

## SUSSEX POLICE AUTHORITY

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Minutes of a meeting of the Sussex Police Authority held on 11 February 2010 at County Hall, Chichester.

Present:

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

Apologies for absence were received from Mr P Jones, Mr A Price JP and Mrs C Shaves MBE, JP.

### CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

135. The Chairman welcomed to the Police Authority Inspector Brian Stockham and Police Constable Mark White, representing the Police Federation, Superintendent Jane Rhodes, representing the Superintendents' Association, Susan George, Head of Corporate Communications and Sarah Reed, representing Unison.

136. The Chairman congratulated Mrs Helen Kilpatrick, the former Treasurer to the Authority, on her award of the CB Order of the Bath in the Queen's New Year Honours. The Chairman also congratulated Detective Superintendent Vic Marshall on his award of the OBE in the Queen's New Year Honours.

### RETIREMENT OF THE SOLICITOR TO THE AUTHORITY

137. The Chairman drew the Authority's attention to the retirement from 31 March 2010 of the Solicitor to the Authority Mr Andrew Ogden. Mr Ogden had made an outstanding contribution to the governance of the Police Authority both as the previous Deputy Clerk and since 2004 Solicitor to the Authority.

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

### DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL INTERESTS

139. No personal interests were declared.

### MINUTES

140. **Resolved** – that the Part I and Part II minutes of the meeting of the Police Authority held on 10 December 2009 be confirmed.

141. With regard to the Part II minutes, the Deputy Chief Constable reported on the signing of the first collaboration agreements and highlighted the fact that the Authority and Sussex Police were working with the South East Regional Authorities regarding other areas of collaboration.

142. With regard to Minute 130 (of 10 December 2009), the Chairman reported that the Chief Executive had, under delegated powers, appointed Mr Peter Evans as Lead Member for Partnership Working.

## **REPORTS**

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

## **LOCAL POLICING PLAN 2010-13**

144. The Police Authority considered a report by the Chief Constable, Chief Executive and Treasurer.
145. The Police Authority considered the draft Local Policing Plan (LPP) 2010–13 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 targets. The Police Authority welcomed the fact that the draft LPP was being presented to the Authority in its entirety alongside the budget. The LPP had been prepared in parallel with the Budget for 2010-11 as a fully developed and integrated package which would deliver an agreed Plan with targets. The LPP was an ambitious plan which had been developed in consultation with the Authority and drafted to reflect public expectations not only locally but also nationally in respect of neighbourhood policing and protective services. The Plan also included particular focus on the local issues raised during the Authority's public consultation and engagement programme. The aim of the Plan was to sustain the strong performance of Sussex Police and to ensure that Sussex remained a safe place in which to live and work.
146. The investment options within the approved budget were aligned to the three strategic priorities of the Authority contained in the LPP namely: neighbourhood policing, keeping people safe and best use of resources. The objectives and demanding targets in the LPP sought to balance the need to provide high quality policing and the cost of the service to local tax payers, which was particularly important in the current economic downturn.
147. The Police Authority and Sussex Police were key contributors to partnership working at various levels throughout Sussex, and worked closely and effectively at a strategic level with East Sussex County Council, West Sussex County Council and Brighton & Hove City Council, and with other partner agencies across Sussex.
148. **Resolved** – that the draft Local Policing Plan 2010-2013 and the targets set out therein be approved.

## **BUDGET MONITORING TO 31 DECEMBER 2009**

149. The Police Authority considered a report by the Chief Constable, Treasurer and Chief Executive.
150. **Resolved** - that

- (1) the latest position for the revenue and capital budgets for 2009-10, the position on outstanding debts and budget transfers be noted;
- (2) the amendments and transfer to and from reserves as set out in section 5 and Appendix D be approved.

### **REVENUE BUDGET 2010-11 AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME to 2010-13**

151. The Police Authority considered a report by the Chief Constable, Chief Executive and Treasurer.
152. The Police Authority considered its revenue budget for 2010-11 and investment plans for delivering the priorities of the Local Policing Plan for Sussex to 2013. The revenue budget and capital programme had been prepared on the basis of delivering the Local Policing Plan approved by the Authority earlier in the meeting. The revenue budget sought to ensure that Sussex Police continued to deliver a good policing service, despite having fewer resources and funds than most forces in England and Wales. Over the last few years, Sussex Police had continued to deliver a high level of performance and achieved significant efficiency savings, all against a background of low grant funding and one of the lowest levels of precept for policing.
153. It was reported that the demanding targets for serving Sussex, as set out in the Local Policing Plan, could be resourced effectively. Sussex Police had a strong record of delivering improvements in performance, and in the efficient use of resources. The Authority continued to face a very difficult outlook over the period beyond 2011. The need to invest further in measures to tackle serious and organised crime, to support the development of neighbourhood policing, and protect vulnerable people had to be set against the prospect of future increases in government funding that were below the rate of inflation. However, for local policing to flourish, investment must continue to be made in the provision of protective services. These included provision for major and cross border crime, roads policing, forensic investigation and counter-terrorism activities. The Police Authority and Sussex Police were collaborating with other police authorities and forces to achieve the best use of resources. The Authority had recently entered into agreements with neighbouring regional forces to establish regional units for Witness Protection, Covert Operations and Technical Support. It was hoped that these would be the first of a number of other collaborative projects which would be pursued. The public of Sussex would benefit from the cost savings and operational benefits which would accrue from the collaboration programme.
154. The Treasurer drew attention to revisions to the report and recommendations, copies of which were circulated (copy attached to the signed copy of these minutes) which had resulted from a change in the collection account figures for Mid Sussex District Council.
155. In the 2009-10 budget debate the Authority had indicated its ambition to further increase the number of neighbourhood police officers by 31 police officer posts in 2010-11. Due to the position on the collection fund and other budget savings identified, the commitment for the additional 31 neighbourhood police officers could be funded within precept of 2.7 per cent.

156. **Resolved** - that

- (1) a revenue budget for 2010-11 of £260.749m inclusive of a contingency provision of £0.400m be approved as detailed in Appendix 3;
- (2) a capital programme, as detailed in Appendix 4, including expenditure of £11.261m be approved;
- (3) the proposed methods of financing the capital programme for 2010-11, including the use of borrowing shown in Appendix 6 be approved;
- (4) a maximum operational borrowing limit of £10.480m for prudential borrowing and an additional £15m of borrowing for temporary cash flow purposes, giving an authorised borrowing limit of £25.480m 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 8 be approved;
- (8) the level of precept for 2010-11 at £86,607,944.74 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 12, be approved;
- (9) the implications for future years as set out in section 11, including the target for future efficiency savings, be noted.

#### **TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2010-11**

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

158. **Resolved** – that

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

#### **CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2010-11**

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

160. **Resolved** that the Continuous Improvement Plan for 2010-11 be approved.

#### **POLICE AUTHORITY REGULATORY REFORM**

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

162. The Home Office's proposed statutory instruments outlined in the report were intended to complement other initiatives, such as the introduction of Police Authority Inspections. The key theme throughout the regulatory changes was to increase the local accountability, including raising the visibility to the public of value for money obtained from policing, and importantly, to ensure that the Police Authority was seen as a vehicle for redress for complaints from the public relating to the policing in that area. The regulations also included details of the standards expected of members of police authorities and chairmen, and defined how these skills were to be measured.

163. **Resolved** that

- (1) the Chief Executive be asked to consider within his review of resources, the implications of these amendments to regulations on the work of the Authority;
- (2) the appointment of a Lead Member for Community Engagement and the prioritisation of this statutory obligation be welcomed;
- (3) the Neighbourhood Policing Scrutiny Committee continue to monitor the work of the Authority and Sussex Police in obtaining the views of people within Sussex on matters concerning the policing of Sussex, with particular regard to the categories of people outlined in the regulations; and
- (4) the Resources Scrutiny Committee continue to routinely monitor performance against the Value for Money statement as defined within the Local Policing Plan 2010-13.

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

164. The Police Authority considered a report by the Chairman of the Committee.

165. The report outlined the discussions which had taken place with the representatives of the Staff Associations at the meeting held on 15 January 2010.

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

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

167. The Police Authority considered a report by the Chairman of the Committee.

168. The report outlined the matters considered at the meeting of the Committee held on 27 January 2010.

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

Chairman