

SETTING STRATEGIC DIRECTION

GATWICK AIRPORT

Background

Sussex Police Authority's relationship with Gatwick Airport a number of years ago was generally limited to negotiations over funding policing in the airport. As a result, negotiations for the apportionment of costs of policing of the airport and general relationships were, at times, strained and often a cause of friction between Gatwick Airport Ltd and Sussex Police.

The Authority adding value

Following the appointment of Dr John Godfrey as Chief Executive of Sussex Police Authority, the Authority set about improving the relationship with London Gatwick Airport Ltd. This was enabled by Dr Godfrey's considerable experience whilst a senior officer at West Sussex County Council in liaison with Gatwick Airport.

Sussex Police Authority, under the leadership of Dr Godfrey, has built up a strong relationship with Gatwick Airport over the last five years. As a demonstration of the strength of this relationship, Dr Godfrey is now the Chairman of the Gatwick Airport Consultative Committee, and represents the Authority on the Security Executive Group, as required under Section 24AG of the Policing and Crime Act 2009. This is a recent high level Home Office appointment. Negotiations with Gatwick Airport Ltd are now on a far more professional footing and the Authority is closely involved with that process.

Outcome

As a result of this work, the policing at Gatwick Airport is now seen as a priority for Sussex Police and negotiations for the funding of policing at Gatwick Airport are on a more professional footing within the contract on the agreed Airport Security Plan.

A further reflection of the Authority's influence on the policing of airports is that Mr Lionel Barnard is the Association of Police Authorities' national lead for Border Policing. Mr Barnard played a leading role nationally in shaping the relevant provisions of the 2009 Act, based on local experience at Gatwick.

Contacts:

Dr John Godfrey, Chief Executive, Sussex Police Authority

E-mail: john.godfrey@sussexpa.gov.uk

Geoff Williams, Head of Security, London Gatwick Airport

E-mail: geoff.williams@gatwickairport.com

ACC Olivia Pinkney, Sussex Police

E-mail: olivia.pinkney@sussex.pnn.police.uk

Superintendent Jane Rhodes, Sussex Police

E-mail: jane.rhodes@sussex.pnn.police.uk