

To: SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL
Date: 13 December 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 October 2011.

Chief Constable of Surrey Police

As Members will be aware, Mark Rowley left Surrey Police on 4 December 2011 to take up his new role as Assistant Commissioner in the Metropolitan Police. He first joined Surrey Police as a Branch Commander in 2000 and was appointed as Surrey's Chief Constable in 2008. He has been an innovative Chief and has led a wide-ranging programme of reforms, resulting in a substantial increase in front-line numbers at a time of severe budget constraints. He has delivered significant reductions in serious crime and record levels of public confidence.

The Authority congratulates Mark on his prestigious appointment and is now looking towards the next chapter in the leadership of the Force. We have begun the process of recruiting a new Chief Constable and will be holding interviews before Christmas. In the meantime, Deputy Chief Constable Craig Denholm will lead Surrey Police as its Temporary Chief Constable.

National Police Air Support

Surrey currently is a member of a three-force air support consortium with Sussex and Hampshire (SEASU). However, at the Police Authority meeting on 13th October, Members were informed of the proposed National Police Air Support strategy, which aims to harness air assets across the country to provide a coherent, effective and national service that is not limited by traditional police boundaries and makes the very best use of expensive assets.

Locally, the proposal would see a change from the existing two helicopter capability provided by the South East Air Support Unit (SEASU) to coverage being provided by four aircraft based in Dorset, Surrey, Thames Valley and London. The exact locations for the bases remain subject of ongoing discussions. It was reported that the project has gained support both operationally and financially at the Association of Chief Police Officers Chief Constables' Council.

The Police Authority agreed to support the direction of travel and the further exploration of the National Police Air Service model but required more detailed information before further support was given.

Business Partnering in Surrey Police

At the Police Authority meeting on 13 October, the Authority's formal support was sought to commence a process of procurement to explore the feasibility of going into partnership with a private sector company to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of 'middle office' services, while making significant financial savings and offering better services to the Surrey Public Service.

Following detailed debate, it was agreed to progress to a procurement process to explore in detail the benefits of a partnership with a private sector service supplier. This matter will remain under close scrutiny.

Transition to Police and Crime Commissioner

Since the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act gained Royal Assent, we have been working closely with colleagues in Surrey Police and partners to prepare for the changes in governance. Several significant pieces of work to transfer the staff, assets, leases and liabilities currently vested in the Police Authority will need to be set in train. We are also working with colleagues and Members in Surrey's twelve local authorities who will ultimately have responsibility for running the Police and Crime Panel that will hold the Commissioner to account.

Contact details –

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