

County Council Meeting – 13 October 2009

To: SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

Date: 13 October 2009

By: Sue Martin, Chief Executive of Surrey Police Authority

Title: REPORT FROM SURREY POLICE AUTHORITY

Purpose of Report/Issue:

To inform members of the work of Surrey Police Authority since the last Council meeting in July 2009.

Capping of Surrey Police Authority

1. On 17 July 2009 at a hearing at the High Court, Mr Justice Charles turned down the application by Surrey Police Authority for a Judicial Review of the Department of Communities and Local Government's (DCLG) use of a 'notional precept' requirement in its decision to 'cap' Surrey Police Authority. This meant that capping had to proceed and Members were obliged to comply with the Parliamentary Order requiring us to set a lower budget and precept for 2009-10. Since July, Surrey District and Borough Councils have instigated the re-billing process to recover £1.6million from local taxpayers, at an estimated cost of £1.2million to the Police Authority.
2. The support from across Surrey for our campaign against the capping of the police budget for this year has been phenomenal, for which the Authority is grateful. More than 7,000 people signed our petition in just a few weeks and, since the re-billing process has started, the vast majority of comments have been supportive of the Authority's course of action. We are obviously disappointed that the result was not a better one, but we continue to do all that we can to get a better level of funding for policing in Surrey that reflects the huge contribution of our county to the nation's finances and the unique policing challenges that we face.

First Quarter Performance

3. At its meeting on 10 September, the Authority received information on the key headline performance indicators for the period up to the end of June 2009-10. In spite of a difficult first quarter due in part to the capping issue, performance has remained strong with seven of the nine indicators on target. Both satisfaction and confidence levels continued to increase and by the end of June, the latter stood at 85.5%. In terms of 'safety and harm reduction', Surrey Police continues to hold firm and is 90.43% prepared for threats assessed as high or very high risk. As Swine Flu continues to be a threat, the Force is operating at 87.5% preparedness for a flu pandemic.

4. Between April and the end of June, Surrey Police recorded 3,526 serious violence and serious acquisitive crimes, which is a year on year increase of 11.2%. Serious acquisitive crime is a priority and resource needs to be focused in this area if high levels of confidence and satisfaction are to be maintained. Theft from motor vehicles is being targeted as there has been a sharp rise in hotspots across the county in this crime. The Force has launched a campaign – “Don’t Make it Easy For Them” – which encourages motorists to be vigilant against car thieves and reminds drivers to avoid leaving items such as satellite navigation systems, mobile phones and laptops in their cars and vans. Work is also underway to look at how the Force can improve its detection of these crimes as part of Operation Armstrong.

Budget and Target Setting for 2010

5. September sees the start of the budget and target setting process for 2010. Members have already agreed that the strategic direction we set for the Force – “Surrey Public First” – will remain the same. However, it is acknowledged that budget and target setting will be a complex process this year due to the budget gap we face.

County Councillors visit Surrey Police HQ

6. All County Councillors were invited to attend an informal briefing at Surrey Police HQ in Guildford on the evening of 29 September to hear from the Chief Constable, Mark Rowley and Authority Chairman, Peter Williams about the approach to policing in Surrey and some of our budgetary challenges.

Operation Smart

7. On 7 September, Surrey Police and Surrey County Council launched a year long campaign against anti-social driving. The Authority’s surveys have shown that this is a top priority for the Surrey public. Members will know that Surrey County Council has provided £1million to target issues such as hand-held mobile phone use, parking offences and speeding. Surrey Safety Camera Partnership, Surrey Fire and Rescue Service, the South East Coast Ambulance Service and the Highways Agency are also joining in the campaign.

Contact details –

Name:	Sue Martin
Job Title:	Chief Executive
Telephone number:	01483 630200
Email address:	martin10986@surrey.pnn.police.uk
