 to 16 February 2006, and subsequently as Deputy Chief Constable. Mr Williams had demonstrated leadership skills of the highest order during his successful period of command. He had delivered a number of crucial strategic programmes for the Force and would be retiring with the respect of the Police Authority, partners and his colleagues in Sussex Police.

179. **Resolved** – that the Police Authority place on record its thanks to Mr Williams for the significant contribution which he had made to policing in Sussex, and to wish him every success in the future.

REPORTS

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

LOCAL POLICING PLAN 2008-11

181. The Police Authority considered a report by the Chief Constable, Chief Executive and Treasurer.
182. The Police Authority considered the draft Local Policing Plan (LPP) 2008 – 11 which set out the strategic vision for the Police Authority and Sussex Police over the next three years, specific investments in key priority areas and specific actions to be undertaken in 2008-09. The policies in the Plan had been formulated following an assessment of local needs, and also reflected the national policing priorities set by the Home Secretary. The Police Authority had had a major input into developing the policies contained in the LPP. The Authority was represented on the LPP Development Board by the Vice-Chairman Dr Laurie Bush, Mr Bob Tidy and Mr Steve Waight. The LPP included particular focus on the local issues raised at the Authority's public consultation meetings in the Autumn 2007, which related to speeding and anti-social driving. The aim of the Plan was to sustain the strong performance of Sussex Police to ensure Sussex remained a safe place in which to live and work.
183. Neighbourhood policing remained a key priority for Sussex Police and the foundation upon which policing in Sussex had been developed over recent years. The neighbourhood specialist teams were specifically tasked with engaging with their local communities in order to be responsive to local policing priorities. This was particularly characterised by active collaboration between Sussex Police and partner agencies. The LPP which covered the next three years would build on investment made in previous plans to provide an enhanced intelligence development capability and additional resources for specialist investigations units to tackle serious and organised criminals who cause harm to communities. The policies in the LPP would seek to protect the most vulnerable people in society and to assist local communities in identifying and addressing, at an early stage, activity and behaviour which might lead to people becoming attracted to or engaged in acts of extremism.
184. As in previous years LPP summaries would be produced based on the principal council areas and would provide details of how policing would be delivered at the local level and would, therefore, be more relevant to the public. The summaries would include the key actions that the Sussex Police would undertake to deliver in respect of both national and local priorities.
185. **Resolved** – that the draft Local Policing Plan 2008-2011 be approved, subject to any further minor amendments being agreed by the Chairman, Chief Executive and Chief Constable.

REVENUE BUDGET AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2008 – 09 to 2010-11

186. The Police Authority considered a report by the Chief Constable, Chief Executive and Treasurer.
187. The Police Authority considered its revenue budget for 2008-09 and investment plans for delivering the priorities of the Local Policing Plan for Sussex to 2011. The report set out the performance headlines for the 12 months to December 2007 which demonstrated that Sussex Police

had consistently delivered a high level of performance and achieved significant efficiency savings, all against the background of low grant funding and one of the lowest levels of council tax for policing. The Chief Constable's budget proposals were based on a renewed focus on providing quality services to the public which had been shaped by both national and local priorities, namely:

- the further development of neighbourhood policing delivering a locally based visible, accessible and responsive police capability;
- the continued enhancement of protective services, particularly in tackling serious and organised crime, sharing and managing information assets across forces; and
- the provision of excellent service delivery within available resources, set against a tightening financial outlook with lower levels of grant increase and a substantial requirement for efficiency savings.

188. The report highlighted the need to invest further in protective services and neighbourhood policing, set against the prospect of future increases in government funding that were below the rate of inflation. These included in respect of protective services provision for emergency planning, public order, major crime, public protection services and organised crime, and roads policing. For Neighbourhood Policing the proposals included providing Neighbourhood Specialist Officers for every ward based on need. It was pointed out that the budget strategy and Local Policing Plan included making the best use of resources a priority, and Sussex Police was on course to deliver nearly £27m of gains over the period to 2011.

189. The Police Authority considered two budget options both of which provided for additional police officer and police staff posts to enhance neighbourhood policing and continued investment in keeping people safe. The Authority discussed the budget options in the light of the Government's expectation that average council tax increases should be substantially under five percent. It was noted that neither of the two budget options would breach the Government's expectation on council tax increases.

190. **Resolved** - that

- (1) a revenue budget for 2008-09 of £245.079m, inclusive of a contingency provision of £0.400m be approved;
- (2) a capital programme, as detailed in Appendix 4, including expenditure of £14.263m for 2008-09 be approved;
- (3) the proposed methods of financing the capital programme for 2008-09, including the use of additional borrowing shown in Appendix 5 be approved;
- (4) a maximum operational borrowing limit of £7.745m for prudential borrowing and an additional £15m of borrowing for temporary cash flow purposes, giving an authorised borrowing limit of £22.745m be approved;

- (5) a limit of 100 percent on borrowing at fixed rates and 25 percent on borrowing at variable rates be approved;
- (6) a £15m limit on investments for a year or longer be approved;
- (7) the use, contributions and transfers in reserves as set out in the report and detailed in Appendix 7 be approved;
- (8) the level of precept for 2008-09 at £79,875,091.30 and the issue of precepts to be collected by the Brighton and Hove City Council and the Borough and District Councils in the counties of East Sussex and West Sussex in accordance with the details as set out in the revised Appendix 10, be approved;
- (9) the planning assumptions set out in section 10 for future resource planning be adopted; and
- (10) the Treasurer and Director of Resources, and their respective staff, be thanked for all the hard work undertaken in preparing the budget.

TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

191. The Police Authority considered a report by the Treasurer.

192. **Resolved** – that

- (1) the Strategy be approved; and
- (2) the assumptions on interest rate forecasts be approved.

ENHANCING PROTECTIVE SERVICES

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

194. The report drew attention to the fact that in 2007-08 the Sussex Police Authority had approved investment of £1.2m to increase capacity and capability, particularly in the area of serious and organised crime. A second phase of investment was planned for 2008-09 details of which were covered in the report on the revenue budget and capital programme.

195. The Police Authority discussed the outcome of the Joining Forces Oversight Board which had met on 19 December 2007 and had considered the business case for an integrated specialist operations command capability with Surrey Police. Whilst acknowledging the benefits which might accrue in principle, the Oversight Board were unanimous that there was no professional agreement about the value of progressing an integrated specialist operations command, and that no further action should be taken to progress the proposal. Nevertheless, the work on the project had been useful and had led to much greater collaboration between Surrey and Sussex Police across all areas of protective services.

196. **Resolved** – that

- (1) the report including the current and future uplifts in Sussex Police protective services reflecting the Local Policing Plan for Sussex 2008–09 be noted; and
- (2) the decision of the Joining Forces Oversight Board be supported.

BUDGET MONITORING

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

198. **Resolved** - that

- (1) the latest position for the revenue and capital budgets, the position on outstanding debt and budget transfers be noted;
- (2) the revised capital funding set out in section 5 and Appendix D of the report be approved;
- (3) the transfer to reserves as set out in section 9 of the report be approved.

REVIEW OF POLICING

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

200. The Police Authority discussed the final report of the independent review of policing commissioned by the Home Secretary and conducted by Sir Ronnie Flanagan GBE, QPM, MA, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Constabulary, which had been published on 7 February. The report and its recommendations would now be considered by Ministers, with a view to a Green Paper being published later in the year. Sir Ronnie proposed to report on the progress which had been made on his recommendations in six and 12 months time and would be publishing a series of further papers on the results of ongoing work which was still under way. The Authority welcomed the majority of the report's recommendations.

201. However, some of the recommendations (particularly those relating to the distribution of government grant funding) were highly controversial and potentially damaging to Sussex. The discussion in the report about the funding of policing was unfavourable to police authorities like Sussex, and the related recommendation regarding changes to the way the funding formula operated would further reduce the already inadequate funding made available to Sussex by central government. Coupled with the timidity of the report in not recommending the removal of council tax capping from police authorities, the proposals on funding arrangements would be energetically objected to by the Authority and the support of Sussex MPs would be sought in support of the Authority's objection.

202. **Resolved** – that

- (1) the report be noted; and
- (2) the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, and following discussions with the Chief Constable and Treasurer, be authorised to respond to the final report on behalf of the Police Authority.

CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS

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

204. **Resolved** – that

- (1) the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman of the Police Authority and Mrs M Collins DL be appointed as the Authority's representatives on the Selection Panel for the appointment of independent members;
- (2) the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman of the Police Authority, Mrs M Collins DL and Mr C Crook OBE be appointed as the Interview Panel for the appointment of independent members; and
- (3) the amendment to Standing Orders set out in paragraph 4.2 be approved.

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

205. **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 paragraph 14 of part 1 of schedule 12(a) of the Local Government Act 1972, namely information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime.

COUNTER-TERRORISM ASSETS

206. The Police Authority considered a report by the Chief Constable, Chief Executive and Treasurer comprising exempt information.

Chairman