

County Council Meeting – 19 July 2011

**To: SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**Date: 19 July 2011**  
**By: Alison Bolton, Chief Executive of Surrey Police Authority**  
**Title: REPORT FROM SURREY POLICE AUTHORITY**

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**Purpose of Report / Issue:**

To inform Members of the work of Surrey Police Authority since the last Council meeting in June 2011.

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**Police and Social Responsibility Bill**

The Bill has been subject to a line by line examination in the House of Lords with a sixth day of the committee stage finishing on 16 June. The Bill will now pass to the Report stage in the Lords. This will take place over four days (from 29 June until 14 July) and is likely to involve a series of votes being taken on issues of major concern already raised during the committee. Report is followed by one day's debate called Third Reading.

The third reading is likely to be on 20 July, which is *after* the Commons has risen for the summer recess. This means that the original intention to receive Royal Assent before the summer is not achievable. The change of schedule reflects Peers' concerns that the previous timetable would be too rushed to allow meaningful debate of a clutch of major amendments that Lords will seek to confirm to the Bill at the final third reading stage.

The Bill will then pass between the Commons and Lords, during which attempts are made to reach agreement on any points on contention between the Upper and Lower Houses. This is likely to take place in September when the Lords are back for a few days before party conferences. The Government is also likely to announce that Peers' recess for the party conferences will be cut short by a week to make progress against an increasing backlog of legislation.

This represents a significant delay to the Government's desired and oft-stated timetable, although the Bill could still get through in time for elections next May. Royal Assent is likely to be needed by mid October before the timetable for making the necessary Regulations and preparations for a new set of elections is endangered.

On 21 June, Policing Minister Nick Herbert wrote to all Chief Constables and Chairmen of Police Authorities setting out arrangements for the transfer of police staff to the employment of the Commissioner in the first instance post May 2012. This clearly reiterates the Government's ongoing commitment to its original timetable.

The Authority is continuing to plan on the basis that the elections will be held in May 2012. Delays to the legislation will obviously impact on the Authority and Force's capacity to progress significant pieces of work such as transfer of staff

and assets, the establishment of two 'corporation soles' and the financial implications of the new arrangements.

### **Planning for the Olympics**

There are a number of Olympics related challenges for Surrey Police. A strategy for the Olympics period has been set and endorsed by Olympics Project Board and the Authority's Controlling Crime Panel on 9 June. The strategy supports and is aligned to the national London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Safety and Security Strategy, the overall aim of which is to 'deliver a safe and secure Games, in keeping with the Olympic culture and spirit'. The force Olympics strategy also highlights the link to the existing force strategic objectives and the requirement to maintain 'business as usual'.

Early stages of planning involved scoping the issues, design, producing generic operational responses and building the planning and governance structures. This design phase has been largely completed and now entered into detailed planning and implementation. The current planning and implementation phase is also now starting to overlap with a 'testing and exercising' phase. This will ensure that not only are local plans 'fit for purpose' but also that they sufficiently integrate with other agencies and national structures.

The most significant 'test' is the London-Surrey Cycle Classic on 14 August 2011. This is a full dry-run of the Olympic road cycle race and will be a significant event in its own right, with approximately 148 riders from 20 national teams competing. Roads along the route will be completely closed and there will be a large amount community disruption. Key to successful delivery is effective communication to make communities aware of the impact of road closures. This communication plan is being led by SCC. Whilst the threat levels for this event are much lower than that anticipated for the Olympics, nevertheless a large number of police officers will be deployed and the opportunity will be taken to test command processes for 2012.

### **Targets and budget**

The Authority has agreed the target and budget setting process for 2012-2013. Police and Crime Commissioners, if they come in, will be elected in May 2012. A budget for 2012-2013 needs to be agreed in February 2012 and the Policing Plan setting out force priorities and targets needs to be agreed by the end of March 2012. Both the budget and plan will be in place before the PCC is elected. The Authority will be carrying out public consultation on priorities and working with stakeholders to ensure joined up community safety plans during autumn 2011.

### **Police station disposals**

At the Police Authority meeting on 30 June, it was agreed that 6 police stations can be sold: Ripley, Sunbury, Frimley, Ash, Lingfield and Byfleet. These sales are part of the Operational Policing Review, which identified that many police stations were underused and that by providing alternative ways of contacting the police the stations could be sold to save revenue costs. In Ripley and Lingfield alternative police posts are up and running and these police stations will be sold

straight away. In Sunbury, Ash and Byfleet alternative police posts are being developed and once in place these three stations will be sold. Frimley station was not used as a public access station so can be sold without any alternative provision being put in place. In all cases, buyers have been found for the stations and the authority has agreed the preferred buyer, pending police posts being operational in some cases. A further police station, Lightwater, has been marketed but no offers have been received to date. This station will continue to be marketed.

### **Neyroud Review: Review of police leadership and training**

Last year, the Home Secretary asked Peter Neyroud QPM, former Chief Executive of the soon-to-be-abolished National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA), to undertake a review of police leadership and training. The report was published on 5 April and consultation on its recommendations and proposals ran until 28 June. The consultation sought the public's views on how police leadership and training could be delivered in the future.

To date, the Association of Police Authority Chief Executives (APACE), the Police Superintendents' Association of England and Wales (PSAEW) and the Police Federation of England and Wales (PFEW) have published their responses to the reviews recommendations. While all welcome the review and wish to see police leadership and training improve, many have distinct reservations about the reports recommendation to establish a chartered Professional Body to ensure consistent policing, embracing the whole of the police service and responsibility for leadership, learning and standards. There are concerns that this will duplicate systems already in place and not be representative of the police service generally. There are also concerns around the introduction of Policing Initial Qualification would exclude and disadvantage 72% of people who join the police service, in particular those from poorer families, BMEs, women with children and older people.

## **Winsor Review: Review of Police Officers and Staff Remuneration and Conditions**

Consultation on Part 2 of the review into the pay and conditions of service of police officers and police staff has now begun. The consultation will run until Monday 12 September 2011. The issues covered by Part 2 are complex and, if implemented, may have significant implications for the long-term future of the police service leading to substantive and lasting reforms. The questions which are raised in the consultation document fall into five broad categories:

- the basic pay of police officers, including the quantification of an 'x-factor';
- whether individual contribution, performance, skills, roles or fitness should affect pay;
- police officer entry routes, including considering direct- and multi-entry routes;
- the length of the officer career and pension age; and
- the negotiating mechanisms themselves.

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### **Contact details –**

**Name:** Alison Bolton  
**Telephone number:** 01483 630200  
**Email address:** bolton11786@surrey.pnn.police.uk

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