

To: SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL
Date: 16 October 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 June 2012.

Business Partnering for Police

At its meeting on 6 September 2012 the Police Authority confirmed its withdrawal from the Business Partnering for Police (BPP) project. In July the Authority had decided to suspend its involvement in the joint BPP project and indicated that it was minded to withdraw entirely. However, at this time Members agreed that no final decision on withdrawal should be taken until a paper setting out the financial and legal implications of withdrawal could be presented and discussed in public.

Consequently, in September the Chief Executive presented a paper which set out the implications of a decision to withdraw from the BPP project. The paper set out the legal, financial and contractual implications of withdrawing from the process. Members agreed that withdrawing from the project remained the right course of action given concerns around the future viability of the project and the opposition to BPP by some Police and Crime Commissioner candidates.

The Authority acknowledged that there had been learning from the exploratory phase and its on-going duty to improve service and save money for the public and agreed to support the Force in researching more collaboration opportunities.

Police and Crime Commissioner

Three briefing sessions have now been run for prospective candidates. In July a session was held on the role of the PCC. Two briefings in September and October focused on the work of Surrey Police – the first focusing on strategy and the second on operational matters.

The Authority staff also helped to facilitate a partner briefing session in late September which was an opportunity for key community safety and criminal justice partners to highlight their work and explore the impact of the PCC's arrival on their services. The event was attended by many of the prospective PCC candidates and partners including the Crown Prosecution Service, health sector, Probation, Victims Support and the Drug and Alcohol Action Team.

The Authority continues to keep its website updated with developments on PCCs developments (www.surreypa.gov.uk/PCC) and sends prospective candidates e-mail updates.

Short-listing for Joint Audit Committee members has taken place and preliminary interviews have started. The PCC and Chief Constable will be involved in the final selection of Committee members shortly after the PCC is elected.

Olympics

The Authority thanked and congratulated all of Surrey Police's officers and staff for the part they played in making the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games the tremendous successes they have proved to be. The Police Authority witnessed at first hand the hard work Surrey Police and partners have done to prepare for what have been the biggest sporting events ever to take place in Surrey. The Force ensured the safety and security of Games events and venues while maintaining its business as usual policing service to the county and this is a testament to the dedication and flexibility shown by its officers and staff to meet the challenge of a period of unprecedented demand.

Performance

At the last Authority meeting, consideration was given to a report on the Force's performance against the 2012/13 Local Policing Plan targets at the end of Quarter 1. Members were informed that the Force was currently on target to achieve all measures and that it had the highest level of confidence nationally. The Authority was presented two slides that showed positive developments on detections and crime reduction. The Authority congratulated the Force on a very good performance report.

Satisfaction remained an area that the Force wanted to improve and Members asked why satisfaction was not increasing if detection rates were improving. It was explained that a weak area for the Force was 'keeping people informed' and suggested that satisfaction was lower because victims were not always kept updated. This remained an area of focus for the Force.

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