

### SUSSEX POLICE AUTHORITY

Minutes of a meeting of the Sussex Police Authority held on Thursday, 12 June 2008 at County Hall, Lewes.

Present:

Mr L Barnard (Chairman), Mr P Bratton, 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.

Apologies were received from Prof G Bull

### APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

1. The Chief Executive reported that he had received one nomination for the office of Chairman of the Police Authority, that of Mr L H Barnard.
2. **Resolved** – that Mr L H Barnard be appointed as Chairman of the Police Authority for the ensuing year until the next Annual Meeting of the Authority.

### APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

3. The Chairman reported that one nomination had been received for the office of Vice-Chairman of the Police Authority, that of Dr L E Bush.
4. **Resolved** – that Dr L E Bush be appointed as Vice-Chairman of the Authority for the ensuing year until the next Annual Meeting of the Authority.

### CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

5. The Chairman welcomed Mr Giles York, the new Deputy Chief Constable, to his first meeting of the Police Authority and wished him every success in his new role. The Chairman also thanked ACC Robin Merrett and ACC

Jeremy Paine for acting as Deputy Chief Constable, and to Chief Superintendent Graham Cox for acting as Assistant Chief Constable during the transitional arrangements following the retirement of Mr Geoff Williams.

6. The Chairman also welcomed Mr Peter Evans, the Cabinet Member for Public Protection at West Sussex County Council, Mr Robert Lanzer, Leader of Crawley Borough Council, Councillor Mrs Liz Kitchen, Leader of Horsham District Council, Mr Tom Crowley, Chief Executive of Horsham District Council, Mr Marcus Gomm, Safer Communities Manager, East Sussex County Council and Ms Justine Armstrong, Strategy and Partnership Manager, East Sussex County Council.

7. The Chairman also welcomed Inspector Brian Stockham, Inspector Ivor Fabb and Police Constable Mark White, representing the Police Federation. Mrs Sarah Reed, representing Unison and Miss Alice Hallsworth, a law student from Sussex University, who was work shadowing the Chief Executive.

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

8. No disclosures of personal interest were made.

#### **MINUTES**

9. **Resolved** – that, subject to the correction of the designation of Mr K Dollemore, the minutes of the last meeting of the Police Authority held on 17 April 2008, be confirmed.

#### **REPORTS**

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

#### **CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS**

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

12. The Chief Executive reported on a number of constitutional matters including the latest position regarding the appointment of independent members and changes to the membership of committees, steering groups and other appointments. He indicated that any changes in

respect of appointments resulting from the independent member appointment process would be dealt with under delegated powers and a revised schedule circulated.

13. **Resolved** - that the schedule circulated at the meeting (copy attached to the signed copy of these minutes) including the appointment of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Committees and Groups be approved.

### **ENHANCING PROTECTIVE SERVICES**

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

15. The Police Authority considered a report on the latest position with regard to the progress made in enhancing protective services which included most of the specialist policing activities provided to the public. The Police Authority had increased the base budget for protective services by £4m per annum to increase capacity and capability, particularly in the areas of serious and organised crime and protecting vulnerable people. The increased investment placed Sussex Police in a good position to achieve compliance with the new and challenging requirements in these areas.

16 Sussex Police was continuing to work in collaboration with other forces both regionally and nationally regarding niche areas of protective services, including air support, witness protection, high tech crime and internet policing. The Authority was confident that, as a result of the additional investment made, and the collaboration programme in place, the capability of Sussex would be enhanced to the required standards by 31 March 2009.

17. **Resolved** - that

(1) the steps being taken to enhance the protective services provided in Sussex be noted; and

(2) a further progress report be made to the Authority's meeting in October 2008.

### **TEMPORARY EVENTS NOTICE**

18. The Police Authority considered a report by the Chief Executive and Chief Constable.

19. The attention of the Police Authority was drawn to provisions regarding Temporary Event Notices under the Licensing Act 2003. There was a loophole in the provisions of the Act which was being increasingly exploited by organisers of small scale, one-off events. A Temporary Events Notice was required to be submitted to the licensing authority no later than ten days before the event and the police must be sent a copy at the same time. The Legislation allowed 48 hours for the police to

make any objection on the grounds of concern for crime and disorder, but did not specify that these had to be working hours. It had become more frequent for a Temporary Events Notice to be served on Sussex Police at 5pm on a Friday requiring any objection to be made by 5pm on the following Sunday.

20. As a result it had not always been possible for immediate action to be taken with regard to the notices. Additionally, Temporary Events Notices were being submitted at rural police stations in the knowledge that the objection period would have often passed before the notice had been directed to the correct office. This issue posed a threat to public order if the police were not given sufficient opportunity to assess the risk of public safety of an event requiring a licence to sell alcohol. A simple option to rectify the situation would be to make an amendment to the Licensing Act requiring the police to be given five clear working days to decide whether an objection should be made, and to specify that the Notice must be delivered to the Force Licensing Officer.

21. **Resolved** – that

(1) the Police Authority's concerns be raised with the Government; and

(2) the support of Sussex MPs, the Association of Police Authorities, the Association of Chief Police Officers and the Local Authorities' Co-ordinators of Regulatory Services be sought in pursuing the amendment of the legislation.

#### **FINANCIAL OUTTURN FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2008**

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

23. The report set out a summary of the outturn position of the Police Authority for year ended 31 March 2008.

24. The Police Authority noted the satisfactory financial performance of the Police Authority in 2007-08 which reflected the good financial management of the Treasurer and the Director of Resources, and their respective teams.

**25. Resolved** – that

(1) the outturn position for the 2007-08 revenue budget, set out in sections 2-5 of the report, and for the 2007-08 capital budget, set out in sections 9 and 11, be noted;

(2) the transfers to and from reserves as set out in Sections 6 and 10 of the report, and the revision to the capital budget in Section 9, and the creation of an Asset Acquisition and Replacement Reserve in Section 12, be approved;

(3) the Treasurer and Chief Constable be authorised to approve any subsequent changes and report these to the Corporate Governance Committee;

(4) the final prudential indicators report for 2007-08 be noted and the revised indicators for 2008-09 to 2010-11, in section 11 of the report, be approved;

(5) the budget transfers in Section 13 of the report, actioned since the December budget monitoring report considered at the February meeting, be noted;

(6) the amount received from sponsorship be noted; and

(7) the debtor performance and write off for the year be noted.

**TREASURY MANAGEMENT 2007-08**

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

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

**REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STEERING GROUP**

28. The Police Authority considered the report of the Community Engagement Steering Group's meeting held on 7 May 2008.

29. The Police Authority's attention was drawn to the Community Engagement Action Plan 2008-09 which was designed to maximize the range of qualitative and quantitative information from the communities in Sussex regarding policing in the county. The Police Authority welcomed the new innovative approach which was set out in the Action Plan which it was hoped would broaden the range of communities and neighbourhoods consulted.

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

## **REPORT OF THE JOINT LIAISON AND CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**

31. The Police Authority considered a report by the Chairman of the Joint Liaison and Consultative Committee.

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

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

33. **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.

34. The Police Authority considered a report on counter-terrorism and noted action taken in respect of leases and contracts.  
Chairman