

SURREY POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

SCRUTINY OF REMEMBRANCE DAY PARADE POLICIES

1st December 2016

INTRODUCTION

The Panel has requested information in respect of Surrey Police's policy regarding the policing of Remembrance Day Parades and in particular, the PCC's response to some local concern over the levels of police support offered to certain local parades.

DETAIL

Prior to Armistice Day this year, some Panel members have raised concerns about the levels of policing support afforded to Remembrance parades. This report sets out some more detailed information in respect of the policing response. The Commissioner has been keen to ensure that Surrey Police was able to play its part in making sure this important date was properly marked across the County.

By way of background, Surrey Police set out its approach to the policing of all public events (including Remembrance Day Parades) in August last year. Whilst absolutely committed to visible policing, the Force is operating against a backdrop of diminished resource and competing demands. The organisers of some community events see the Police as the first point of reference for successful planning. However, management of licensable activities is generally a matter for local authorities. In addition, best practice recommends the formation of a Safety Advisory Group to review plans, make recommendations and ultimately issue or refuse a letter of no objection.

From a policing perspective, police resourcing of community events is generally at the discretion of the local inspector. They will make an assessment based on the need to discharge core responsibilities around protecting life and property; preserving order; preventing the commission of offences; and bringing offenders to justice. Borough Inspectors should be following four principles:

- Surrey Police will be active participants, where there is a role, in Safety Advisory Groups
- Where there is a good engagement opportunity, the Force may provide resources, subject to prioritisation at tasking meetings
- Where there are pre-identified crime and disorder issues, the Force will plan accordingly

- The Force will not provide marshalling for road closures. The expectation is that alternative traffic management schemes, or the use of accredited marshals will be normal practice unless there is a specific risk. However, it is acknowledged that some parades occur around difficult or dangerous road junctions or have particular risks around them that would benefit from police support. These requests would be looked upon favourably and properly risk assessed.

It is acknowledged that, whilst these principles apply consistently across the county, this will result in different levels of support to differing parades, dependent on the threat, harm and risk posed at each one.

Surrey Police has stressed that events of national significance - Remembrance Day Parades being one such example - are particularly sensitive and it is imperative that they should be allowed to proceed.

Following a recent discussion with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Police & Crime Panel, the Commissioner raised the issue of police support with both the Chief Constable and Deputy Chief Constable to ensure that the policy was being properly applied across the county. The Deputy Chief Constable subsequently wrote to divisional Chief Superintendents to reiterate and clarify the Force position in respect of Remembrance Day parades so that they (and borough inspectors) were better placed to discuss with event organisers. He also gave assurance that, where concerns persist, he would then ensure these are given individual attention to check that support levels are appropriate. With the exception of two queries relating to parades in Waverley and Tandridge, the PCC has not received any correspondence on this matter.

The Force was aware of 52 ceremonies taking place across Surrey this year and planned to be in ceremonial attendance at 34 in addition to operational attendance at 15 (sometimes duties are combined). It is pleasing to report that Remembrance Parades passed without event from a policing perspective.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Panel notes this report.

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