

To: SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL
Date: 7 February 2012
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 December 2011.

Chief Constable of Surrey Police

Surrey Police Authority has appointed Lynne Owens QPM as the new substantive Chief Constable of Surrey Police. The appointment was made following a rigorous process of assessment and interviews. Lynne joins the Force at the start of an exciting and challenging year for Surrey, with the summer's Olympics and the arrival of the first Police and Crime Commissioner in November.

Lynne will be familiar to many Members, having been a Surrey officer between 2002 and 2009. After serving as a Divisional Commander in North Surrey, she rose through the ranks to become Temporary Deputy Chief Constable in March 2008.

In April 2009, Lynne transferred to the Metropolitan Police Service as a Deputy Assistant Commissioner responsible for Territorial Policing. In December 2010, she took up post as an Assistant Commissioner and was appointed to the Met's Management Board. For the past year she has been the lead for public order policing in London, including the delivery of the Royal Wedding and other uniformed specialisms.

We look forward to welcoming Lynne when she takes up her role on 1 February.

Budget and Precept for 2012-13

The Authority will be setting its last ever budget and precept for the 2012-13 financial year at its meeting on 6 February 2012, to be held at 10am at Waverley Borough Council offices. Although the Police and Commissioner will arrive mid-way through this financial year, he or she will not be able to vary the budget and precept as set by the Authority. The reports for this meeting will be published on the Authority's website five working days before the meeting and the meeting itself will be web-cast.

Preparing for the Arrival of Surrey's First Police and Crime Commissioner

There are now just nine months until Surrey residents will vote for the first Police and Crime Commissioner for the county and the Authority is working hard with colleagues in the Force and local authority partners to ensure a smooth transfer of governance arrangements.

The Home Office has now published information about the role of Police and Crime Commissioner and is keen to encourage people to consider standing for this important role. Surrey Police Authority will be providing information and briefings during 2012 for those who are interested in standing, as well as those partners and organisations for whom there will be an impact. The Police Authority's website sets out further information on these changes – www.surreypa.gov.uk/pcc

As Members will be aware, the Police and Crime Commissioner will be held to account by a Police and Crime Panel, comprising 12 local authority members (one from each of Surrey's local authorities) and two 'co-opted' members. The panel will be a joint committee of all Surrey's local authorities and it falls to the authorities themselves to set it up and run it. The Government intends for the panel to be established in advance of the arrival of the Commissioner.

Surrey Leaders have recently considered a report which proposes that Surrey works towards having a shadow panel in place in the summer of 2012. One authority will need to take the lead on setting up and ultimately 'hosting' the panel and it has been suggested by Leaders, subject to discussion and a formal decision by all parties, that this role falls to Surrey County Council. The panel would most likely meet at various locations throughout the county. The Home Office proposes to make £30,000, plus on costs, available to local authorities to support the work of the panel, although it is not yet clear whether this will be a one-off payment or how it will be paid.

Colleagues in Surrey County Council are now working closely with the Police Authority and District and Borough representatives to prepare the necessary arrangements for the panel so that members may be appointed to it soon after the May local elections.

Local Policing Plan Performance

During the second quarter of the performance year, excellent progress has been made, ensuring the Force is now on target for all nine of this year's Local Policing Plan measures. Public confidence remains high, with 88.7% of the public surveyed in the first two quarters of this financial year confident in their neighbourhood police compared to 88.2% in 2010/11. Additionally, a weighted satisfaction level of 84.7% has been recorded for burglary, vehicle crime, violent crime, racial crime and road traffic incidents, which is marginally higher than the level recorded in 2010/11.

Moreover, since the start of the year, the Force has recruited an additional 76 police constables, bringing the actual volume of constables to 1,512. Forecasts show that the Force will reach the target of 1,545 budgeted police constables by the end of the financial year, which is an increase of 200 police constables when compared to the 2009/10 baseline.

Business Partnering in Surrey Police

At its meeting on 8 December, the Authority received an update on the progress to date of the Business Partnering in Policing Programme. This programme will see Surrey Police working with the Home Office and West Midlands Police to

commence an exploratory procurement process to see if service improvements and savings are possible in non-frontline areas of the organisation through partnership with the private sector.

The Authority has now agreed to move to the next stage of the project, but will maintain close scrutiny and tight control throughout, building in a series of exit points or 'gateways' at public meetings. The Authority expects that the procurement process necessary to establish the viability of partnering with the private sector – which will last until 2013 – will cost up to £1m. Any final decision as to whether or not to partner with the private sector would be made by the elected Police and Crime Commissioner.

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