

PROTECTIVE SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 22 JUNE 2010

BORDER POLICING

REPORT BY CHIEF CONSTABLE AND CHIEF CONSTABLE

Introduction

1. Border policing is of particular interest to Sussex, as a coastal county and the home of the country's second busiest airport at Gatwick. Given the challenges posed to the UK from terrorism, the importance of constantly reviewing how we keep our borders safe and secure remains top priority for the police service and partner agencies.

Coalition Government Approach

- 2.1 Following the publication of the Coalition's programme for government and the Queen's Speech, it is clear there is an intention to create a dedicated Border Police Force, as part of a refocused Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA), to enhance national security, improve immigration controls and crack down on the trafficking of people, weapons and drugs.
- 2.2 The current Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) position of supporting active enhancement of border policing indicates the complexities of this ambition and there is a need to find out/influence exactly what elements of airports policing it is proposed to remove to SOCA.
- 2.3 The Home Office's Border Police Force Programme Director, Vic Hogg, is currently seeking views on the establishment of a Border Force and a number of Chief Constables, including the Chief Constable for Sussex, have already been contacted or indeed offered help which has been welcomed. In order to co-ordinate input to this work, ACPO has identified Sir Norman Bettison, Chief Constable of West Yorkshire, as leading on this issue. ACPO reports that: "What was also clear and positive, was that Ministers clearly valued the British model of policing and fully understood the importance of the connectivity between the delivery of front-line, local services and the serious and national end of the business".
- 2.4 Lionel Barnard represents police authorities in the South East on the Association of Police Authorities (APA) Strategic Policing Policy Network (SPPN) and is the APA's Lead Member on border policing. As such, he is well placed to influence emerging national policy.

Conclusion

- 3.1 Any moves towards a Border Police Force will have significant consequences for policing in Sussex.
- 3.2 There are meetings taking place during June where it is hoped further detail behind the announcement will emerge. For example, the APA's SPPN will be meeting on 23 June 2010 to discuss this matter and Nick Herbert MP, the

Policing Minister, is visiting Sussex on 25 June 2010, which will enable the Chairman and the Chief Constable to raise this important issue with him.

Recommended - That a further report outlining a proposed response to this issue be considered at the next meeting of the Authority in July.

JOHN GODFREY
Chief Executive

MARTIN RICHARDS
Chief Constable

Contact: Emma Welfare
Email: emmawelfare@sussexpa.gov.uk
Tel: 01273 481895

Contact: ACC Olivia Pinkney
E-mail: olivia.pinkney@sussex.pnn.police.uk