

County Council Meeting – 10 May 2011

To: SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL
Date: 10 May 2011
By: Alison Bolton, 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 March 2011.

Local Policing Plan for 2011-14

At its meeting on 28 March 2011, the Authority agreed the Local Policing Plan for 2011-14. This key public document sets out the priorities for Surrey Police to work toward in the coming year and is the means by which we hold the Force to account for its performance. It is drawn up following consultation with local residents, consideration of the policing challenges facing the county and the priorities of local partners.

Our overall strategy for policing, as articulated in the Plan, remains the same this year – *“Putting Surrey Public First”*. Members will be aware that, for a number of years now, the Force has put local people’s priorities before national performance regimes. It has concentrated on the prevention of criminality over and above the pursuit of external targets that can skew the use of our limited resources. Serious crime and anti-social behaviour remain top priorities for the public and the Plan focuses particularly on these areas.

The Plan, as in previous years, sets out a relatively small number of key targets. For 2011/12, these are:

- To keep public confidence in Surrey Police high (at least 80%)
- To provide a good service to victims of anti-social behaviour (at least 76%)
- To provide a good service to victims of crime (at least 79%)
- To keep levels of serious crime low in Surrey (13.6 per 1000 population)
- To stop criminal gangs from operating in Surrey (Disrupt or dismantle at least 15 Organised Criminal Groups)
- To arrest people who sell harmful drugs (450 charges/cautions for Class A and B drugs supply offences)
- To catch people who commit serious crime (18.6% sanction detections or other resolution)
- To recruit more Police Constables by making savings in other areas (200 extra constables)
- Make optimal use of our officer and staff resource (90% of budgeted police employees available to deliver and support policing)

The Plan is an ambitious one in the face of very significant financial, operational and organisational challenges. Government funding for policing is being cut by 20% over the next four years and at the same time, recessionary pressures could

fuel increases in crimes such as burglary, vehicle theft and fraud. However, through prudent financial planning and a willingness to initiate fundamental programmes of change – such as the Operational Police Review discussed in more details below - Surrey Police is not facing these challenges from a ‘standing start’.

Copies of the Plan have been sent to County Council colleagues and the Plan is available on the Authority’s website.

Operational Policing Review

As Members know, part of the Operational Policing Review involves co-locating neighbourhood policing teams within borough and district council offices to enhance joint working with community safety partners. The benefits of co-location have already been proven in the successful pilot areas of Woking and Runnymede. In addition to the co-location sites, other appropriate and cost effective bases are being sought for neighbourhood teams in the heart of communities from which they can patrol and engage with the public.

Footfall figures for our front counters show that the transactional services they provide are largely under-used and costly to run. On that basis, a new front counter model has been drawn up which went ‘live’ in April. This model provides one front counter per borough, most of which will be in district and borough council offices. The counters will be supplemented by a mobile counter service, due to launch in May. The vehicle will serve areas, which have not previously had access to counter services. A three month timetable has been drawn up and publicity is being developed. The timetable will be reviewed every three months alongside footfall data.

These plans, in addition to the brigading of the majority of non-neighbourhood personnel into five core buildings, allow the disposal of a significant number of outdated and expensive police buildings. The considerable financial savings generated will enable the proposed 200 strong increase in frontline officers.

Implementation of the estate aspects of the Operational Policing Review is now well underway. Neighbourhood teams are co-located with community safety partners in Waverley, Guildford, Spelthorne and Surrey Heath as well as Runnymede and Woking. In addition, ‘police posts’ have been established at Lingfield and East Horsley and plans are well progressed in Byfleet, Bagshot, Ash, Sunbury, Leatherhead, Haslemere, Smallfield, Ashford and Cranleigh. These ‘posts’ are bases in the heart of local communities where frontline officers can complete paperwork or have meal breaks. While they will not have front counters, some posts will offer the opportunity to engage with the public where they are located in community centres and other community buildings. Neighbourhood teams continue to provide a range of other ways to engage with the public – for example, there are currently over 200 surgeries running in locations across the county.

Marketing of police stations and offices in Lingfield, Ripley, Byfleet, Lightwater, Frimley, Ash, Sunbury, Esher, Epsom and Haslemere has now commenced.

Negotiations with Reigate & Banstead Borough Council regarding the inclusion of Horley police station within a larger development site will also be progressed. Negotiations regarding the sale of Godalming Police Station continue with the developer who owns adjacent land. Planning permission for development has been turned down on a number of occasions but a revised scheme has now been submitted.

Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill has now completed its passage through the House of Commons and had its first reading in the House of Lords on 1 April. The Second Reading in the Lords - the general debate on all aspects of the Bill - is scheduled for 27 April. Both Surrey Police and Surrey Police Authority are beginning to work with colleagues in local authorities to ensure that, should the Bill become Law along the Government's intended timescales, we are as well prepared as possible to move a new form of governance in May 2012.

Planning for the Olympics

The 2012 Olympics and Paralympics represent a huge opportunity for the county and Surrey Police is working with partners to plan a safe, secure and resilient Games. The Force will be working very closely with Surrey County Council and other agencies to ensure the success of the Roads Cycling Event and the safety and security of the Olympic Village at Royal Holloway University of London in Egham. We will include a more detailed update on planning and preparation for the Olympics in a future report.

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