



Brighton & Hove
City Council

Community Safety Forum

Title:	Community Safety Forum
Date:	12 March 2012
Time:	4.00pm
Venue	Council Chamber, Hove Town Hall
Members:	Councillors: Duncan (Chair), Barnett, Carden, Deane, MacCafferty, Janio, Morgan (OS), Pidgeon, Robins and Summers, Representatives from Communities of Interest
Contact:	Penny Jennings Democratic Services Officer 01273 291065 penny.jennings@brighton-hove.gov.uk



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COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM

The following are requested to attend the meeting:

Representatives from Statutory Services:

Brighton & Hove Primary Care Trust
British Transport Police
East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service
Surrey and Sussex Probation Trust
Youth Offending Team

Representatives of Local Action Teams

Bevendean	North Laine Community Association
Brighton Old Town (formally Regency Old Town)	Patcham
Bristol Estate Community Association	Portland Road & Clarendon Forum
Brunswick & Adelaide	Portslade
Brunswick & Regency Neighbourhood Action Group	Preston Park & Fiveways
Clarendon	Queen's Park and Craven Vale Community Forum
Clifton Montpelier & Powis Community Alliance	Queen's Park
Coombe Road	Rottingdean
Hanover & Elm Grove	Seafront
Goldsmid	St James' Street
Hangleton & Knoll Community Action Forum	Stanmer and Coldean
Hanover	Tarner Community Safety Action Group
Hollingbury	West Hill
Hollingdean	West Saltdean
Kemptown Community Safety Action Group	Whitehawk Crime prevention Forum
London Road	Withdean
Marina	Woodingdean
Meadowview & Tenantry Community Action Group	
Moulsecoomb	

Other Co-opted Members

Age Concern
Area Housing Panels
Brighton & Hove Community and Voluntary Sector Forum
Brighton and Hove Federation of Disabled People
Brighton and Hove Mediation Service
Independent Advisory Group Sussex Police
Domestic Violence Forum
Sussex Central YMCA
Neighbourhood Watch
Older People's Council Racial Harassment Forum
Victim Support
RISE

AGENDA

35. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

- (a) Declaration of Substitutes - Where Councillors are unable to attend a meeting, a substitute Member from the same Political Group may attend, speak and vote in their place for that meeting.
- (b) Declarations of Interest by all Members present of any personal interests in matters on the agenda, the nature of any interest and whether the Members regard the interest as prejudicial under the terms of the Code of Conduct.
- (c) Exclusion of Press and Public - To consider whether, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted, or the nature of the proceedings, the press and public should be excluded from the meeting when any of the following items are under consideration.

NOTE: Any item appearing in Part 2 of the Agenda states in its heading either that it is confidential or the category under which the information disclosed in the report is exempt from disclosure and therefore not available to the public.

A list and description of the categories of exempt information is available for public inspection at Brighton and Hove Town Halls.

36. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

1 - 8

Minutes of the meeting held on 12 December 2011 (copy attached)

37. CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS

38. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

(The closing date for receipt of public questions is 12 noon on 5 March 2012)

No public questions received by date of publication.

39. MEMBERS QUESTIONS

40. COMMUNITY SAFETY ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS AND COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

41. NATIONAL COMMUNITY SAFETY INITIATIVES WHICH IMPACT LOCALLY: STANDING ITEM

This standing item will provide an opportunity for relevant issues to be raised or updated on.

COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM

(a) Preparing for the Police and Crime Commissioner and Police and Crime Panel - presentation

42. LOCAL ISSUES:STANDING ITEM

9 - 22

This standing item will provide the opportunity for relevant issues to be raised or updated on.

(a) Introducing the Joint Community Safety Delivery Unit – presentation;

(b) Crime Trends and Performance Figures: Quarter 3 – report of the Commissioner, Community Safety (copy attached)

(c) Managing the misuse of drugs for the benefit of families and communities - presentation;

(d) Results of the Big Alcohol Debate – presentation;

(e) Successful initiatives by the Environmental Improvement Team - presentation

43. SUSSEX POLICE AUTHORITY: MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15 DECEMBER 2012

23 - 26

(copy attached)

44. EAST SUSSEX FIRE AUTHORITY: MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8 DECEMBER 2012

27 - 32

(copy attached)

The City Council actively welcomes members of the public and the press to attend its meetings and holds as many of its meetings as possible in public. Provision is also made on the agendas for public questions to committees and details of how questions can be raised can be found on the website and/or on agendas for the meetings.

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Meeting papers can be provided, on request, in large print, in Braille, on audio tape or on disc, or translated into any other language as requested.

For further details and general enquiries about this meeting contact Penny Jennings, (01273 291065, email penny.jennings@brighton-hove.gov.uk) or email democratic.services@brighton-hove.gov.uk

COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM

Date of Publication - Friday, 2 March 2012

COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM

Agenda Item 36

Brighton & Hove City Council

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM

4.00pm 12 DECEMBER 2011

COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillor Duncan (Chair); Carden, Deane, MacCafferty, Morgan, Pidgeon, Robins and Summers

Sussex Police: Chief Superintendent Bartlett and Sergeant Castleton

Fire Authority: Brigade Commander Rist

Communities of Interest: Faith Matyzak, MBE, Whitehawk Crime Prevention Forum; Bert Williams, MBE; Brighton & Hove Black History Group Ted Harman, Coldean LAT, Jean Thomas, Coldean LAT; Bill Gandey, Bevendean LAT; Councillor Stephanie Powell, Chair, Queen's Park LAT; Mohammed Asaduzzan, Queen's Park LAT; Gail Grey, Chair, RISE; Mark Sole, RISE; Jess Tyler, RISE; Francis Tonks, Older People's Council; Colin Tribe, Chair, Brighton Marina LAT; Su Hansen, Moulsecombe LAT; Ray Freeman, Bristol Estate

Officers: Eleri Butler Domestic Violence Co-ordinator; Nick Hibberd Assistant Director, Housing Management; Andi Staniford Housing Strategy Manager; Linda Beanlands Commissioner for Community Safety, Paula Murray, Commissioner for Culture; Simon Court, Lawyer and Penny Jennings, Democratic Services Officer

PART ONE

24. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

24a Declaration of Substitutes

24.1 There were none.

24b Declarations of Interest

24.2 There were none.

24c Exclusion of the Press and Public

24.3 In accordance with section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 ('the Act'), the Community Safety Forum considered whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during an item of business on the grounds that it was likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if

members of the press or public were present during that item, there would be disclosure to them of confidential information (as defined in section 100A(3) of the Act) or exempt information (as defined in section 100I of the Act).

- 24.4 **RESOLVED** - That the press and public be not excluded from the meeting during consideration of any item on the agenda.

25. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

- 25.1 Councillor Summers requested that the following amendment be made to paragraph 18.5 on Page 4 the minutes:

“Councillor Summers referred to the general trend in crime overall and expressed concern that, whilst this is obviously encouraging news, it did not necessarily address the real issue of fear of crime and, furthermore, it might be interpreted to mean that less policing resources were needed. She asked Chief Superintendent Bartlett if he would commit to maintaining the current effective levels of engagement with the community and not reducing them. Superintendent Bartlett responded that the police were committed to maintain their current levels of engagement.”

- 25.2 **RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the Community Safety Forum meeting held on 10 October 2011 be agreed and signed as a correct record subject to the amendment set out above.

26. CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS INCLUDING : RESPONDING TO COMMUNITY SAFETY CONCERNS OF THE LGBT COMMUNITY

Welcome to New Borough Commander, Fire Brigade

- 26.1 The Chair, Councillor Duncan welcomed the new Borough Fire Commander, Mr Mark Rist stating that he was also looking forward to his attendance at future meetings.

Responding to Concerns of the LGBT Community

- 26.2 The Chair referred to the concerns raised by Councillor MacCafferty at the previous meeting in respect of the need for a broad representative body which would provide a Forum for the LGBT community to convey their issues and concerns to the Police and others. He was pleased to be able to inform the Forum that such a body had been set up and was due to hold its first meeting on 14 December. All were welcome to attend.

White Ribbon Campaign

- 26.3 The Chair explained that this campaign, part of an international event had been launched on 25 November and that Gail Grey , Chair of Rise had been invited to speak at the launch event at the University of Sussex. The White Ribbon Campaign was the Uk branch of the global campaign to raise awareness of and to seek to ensure men took responsibility for reducing the level of violence against women.

- 26.4 The Council had applied for White Ribbon status in concert with a number of partners including the Police. This campaign had provided the opportunity for the Council to re-examine and refresh its own strategies.

27. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

- 27.1 There were none.

28. COMMUNITY SAFETY ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS AND COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

- 28.1 Mr Edwards, Tarner Area Partnership referred to his concerns regarding the manner in which recent Tarner Area Partnership meetings had been conducted, in particular the elections held in July of that year. These elections appeared to have been held without reference either to the groups' constitution or its terms of reference, he considered this was a serious omission, in consequence he had made an official complaint but had yet to receive a response.
- 28.2 The Chair, Councillor Duncan noted the position stating that if Mr Edwards provided details of his complaint to the Clerk to the Forum she would seek to ascertain the current position.

- 28.3 **RESOLVED** – That the position be noted,

29. IMPORTANT FINDINGS FROM CRIME TRENDS ANALYSIS : DISCUSSION

- 29.1 The Forum considered a report of the Commissioner of Community Safety describing recent activities and progress relating to priority areas in the Brighton and Hove Community Safety, Crime Reduction and Drugs Strategy 2011-14, referring to some recent activities and also providing statistical updates relating to the first seven months of 2011/12. Graphs showing monthly crime data going back to April 2007 were also provided in order to enable recent data to be considered in the context of both longer term trends and also seasonal crime cycles (where applicable)
- 29.3 Whilst welcoming the report, Councillor Morgan expressed concern regarding the potential impact of proposed funding cuts, noting that the budgets for all services were due to be agreed at Budget Council in March 2012. It was noted that the Forum would have the opportunity to feed into that process.
- 29.4 The Commissioner for Community Safety explained that future service delivery would need to be made savings would be required in order to address the significant continued reductions in grant funding from Central Government. The manner in which the Council worked with its partners to target key areas in order to continue to deliver services was very important as was the necessity to explore alternative funding streams. Applications for Interreg funding had already been made
- 29.5 Councillor Morgan stated that notwithstanding the concerted work by all partners he still had concerns regarding what the potential term impact of reduced funding.

- 29.6 The Chair stated that it was possible that there were a number of issues which it would be appropriate for the Forum to discuss over the coming months. Any comments could be relayed direct to the Community Safety Team and could be fed into the Overview and Scrutiny meeting which was scheduled to take place in January 2012.
- 29.7 The Commissioner for Community Safety re-iterated that detailed discussions were under way as part of a thecontinuing evaluation to see assessment in order to see how
- 29.8 **RESOLVED** – (1) That the Community Safety Forum notes the information provided in the report having been invited to:
- (i) Feedback on any developments from their community or organisation's experience which may help the understanding and interpretation of the data and trends contained in the report; and to
 - (ii) Consider the potential for supporting crime reduction and community safety priorities within their own organization or local community.

**30. NATIONAL COMMUNITY SAFETY INITIATIVES WHICH IMPACT LOCALLY:
STANDING ITEM**

- 30.1 The Forum considered a background paper of the Commissioner of Community Safety detailing new approaches to dealing with violence against women and an update on the work of the Rise LGBT Independent Domestic Violence Advocate.
- 30.2 Eleri Butler gave a detailed presentation setting out the new approaches to dealing with the issues associated with domestic violence against women and to the continued concerted and joined up approach which was being carried forward with other partners. The breadth and depth of interagency measures which were in place were outlined and Gail Grey Rise referred to the on-going work which was being undertaken.
- 30.3 Councillor Deane stated that the problem was a many faceted one, issues such a trafficking and teenage girls who became involved in the sex industry were also involved. Often victims of such crimes were unable or too frightened to report such crimes and it was often difficult to extrapolate such data from the available figures.
- 30.4 Sergeant Castleton stressed that this was an area where the Police were anxious to ensure that under reporting did not occur. Instances of such crimes were taken very seriously.
- 30.4 **RESOLVED** – That the content of the report and presentation be noted.

31. LOCAL ISSUES:STANDING ITEM

31a. "White Nights"

- 31.1 The Commissioner of Culture gave a presentation in respect of measures which would be taken in order to seek to reduce the potential for alcohol related harm arising from "White Night". The event which was hugely popular co-incided with winter solstice and

was intended to provide a diverse cultural offering of events late into the evening/early morning which provided an alternative to the alcohol driven offer associated with the city centre. "White Nights" had grown in popularity and attendance levels had increased year on year. The most recent event (the de-brief for which was still taking place), had been very successful overall. However, there were some "lessons to be learned", particularly as there had been some drink related incidents, largely as a result of some attendees bringing large quantities of alcohol with them which was then consumed during the course of the evening.

- 31.2 Several Members of the confirmed from their own experience that the event had been very good but there had been a few instances by a minority that had marred the event for some of the other attendees. Also, that there had been some pinch points where large numbers of people had congregated which had hampered dispersal.
- 31.3 The Commissioner of Culture confirmed that this had been noted and that the manner in which the event was held in future years would be different and the weekend on which it was held might also be changed.
- 31.4 **RESOLVED** – That the position be noted.

31b Soundscape Analysis

- 31.5 The Commissioner of Community Safety confirmed that this project was on-going and that the data collected to date was in the process of being analysed and would form the subject of a more detailed report or presentation to a future Forum meeting.
- 31.6 **RESOLVED** – That the position be noted.

31c Consultation on Traveller Strategy

- 31.7 Mr Staniford of the Housing Strategy Team gave a presentation detailing the structures which the Housing Strategy Team had put into place and the multi-agency approach which was being adopted in seeking to put together an appropriate and sensitive Traveller Strategy for the city. The strategy was to be consulted upon and would be launched within the next few days. The traveling community was diverse and composed of a several distinctive groups a number of issues had been identified and needed to be addressed, amongst them the need to address site availability and the need to seek to identify a suitable stable site, as well as the need to improve the health, safety and well being of the traveler community and the educational outcomes for their children.
- 31.8 Faith Mayzak referred to the need to adopt a sensitive approach particularly when dealing with traveller women, particularly if it was suspected they could be victims of domestic violence.
- 31.9 Councillor Robins stated that he had sat on the Scrutiny Panel seeking to address the Council's Traveller Strategy, stating that he had a gypsy heritage himself, also stating that in his experience this was a strongly matriarchal society. The Chair, Councillor Duncan stressed the need for the travelling community to be treated with respect and tolerance.

31.10 **RESOLVED** – That the position be noted.

31d **Meeting the Needs of the Street Population and Dealing With Street Drinking**

31.11 A presentation was given in detailing the measures which had been put into place to address street drinking and the anti-social behaviours which could arise as a consequence. These included :

- A city wide “Designated Places Order”, this avoided problems of displacement;
- The Street Community Neighbourhood Police team working alongside street outreach services;
- Outreach services working closely with the rough sleepers team;
- Assertive management to achieve engagement with services and tenancy sustainment;
- Enforcement action being taken if an offence was committed; and
- Monitoring of individuals for repeat offending if necessary and information sharing.

31.12 it was noted that in 2010/11 of the 263 street drinkers identified 70% had an entitlement to some local service. Those who had been identified as being most likely to commit anti-social behaviour were prioritized for case management. A typical case would require support into accommodation and maintenance of physical and mental health and an acceptable behaviour contract. These requirements would be monitored by staff from a range of agencies. Some personalized approaches were also required for older people and those with mobility problems. The outcomes sought included measures to seek to reduce impact on the public and foster increased stability for the service user. The “Alcohol Treatment” Pilot was supported by a dedicated nurse and multi-agency planning meetings to deal with street drinking and rough sleeping in “hot spot”

31.13 Mr Harman, Coldean LAT referred to the nuisance which could result of tables and chairs being placed on the pavement. The Chair, Councillor Duncan pointed out that although this relates to a slightly different issue it was very important to ensure that premises behaved responsibly and operated within their agreed licence conditions. Any breaches should be reported either to the Police or the Licensing Team who would investigate them.

31.14 Mr Tonks, Older People’s Council sought assurances that measures were in place to mitigate against any negative impact which could arise as a result of the closure of the St Patrick’s Church, night shelter.’

31.15 **RESOLVED** - That the position be noted.

32. ENHANCING PCSO POWERS

32.1 The Forum considered a report Of the Police, relating to the enhancement of PCSO powers. It was explained that as part of the Neighbourhood Policing Review it had been recommended that PCSO’s be given five additional powers to enhance their role and improve their problem solving capabilities. The report outlined those new powers.

32.2 Sergeant Castleton gave a presentation outlining means by which it was anticipated that these additional powers would be used. Continuing dialogue would take local LAT's to ensure that they continued to be kept informed both through their regular LAT meetings and updates to the Forum

32.3 **RESOLVED** – That the Community Safety Forum note and consider the information contained in the report and the likely implications

33. SUSSEX POLICE AUTHORITY: MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13 OCTOBER 2011

33.1 **RESOLVED** – That the contents of the minutes be noted.

34. EAST SUSSEX FIRE AUTHORITY: MINUTES

34.1 None were available for consideration at this meeting.

The meeting concluded at 6.50pm

Signed

Chairman

Dated this

day of

Report to Community Safety Forum – 12th March 2012

Subject: Crime trends and performance in Brighton & Hove, Position up to January 2012

Contact Officer: Name: *Ruth Condon* Tel: 29-1103

E-mail: ruth.condon@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Wards Affected: All

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 This report describes recent activities and progress relating to priority areas in the [Brighton & Hove Community Safety, Crime Reduction and Drugs Strategy 2011-14](#). It refers to some recent activities and also provides statistical updates relating to the first ten months of 2011/12, ie. April 2011 to January 2012 (or the most recent available).
- 1.2 Graphs showing monthly crime data going back to April 2007 are also provided. These enable recent data to be considered in the context of both longer term trends and also seasonal crime cycles (where applicable).

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (1) The Community Safety Forum notes the information provided in this report and is invited to:
 - i) Feedback on any developments from their community or organisation's experience which may help the understanding and interpretation of the data and trends contained in this report.
 - ii) Consider the potential for supporting crime reduction and community safety priorities within their own organisation or local community.

3. INFORMATION:

Total Police-recorded Crime

- 3.1 Between April 2011 and January 2012 there were a total of 19,925 police recorded crimes, 0.6% fewer than in the same months of 2010/11 but falling short of the 3% reduction target.

Neighbourhoods and Quality of Life

- 3.2 In the first ten months of 2011/12, although seasonal increases are evident, there has been a good reduction in police recorded criminal damage (down 5.2%) compared with the same months in 2010. Numbers of offences in December

reached their lowest monthly number 35 for a number of years. However, fire service recorded total non-accidental fires continue to show an increase (up by 6%) compared with the first nine months of 2010/11. However, beneath this overall figure, the trends for serious and less serious non-accidental fires are different; more serious fires are showing a 22% decrease, while less serious fires show an 18% increase.

- 3.3 Work in ongoing to ensure public safety concerns are considered at the planning stages of developments and redevelopments. Recent examples include key spaces in the city such as Providence Place Gardens / Ann Street / London Road Master Plan / Station Gateway/ the Level and Victoria Gardens. Observations from a trial 'Soundscape' project in one of the streets often associated with public disorder have demonstrated a reduction in anti-social behaviour and reduced need for police resources in the area. Consequently European funding is being sought to extend this approach to other locations.
- 3.4 Numbers of police recorded cycle thefts in the first 10 months of 2011/12 are roughly the same in the same months of 2010/11. This year we experienced relatively low numbers during the summer months of July and August in 2011, but numbers of cycle thefts have been higher in the winter months this year than last, cancelling out the earlier improvement.

Drugs Misuse

- 3.5 "Communities and Families Tackling Addiction" was one of three successful city council bids to the European Interreg Programme, announced in November 2011. This will bring in more than £200K investment over the next three years. The project, in partnership with Calais and Rotterdam, will aim to change the way that families and communities respond to individuals who misuse alcohol and/or drugs, encouraging the recovery not only of the substance misuser, but also of the people around them. It will include community restorative justice and family training and support.
- 3.6 One of the aims of the Health Protection Steering Group's Action Plan to reduce drug related deaths is to increase the availability, and training in the use of, naloxone hydrochloride, which reverses the effect of an opiate overdose. In Brighton & Hove naloxone is now available for administration to a range of vulnerable service users including:
- 100 prisoners leaving HMP Lewes per year are recruited and trained in how to administer naloxone hydrochloride in the event of an overdose.
 - Parents and carers, through the CRI PATCHED service, have been trained to administer naloxone to their significant others (to whom the drug has been prescribed), as evidence indicates that most people who overdose are either with, or discovered by, someone they know.
 - Homeless people living in hostels are now being issued with naloxone. All hostel staff will be trained to recognise the signs of overdose and how to administer naloxone.

Work is in progress to extend the availability of naloxone further.

- 3.7 Brighton & Hove has been selected by the UK Recovery Foundation as the venue for the fourth annual national Recovery Walk (previously in Glasgow, Liverpool and Cardiff) and a planning group is currently negotiating a date and route for a Saturday in August or September for a walk through the city centre, intended to highlight the Recovery Agenda and principles to a wider public. In July, the sixteenth annual local drug and alcohol conference at Hove Town Hall is being planned, also with a focus on the Recovery Agenda, reflecting the Drug Strategy focus on building recovery in communities after leaving treatment.
- 3.8 Many repeat offenders are people who misuse drugs, and a high percentage of the crimes they commit are acquisitive crimes. In the first ten months of 2011/12 all acquisitive crimes (incl. theft/handling, burglary and robbery) increased by 6.6% compared with the same period in 2010/11. For serious acquisitive crimes (burglary, vehicle crime and robbery) there was a decrease of 10.6%, but on the other hand there continue to be substantial increases in 'lower level' thefts, especially in theft from person (up 54%). Shoplifting is also continuing to show a rise (up 9%).

Alcohol Misuse and Alcohol-related Disorder

- 3.9 Alcohol-related hospital admissions have been on an upwards trend since the beginning of 2010. There is also an ongoing rise in the number of alcohol-related attendances at A&E. A work programme is being drawn up by commissioners to undertake focused work to reduce unnecessary A&E attendance and admission rates.
- 3.10 The number of police recorded injury assaults has reduced by 19% in the first ten months of 2011/12 compared with the same months in 2010/11. This represents very good performance against a 3% reduction target.
- 3.11 The city's alcohol misuse action plan is aimed at making improvements in the above measures. It includes a wide range of work related to the four themes of: drinking 'culture'; availability of alcohol; the night time economy; and alcohol treatment. The Big Alcohol Debate took place in the city between October 2011 and the beginning of January 2012 to engage the public on the issue of alcohol. Key themes emerging as issues are: alcohol being too available in the city, price, 'pre-loading' before going out, cheap deals in bars, perception that rules around drinking are not enforced, education needed, avoidance of city centre due to culture of drinking and lack of places to social responsibility. Some of these issues are addressed in work already taking place, eg. the expansion of the cumulative impact zone and Licensing Assessment Matrix to ensure a consistent approach to licensing decisions according to the locality. A full report on the findings of the Big Alcohol Debate will be produced at the end of March.

Anti-Social Behaviour

- 3.12 Between Oct and Dec 21% of the 303 people surveyed believed one or more of 7 types of ASB to be a problem¹. The highest levels of perceived ASB across city as a

¹ There has been a change to the way in which the percentage of people who believe that ASB is a fairly big or very big problem is being measured. From October onwards there has been a change in the way in which the overall measure of public perception of anti-social behaviour is being compiled through the Sussex Police Local Neighbourhood Telephone Survey. A question

whole related to speeding vehicles (about 12% of respondents believing this to be a problem). Drunk or disorderly behaviour was seen as the next most problematic issue in the police central district, while for people in the East district litter or dog fouling was the second most problematic issue.

- 3.13 The ASB and Hate Crime Casework Team are working with colleagues to ensure there is a consistent approach to undertaking vulnerability assessments so that services are able to respond to vulnerable or high risk victims and witnesses and ensure they are protected from further harm.

Domestic Violence

- 3.14 In the first nine months of 2011/12 45% of domestic violence crimes were solved. This is below the result of 49% during 2010/11. 78.5% of DV court cases in the first nine months of 2011/12 resulted in a conviction, compared with the final position of 67% in 2010/11.
- 3.15 Over the Christmas and New Year period the police across Sussex dedicated 'Operation Cranberry' patrols to respond to reports of domestic violence, with officers equipped with body-worn video cameras to help secure evidence. Particular peaks in incidents were seen on Boxing Day and New Year's Day.
- 3.16 The use of community resolution as a means of 'disposing' of a crime by the police was introduced towards the end of 2010/11. To ensure that community resolution is not made inappropriately in cases of domestic violence between partners or ex-partners, all instances where its use is proposed need to be agreed by Anti-Victimisation Unit detective inspector. It is important that community resolution is an effective tool in reducing reoffending and Sussex Police are undertaking a review of its use (as a response to all crimes, not just for domestic violence) in order to confirm its effectiveness.

Sexual Offences

- 3.17 The number of police recorded serious sexual offences in the first ten months of 2011/12 was 237, roughly equal to the number in the same months in 2010/11. Although a reduction in sexual offences is our aim, we are at the same time looking to increase reporting of sexual crimes and incidents when they happen.
- 3.18 As well as increasing reporting, we also aim to increase the chances of the perpetrator being convicted. In the first nine months of 2011/12, 20% of serious sexual offences were detected by the police and 75.5% of finalised court cases which took place during that period for (all) sexual offences resulted in a conviction. This is a slight improvement since the last report and increase on the position in 2010/11. The Independent Sexual Violence Advisor service provided by Survivors Network continues to support victims who report to the police and whose cases proceed through court. Counselling and support continues to be provided by the service to rape and sexual violence victims who do not report to the police but who are seeking access to ongoing support to aid their recovery from the abuse.

about speeding vehicles has now been added to those around drug dealing/use; drunk/rowdy behaviour; vandalism/graffiti; litter/dog fouling; noisy neighbours; and teenagers hanging around.

- 3.19 A meeting of the Sexual Violence Reference Group in December was attended by representatives from Sussex University and Students Against Sexual Harassment. They explained that students experiencing sexual violence and abuse do not know where to get help and report. They were aware that in the autumn term 2011 there were 7 known incidents, at least 5 of which were experienced on campus. Based on national data, this is likely to be a small indication of a much larger problem. A subgroup of the Sexual Violence Reference Group has been set up to take forward proposals for developing partnership working to address sexual violence experienced by students.

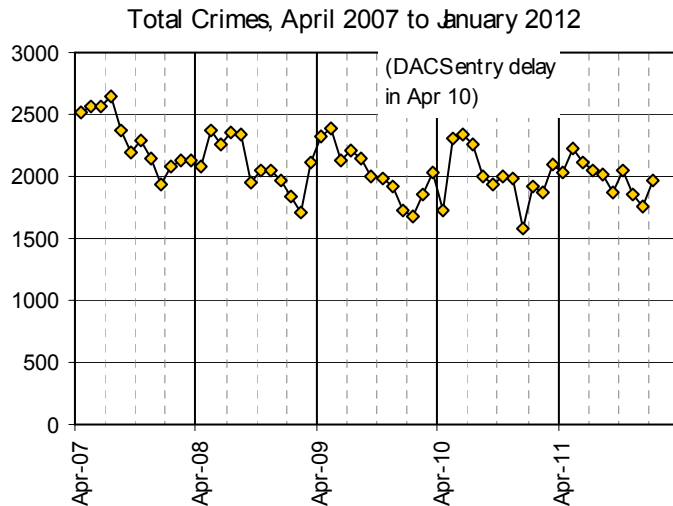
Hate Incidents and Crimes

- 3.20 The number of police-recorded **racist and religiously motivated incidents and crimes** have continued to decline in the first nine months of 2011/12 compared to the same months in 2010/11. The percentage of prosecutions resulting in a conviction continues its year on year rise and was 88% in the first nine months of 2011/12. The Racial Harassment Forum continues to actively monitor data on racist and religiously motivated incidents and concerns around under-recording of hate incidents by the police on their IT and monitoring systems and it is hoped that work undertaken by Sussex Police will result in improvements. There will be a local review of the implementation of the recommendations of the Macpherson Report in Brighton & Hove in light of the Stephen Lawrence verdict in early January 2012.
- 3.21 In the first nine months of 2011/12 there have been 52 **LGBT hate incidents and crimes** recorded by the police, 19% fewer than in the same months in 2010/11. In this same period 21 crimes have been detected and 17 resulted in a charge being made. So far there have been 18 prosecutions finalised at court and 16 of these resulted in a conviction (88%). The police LGBT Liaison Officer has been looking at how training within the police might improve the recording of hate incidents, in particular trans hate incidents. There have been various opportunities taken to engage with marginalised and vulnerable LGBT groups during work in the context of the Hate Crime Vigil, World Aids Day and LGBT History week. For example, Queer Writing South and Allsorts Youth Project developed an exhibition for Holocaust memorial week highlighting younger LGBT people's experience of discrimination & hate crime. The PCST and other partners also put on an innovative event as part of LGBT History Month and Interfaith Week: 'Swords into Ploughshares: Building Bridges between the LGBT and Faith Communities'. The debate centred on faith and sexual orientation in the public arena and has established clear lines of dialogue to be developed further.
- 3.22 There have been 23 **disability hate incidents** reported to the Partnership Community Safety Team Casework Team in the first nine months of 2011/12. However, the police have recorded just one disability hate crime and one crime-related incident on the crime database during the first three months of 2011/12, with none being recorded in the most recent 6 months. Once at court 5 out of the 7 cases which have been concluded in the first nine months of 2011/12 (71%) have resulted in a conviction. Although the number of reports has risen somewhat in the most recent three months, numbers of incidents reported still remain lower than we would wish. There are therefore plans to review the publicity material and its impact with the aim of addressing this problem. There has been some success in securing buy-

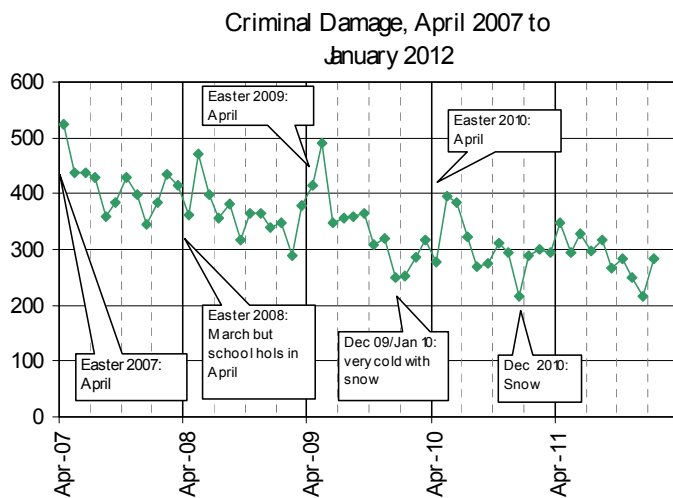
in from a number of partner agencies in support of the work programme in the Disability Hate Incident Action Plan.

- 3.23 Over the past six months Sussex Police has been reviewing its recording and investigation processes in relation to hate crime with the intention of increasing confidence and victim satisfaction and ensuring appropriate sanctions for perpetrators. The review has resulted in a new Hate Crime Policy for the force with clear responsibilities for call handlers, initial responders, secondary investigators and neighbourhood policing teams. The work will be overseen by Hate Crime Co-ordinators, new posts created by the policy. Officers are being trained on the new policy during January and February. At the centre of this is a risk assessment which informs activity to protect victims in addition to work to deal with offenders. This work will have a positive impact across all areas of hate crime and colleagues in the Safe in the City Partnership will be involved in monitoring its implementation.

Crime trends up to January 2012



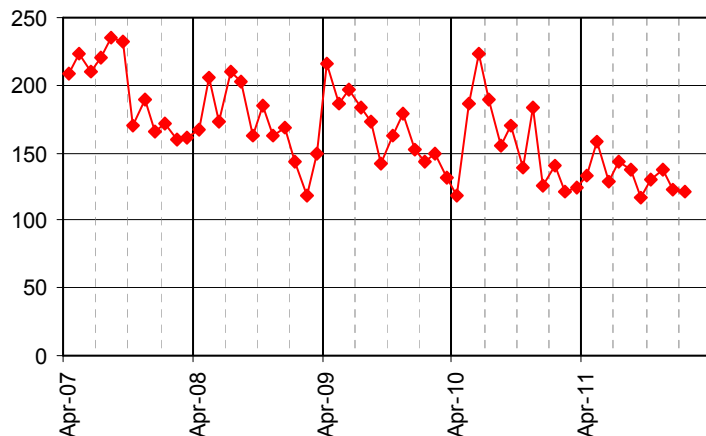
3.24 The number of total crimes has generally been on a declining trend since May 2011². The upturn during January has been influenced by a step up in criminal damage, theft from person offences and domestic burglaries during that month.



3.25 The downward trend in criminal damage continued until December, but the month of January has seen an increase of nearly 70 offences compared to December. Increases were seen in the different types of criminal damage (including vehicles, dwellings, other buildings and other types).

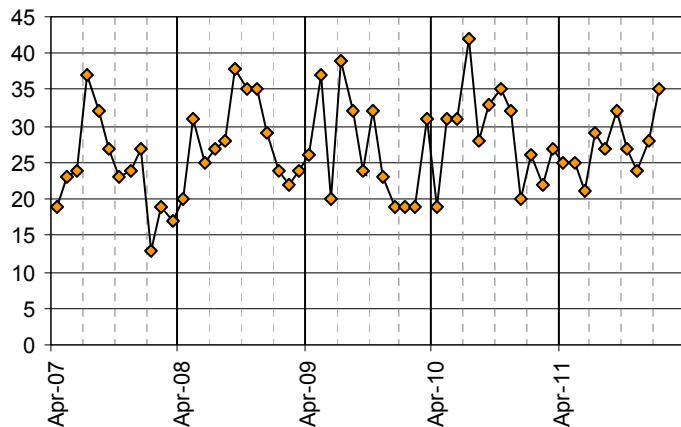
² There was a delay in entering crimes into the police data recording system in April 2010, so numbers are showing fewer in that month, and numbers in the following two months are consequently higher than they would otherwise have been. This effect is seen in a number of the crime types shown in this document.

All Injury Violence
April 2007 to January 2012



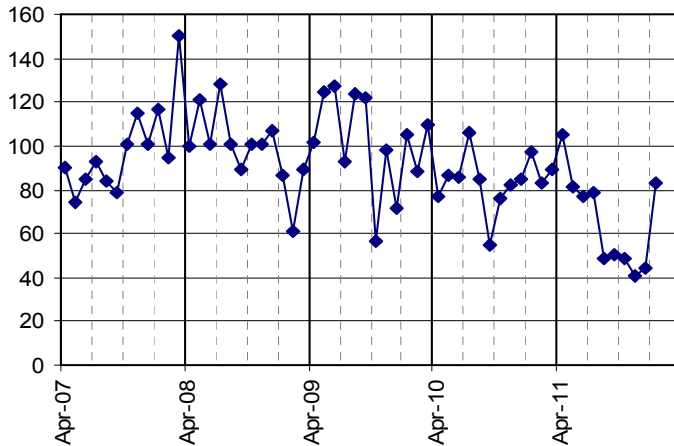
3.26 The declining trend in injury violence continues and levels over Christmas and the New Year period showed no signs of elevation.

Sexual Offences
April 2007 - January 2012



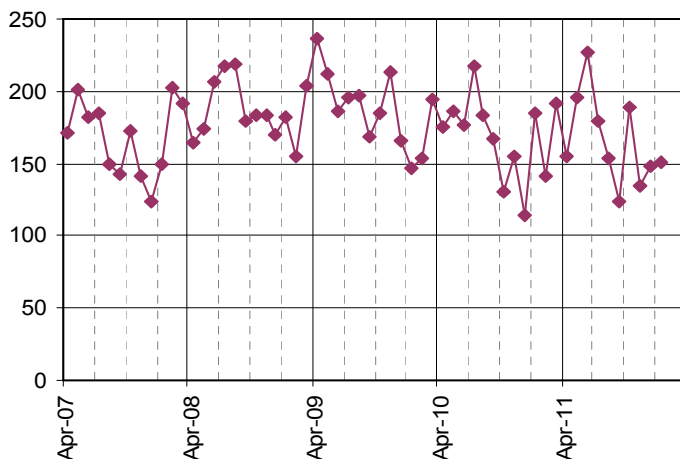
3.27 The summer 2011 did not experience the anticipated seasonal increase. Number of recorded offences in the month of January are higher than in previous years. Sexual offences are likely to be underreported.

Domestic Burglary, Apr 2007 to Jan 2012



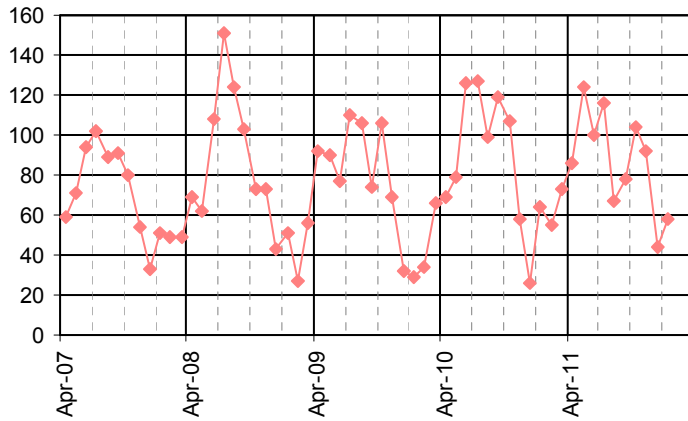
3.28 There has been a long term declining trend in domestic burglaries, with numbers between August and December being particularly low and at about half the number of those experienced on average during 2010/11. January has seen a steep rise to over 80 offences, more in line with the monthly average prior to August.

Vehicle Crime, April 2007 to January 2012



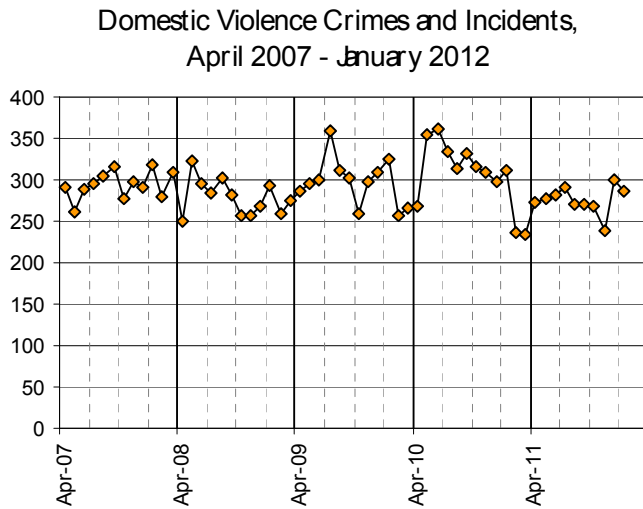
3.29 Vehicle crimes have fluctuated over the past year, but over the last 3 months numbers have been relatively low at 150 or fewer. The number of thefts from vehicles, which outnumber thefts of vehicles by about 3 to 1, are responsible for this fluctuation; the number of thefts of vehicles continues a general downward trend.

Theft of a Pedal Cycle,
April 2007 to January 2012

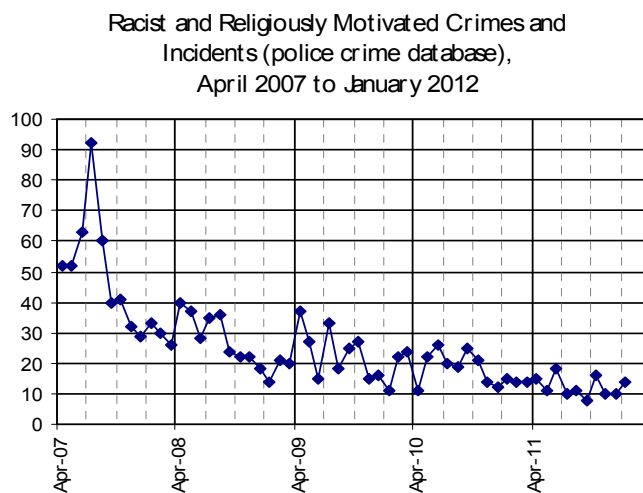


3.30 A fairly typical seasonal pattern has been observed over the last year and total numbers between April and January are about the same as in the same months last year.

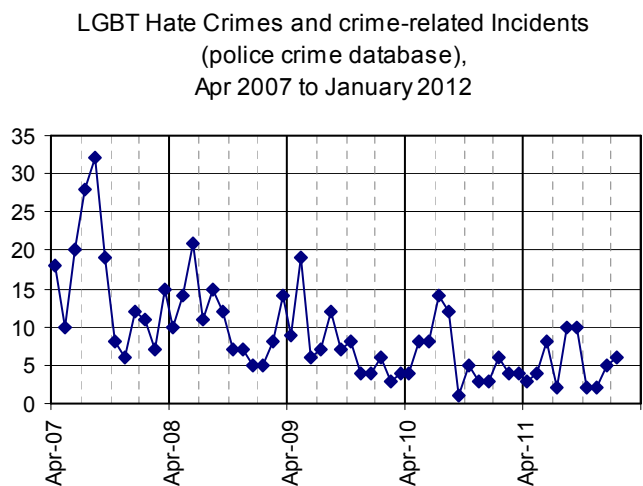
3.34 Police crime data presented in this report only reflect those crimes which are reported and recorded. There is likely to be a level of underreporting in many crime types. However, domestic violence and the hate crimes on this page may be particularly liable to underreporting.



3.31 The number of domestic violence crimes and crime-related incidents recorded in the last twelve months has mainly been much lower the same months the previous year. However, recent data for January and December are only slightly lower than the same months in the previous year.



3.32 The declining trend in racist and religiously motivated incidents and crimes appears to be continuing. Recorded numbers have been roughly between 10 and 20 per month since summer 2010.



3.33 The number of police-recorded LGBT hate crimes and crime-related incidents and has remained at ten or below since summer 2010. Aug and Sept saw the highest number (ten) over this period.

Performance data for key crime types, 2011/12

Police recorded crimes	number of crimes Apr 10 – Jan 11	number of crimes Apr 11 – Jan 12	reduction target (from 2010/11 baseline)	performance against target to date		rank within 15 benchmarked CSPs ³
Total Crimes	20049	19925	-3%		not on target	7
Criminal Damage	3035	2878	-5%	on target		12
Injury Violence	1633	1330	-3%	on target		7
Sexual Offences	297	273	-	-		n/a ⁴
Domestic Burglary	836	658	-	-		1
Theft from/of a Motor Vehicle	1691	1658	-	-		4
Pedal Cycle Theft	874	869	-	-		6
Domestic Violence Crimes and Incidents	3197	2756	-	-		n/a
Racist/Religiously motivated Crimes and Incidents	185	123	-	-		n/a
LGBT Hate Crimes and Incidents	64	52	-	-		n/a
Disability Hate Crimes and Incidents	2 (to Dec)	2 (to Dec)	-	-		n/a

³ Brighton & Hove is matched for comparative purposes with 14 other Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) according to a range of socio-demographic and geographic variables. A rank of 1 is the best; 15 is the worst; 8 is the middle position.

⁴ Because sexual offences, DV and hate crimes are subject to underreporting and local work is being undertaken to increase reporting of these crimes, it is not appropriate to judge performance in comparison with other Community Safety Partnerships based on the number of police recorded crimes.

**COMMUNITY SAFETY
FORUM**

Agenda Item 42b

Brighton & Hove City Council

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REPORT OF THE SUSSEX POLICE AUTHORITY

The Sussex Police Authority met at Sackville House, Lewes, on 15 December 2011

Attendances:

Mr S Waight (Chairman), Mrs C Shaves MBE JP (Vice-Chairman), Mr P Bratton, Prof G Bull, Dr L Bush, Ms E Daniel, Mr G Daniel JP, Mr B Duncan, Mr P Evans, Mr P Jones, Mrs S Knight, Mr A Price JP, Mr A Smith, Mr R Tidy and Dr R Walker.

The Police Authority considered a wide range of policing issues at the meeting including the following matters. The full set of reports to the Police Authority can be accessed on the Authority's website www.sussexpoliceauthority.gov.uk

Police Accountability in Partnership

- 1.1 The Police Authority has for a number of years hosted an annual seminar with Sussex local authority Leaders and Chief Executives. This year's seminar was held on 18 November 2011 and was titled "Police Accountability in Partnership" and focused on the transition from the Police Authority to a Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) following the passing of the Police and Social Responsibility Act 2011. Representatives included all local authorities in Sussex, both East and West Fire Services, representatives from the National Health Service, Criminal Justice Board, and the Sussex Association of Local Councils.
- 1.2 The feedback from delegates has been overwhelmingly positive, agreeing that the event was a valuable opportunity to add momentum to transition with a focus on what the change means for the public sector and the public in Sussex. The Police and Criminal Justice Minister The Rt Hon Nick Herbert MP, who attended the seminar, commended the approach that Sussex Police Authority is taking to transition ensuring that not only police accountability remains strong over the next 12 months but that the smoothest possible handover is made to the benefit of the public following the arrival of the PCC in November 2012. Following the seminar, there is a commitment within local authorities in Sussex to begin the process of establishing a shadow Police and Crime Panel which will be administered by one of the authorities within Sussex.
- 1.3 The Police Authority welcomed the success of the event and the Chief Executive paid tribute to the Deputy Chief Executive and the Authority team for their hard work in preparing for and managing such a successful event. The seminar provided a valuable opportunity for district and borough councils, as well as the county councils and Brighton and Hove City Council and other partners to contribute their views on policing issues relating to the PCC. It was suggested that the Police and Crime Commissioner should consider continuing the annual event.

Local Policing Plan Target Setting

- 2.1 Each year the Police Authority, in consultation with Chief Constable, sets out the arrangements to police Sussex for the next three years. Previously the Force was required to take account of the annually refreshed Home Secretary's Strategic Policing Priorities (SPP) when setting the Local Policing Plan (LPP), but this requirement has now been discontinued. The introduction of Police and Crime Commissioners in November 2012 has led the Home Secretary to introduce a Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR) which will outline what the national threats are and the policing response required to counter them.
- 2.2 The Police Authority has directed that the 2012-13 LPP should be guided by community consultation and identify where and how Force and partners priorities link together to tackle crime and the causes of crime. To support the priorities, a number of performance indicators will be set and the Authority supported the use of the targets from the 2011-12 plan in the 2012-13 plan, where valid, which allowed effective benchmarking and maintained consistency through a time of widespread change. The drive and emphasis is on local people setting the priorities and being empowered to hold the police to account for their delivery.
- 2.3 The targets were discussed and officers agreed to give further consideration to the 'drive fewer miles' target and the inclusion of a target relating to the positive reporting of hate crime and domestic abuse. The LPP Board will continue to develop the narrative and targets for final approval by the Authority in February 2012, alongside the budget proposals. The Police Authority and Sussex Police websites will be used to provide wide access to the Plan, and discussions will be taking place with Councils and other agencies regarding access to the Plan.

Revenue Budget 2012 – 13 and Capital Strategy to 2015

- 3.1 The provisional grant settlement for 2012-13 has been received and is not expected to significantly change the assumed funding. A revised Medium Term Financial Forecast was circulated to members and will be updated at the Authority's budget setting meeting in February 2012.
- 3.2 The Resources Scrutiny Committee, at its meeting on 1 December 2011, had considered the budget options presented based on a precept increase of 2.5% for 2012-13 and the following two years (giving an indicative net revenue budget of £252.3m); or a 0% precept increase in 2012-13 (based on accepting the one-off freeze grant offered by the Government of £2.6m) and a 2.5% increase for the following two years (giving an indicative net revenue budget of £250.1m).
- 3.3 The Authority supported the approach to be taken towards the acceptance of the one-off 2012-13 council tax freeze grant with the suggestion that the Authority's reserves be used to further stabilise the budget. The Authority also acknowledged the importance of ensuring that issues of equality should be taken into account throughout the budget setting process.

Investors in Volunteers (IiV)

4. It was highlighted that the Police Authority has an excellent record in setting up and managing its Independent Custody Visiting and CCTV Monitoring Schemes. The Schemes have now been submitted for the Investing in Volunteers (IiV) Quality Standard for Volunteer Management. A considerable amount of work is involved in seeking the award which has been undertaken by the ICV Scheme

Manager Mrs Dinah Longden who was commended for her commitment and contribution to the ICV Scheme.

Annual Audit Letter

5. The Audit Commission has highlighted in the Annual Audit Letter that the Authority has coped well in meeting the immediate pressures of the downturn in the economy through the Serving Sussex programme, which aims to achieve the right model of policing in Sussex with a sustainable cost. The District Auditor expressed the view that the Authority was continuing to deliver oversight and scrutiny of the Force and was in a firm and stable position to enable its responsibilities to be transferred to an elected Police and Crime Commissioner. The Authority has expressed its congratulations to the Treasurer and the Director of Finance and their respective teams for the work undertaken in the preparation of the accounts.

Treasury Management Mid-Year Report 2011-12

6. The Authority has complied with all of the relevant statutory and regulatory requirements, which require the Authority to identify and where possible quantify the levels of risk associated with its treasury management activities. Further information relating to the Authority's risk taking in relation to its financial policy would be available at the next meeting of the Authority in February. The Treasury Management Mid-Year Report 2011-12 was approved by the Authority.

Future of the Local Standards Framework

- 7.1 The Decentralisation and Localism Act includes provision for the abolition of the Standards Board for England from 1 April 2012. The Authority will continue with the Code of Conduct that is currently in use and processes will be adjusted to ensure continuing good governance of the Authority.
- 7.2 The Authority endorsed the Committee's thanks to the Independent Chairman of the Committee, Mrs Christine Swan MBE and the Independent Vice-Chairman, Mr V Kempner, for their continuing contribution to both the Standards Committee and the work of the Authority in general, and noted that both were willing to continue in those roles until the election of the Police and Crime Commissioner in November 2012.

STEVE WAIGHT
Chairman
December 2011

EAST SUSSEX FIRE AUTHORITY

Report of a meeting of the East Sussex Fire Authority held at Fire & Rescue Service Headquarters at 10.30 hours on Thursday 8 December 2011.

Present: Councillors Carden, Fawthrop, Healy, Howson, Kenward, Livings (Chairman), MacCafferty, Ost, Pidgeon, Rufus, Scott, Sparks, Theobald, Tidy and Waite.

Also present:

Mrs Redman, Chair of the Standards Panel and Mr Wheeler, Independent Person and Member of the Standards Panel.

1. FIRE AUTHORITY SERVICE PLANNING PROCESSES FOR 2012/13 AND BEYOND

- 1.1 The Fire Authority has considered the draft Medium Term Plan and service planning processes for 2012/13 and beyond. In November 2011, the Policy & Resources Panel had considered the key findings of the service prioritisation work. The following outcomes had been achieved:
- 1.2. The medium term position has been clouded by the following issues:
 - Local Government Resource Review implications
 - Council Tax capping proposals
 - Government reviews on public sector pensions following Hutton Review
 - Inflation proving higher than national estimates predicted
 - Continued economic frailty and potential risks of growing collection fund deficits
 - Recent Chancellor's announcement to offer a further freeze grant to Police & FRAs for one year only if they adopt a nil council tax increase.
- 1.3 One of the most significant issues for this budget cycle has been the need to progress the previous service prioritisation savings list approved, in principle, by the Fire Authority in February 2011 towards approval in practice. This is required so that the savings can be achieved by 2013/14 or soon afterwards to meet our funding constraints, but also bearing in mind that there are also cross linkages to any merger or collaboration proposals that need to be clarified and resolved throughout 2012/13.
- 1.4 An indicative Medium Term Plan has been considered that identified the key differences between accepting and not accepting Council Tax Freeze Grant:
 - i) From an ESFRS perspective, a Council Tax Freeze means a loss of permanent funding of £0.7m per annum after the grant ceases and as such unless recovered from higher than predicted council tax increases of 2.5% in future years, will mean further equivalent savings required from 2013/14 onwards i.e. on top of the additional service prioritisation savings approved last year from 2013/14 onwards which already equate to 47 FTE posts.
 - ii) If Council Tax Freeze Grant is not accepted, shortfalls are predicted to occur in 2015/16 of £1.217m; and £1.973m p.a. by 2016/17. It should be noted

that the Joint Control Project with West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service is expected to deliver £0.5m p.a. full year effect saving to ESFRS (half share) by the start of 2014/15 at latest which should assist towards these projected resourcing shortfalls but further savings from merger or otherwise will still be required from 2015/16 onwards to meet the remaining shortfall.

iii) If Council Tax Freeze Grant is accepted, shortfalls are predicted to occur in 2013/14 of £0.124m, 2014/15 of £1.000m; 2015/16 of £2.226m; and £2.654m p.a. by 2016/17. Again, the impact of the Joint Control project has not been taken into consideration as yet. As such, even more savings from merger or otherwise will be required from 2014/15 onwards.

- 1.5 Crucially, such further savings if not achieved through merger or compensatory council tax increases in excess of 2.5% from 2013/14 can only come from discretionary services, further operational employee savings, freezing of investment costs or radical streamlining and outsourcing of support services.
- 1.6. Whilst the considerations continue in relation to a possible merger and Budget in January/February 2012, the draft medium term service planning proposals have remained strictly confidential until after the Fire Authority has approved the initial proposals in January 2012 and made further and final decisions in February 2012.
- 1.7 Members have agreed to note progress to date in advance of further reports to the Fire Authority in January and February 2012.

2. **PROPOSED MERGER OF EAST AND WEST SUSSEX FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES – FINAL CONSULTATION REPORT AND UPDATE**

2.1 The Fire Authority has considered the outcomes of the public consultation results on the merger and Representative Body reactions. The 12 week public consultation programme was completed on 6th October as scheduled. The results have been summarised for inclusion in the full business case.

In overall terms, it has been concluded that:

- a) the local public and stakeholders support a merger on the basis that it is intended to protect local community services, local stations and 'frontline' posts from the impact of government grant cuts;
- b) there is a general staff consensus across both organisations that in the circumstances both organisations are faced with, it is the right thing to do, but staff are sensitive to the impact on particular staff groups directly affected by the merger and also concerned whether the financial issues really stack up;
- c) there have been only a handful of responders that have been fundamentally against the merger; and
- d) the support of Brighton & Hove City Council to the merger proposals is caveated by their expressed recommendation to have 24 Members on the new Fire Authority in order to limit the reduction in City Council representation from 6 to 4 Members to allow for adequate political representation. ESCC Cabinet has similarly concluded.

2.2 The Business Case was amended for these outcomes for further consideration by the Joint Steering Group in December for the respective Authorities' considerations in January.

2.3 Members have noted the outcomes.

COUNCILLOR JOHN LIVINGS
CHAIRMAN OF EAST SUSSEX FIRE AUTHORITY
9 December 2011

EAST SUSSEX FIRE AUTHORITY

Report of a meeting of the East Sussex Fire Authority held at Fire & Rescue Service Headquarters at 10.30 hours on Thursday 12 January 2012.

Present: Councillors Carden, Fawthrop, Healy, Heaps, Howson, Kenward, Livings (Chairman), MacCafferty, Ost, Pidgeon, Rufus, Sparks, Thomas, Tidy, Waite, Wakefield and Wealls.

3. DES PRICHARD, CHIEF FIRE OFFICER & CHIEF EXECUTIVE - AWARD OF OBE

3.1 The Fire Authority has congratulated Des Prichard, Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive, on the prestigious award of an Order of the British Empire in the 2012 New Year's Honours List, and thanked him for his hard work, commenting that he was highly thought of both locally and nationally. He has been the Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive of East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service since October 2001, having joined East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service in 1995.

4. FIRE AUTHORITY SERVICE PLANNING PROCESSES FOR 2012/13 AND BEYOND – DRAFT REVENUE BUDGET 2012/13 AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2012/13 TO 2016/17

4.1 The Fire Authority has considered the draft 2012/13 Fire Authority Service Planning issues for formal consideration by the Fire Authority and the latest iteration of the service planning processes as previously considered. The final draft budget would be presented to the Fire Authority on 2 February 2012 for its consideration and final approval.

4.2 The Fire Authority has noted that the current year's budget was expected to underspend and any final underspends at outturn would be returned to Balances.

4.3 The Fire Authority has considered the committed budget for 2012/13 which is estimated to be £39.881m, a 1.7% increase on the previous year's budget. Proposed net service investments of £120k in 2012/13, reducing to £60k per annum thereafter and offset by savings of £85k per annum, brought the total proposed Revenue Budget in 2012/13 to £39.916m, an increase of 1.82% over the 2011/12 budget of £39.203m.

4.4 The Fire Authority has considered the projected 2012/13 Capital Programme of £4.588m which was being financed from identified funding of £3.633m and borrowing of £0.955m.

4.5 The Formula Grant figure for 2011/12 was £13.834m, a 5.7% decrease on 2010/11. For 2012/13, there was a slight increase of £0.051m (0.35%) on the 2011/12 level to £13.885m. Members noted that the Chancellor's autumn statement had raised concerns that there would be further pressure on local government funding in the last two years of the current CSR period.

4.6 The Government has signalled its intent that its proposals for local retention of business rates will apply to all fire authorities including East Sussex Fire Authority.

- 4.7 The latest budget modelling had been based on the acceptance of the latest offer by the Government of a one year Council tax freeze grant for 2012/13 and based on current information available and best estimates. The Fire Authority were presented with additional information on a number of medium term policy options for accepting or rejecting the latest Council Tax freeze grant and varying council tax increase percentages for prior consideration before the precept meeting on 2 February 2012.
- 4.8 Members have debated the implications of the current Service Prioritisation work and the implications on the current programme of post reductions as well as the medium term implications on additional savings required. An HR strategy had been developed to include flexible retirement, redeployment, voluntary redundancies and, as a last resort, compulsory redundancies. The Service would seek to minimise the likelihood that compulsory redundancies would be required, but could not make any guarantees.
- 4.9 Members were informed that whilst council tax collection rates had suffered deficits in previous years, since 2009/10 the collection by the District and Borough Councils had improved. The East Sussex Finance Officers' Association had commissioned work to review the level of single persons' discounts, and this is expected to have a positive impact on future Council tax income. Meanwhile the final council tax base and collection fund information was awaited from the City Council and borough and district councils in East Sussex for reporting to the meeting on 2 February 2012.
- 4.10 The Fire Authority resolved a number of detailed aspects of the budget, with the key ones being:
- a) the committed budget for 2012/13 of £39.881m including provision for pay awards (1% in 2012/13), price increases and net inescapable commitments be approved;
 - b) consideration be given to the budget pressures of £120k in 2012/13 and £60k per annum before a final decision is made at the Fire Authority's precept setting meeting on 2 February 2011;
 - c) the amended Capital Programme for 2011/12 totalling £1.564m and Capital Programme for 2012/13 totalling £4.588m, be approved;
 - d) the savings identified of £85k in 2012/13 with future revenue effects be noted before a final decision is made at the Fire Authority's precept setting meeting on 2 February 2012 and the proposed nil increase in the precept for Council Tax purposes as referred to in Section 6 and Table 13 also be noted;
 - e) that the detailed recommendations for setting the precept will be included in the final Revenue Budget report to be presented to the Fire Authority at its 2 February 2012 meeting, using the final tax base figures yet to be published be noted.

COUNCILLOR JOHN LIVINGS
CHAIRMAN OF EAST SUSSEX FIRE AUTHORITY
13 January 2011

