

County Council Meeting – 9 February 2010

To: SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

Date: 9 February 2010

By: Alison Bolton, Acting 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 December 2010.

Operational Police Review

At the last meeting of Council in December 2009, Members were informed of plans under development by the Chief Constable to address the considerable and unprecedented challenges facing the Force, both from a policing and a financial perspective. At its meeting on 10 December, Surrey Police Authority gave its support to the plans which will see a reduction in the number of senior officers; a simplified, functional structure for the Force to replace the existing Divisional one; and the replacement of a number of older and under-used police stations. Ultimately, the plans should result in the recruitment of up to 200 extra Constables; offer more and better ways to engage with the police locally; and considerably reduce the budget gap facing the Force. The majority of the changes will be completed within three years.

The Authority's decision means that further detailed planning and the first stages of implementation have now begun. The Authority has decided to hold its own consultation with the public on the plans for changes to the police estate. The Authority's 17 Members agreed that no police station should close until better alternatives can be provided. They also agreed that a comprehensive process of briefing and consultation should take place with the public and partner organisations in Boroughs and Districts before any police station is replaced.

Budget and Target Setting Process

The Authority has continued to progress with its budget and target setting for 2010-13 over the past few months. Detailed targets for the Local Policing Plan will be discussed at the Authority's January workshop and Members have already agreed to continue with the principles of 'Surrey Public First' which will see a smaller number of targets than many other forces, concentrating on the key issues for the County. The workshop will also receive the results of the

Authority's annual local priorities survey, which Members will be asked to take on board before any decisions on targets are finalised. The Authority is due to agree its budget for 2010/11 at its meeting on 8 February 2010, being held at Mole Valley District Council.

British Crime Survey Results

The Authority has welcomed the latest crime statistics and British Crime Survey results published by the Home Office, which show that public confidence in Surrey Police tackling anti-social behaviour and crime is now the highest in the country. Survey data shows that confidence figures have increased 3.7% to 58.6% which has put Surrey top of the national table compared to sixth in June 2009. The Force has also recorded a crime rate of 61 crimes per 1,000 population which means the county has the sixth lowest crime rate in the country. Crime rates for all key categories compare favourably with other forces and are the lowest in the South East.

Contact details –

Name:	Alison Bolton
Job Title:	Acting Chief Executive
Telephone number:	01483 630200
Email address:	bolton11786@surrey.pnn.police.uk
