





**Brighton & Hove
City Council**

Community Safety Forum

Title:	Community Safety Forum
Date:	10 June 2013
Time:	4.00pm
Venue	Council Chamber, Hove Town Hall
Members:	Councillors: J Kitcat (Chair), Simson (Opposition Spokesperson), Morgan (Opposition Spokesperson), Barnett, Carden, Mac Cafferty, Phillips, Pidgeon, Robins and Wakefield, Representatives from Communities of Interest
Contact:	Nathan Birch Democratic Services Officer 01273 291064354 nathan.birch@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	Surrey and Sussex Probation Trust
British Transport Police	Youth Offending Team
East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service	Partnership Community Safety Team

Representatives of Local Action Teams

Bevendean	Moulsecoomb
Brighton Old Town	North Laine Community Association
Bristol Estate Community Association	Patcham
Brunswick & Adelaide	Portland Road & Clarendon
Brunswick & Regency Neighbourhood Action Group	Portslade
Central Hove	Preston Park & Fiveways
Clarendon	Queens Park
Clifton, Montpelier & Powis Community Alliance	Queens Park & Craven Vale
Coldean	Rottingdean
Coombe Road	Saunders Park Partnership
Craven Vale	Seafront
Craven Vale Community Association & LAT	St James's Street
Elm Grove	Stanmer
Goldsmid	Stanmer & Coldean
Hangleton & Knoll Community Action Forum	Tarner
Hanover & Elm Grove	West Hove Forum
Hollingbury	West Saltdean
Hollingdean	Whitehawk
Kemptown Action Group & Tarner	Whitehawk Crime Prevention Forum
London Road	Withdean
Marina	Woodingdean
Meadowview & Tenantry	

Other Co-opted Members

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

AGENDA

1. 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:**

- (a) Disclosable pecuniary interests not registered on the register of interests;
- (b) Any other interests required to be registered under the local code;
- (c) Any other general interest as a result of which a decision on the matter might reasonably be regarded as affecting you or a partner more than a majority of other people or businesses in the ward/s affected by the decision.

In each case, you need to declare

- (i) the item on the agenda the interest relates to;
- (ii) the nature of the interest; and
- (iii) whether it is a disclosable pecuniary interest or some other interest.

If unsure, Members should seek advice from the committee lawyer or administrator preferably before the meeting.

(d) **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.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

1 - 10

Minutes of the meeting held on 25 February 2013.

3. CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS

4. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

To consider the following matters raised by members of the public:

COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM

- (a) **Petitions:** to receive any petitions presented by members of the public to the full council or at the meeting itself;
- (b) **Written Questions:** to receive any questions submitted by the due date of 12 noon on 3 June 2013
- (c) **Deputations:** to receive any deputations submitted by the due date of 12 noon on 3 June 2013

5. MEMBER INVOLVEMENT

To consider the following matters raised by councillors:

- (a) **Petitions:** to receive any petitions submitted to the full Council or at the meeting itself;
- (b) **Written Questions:** to consider any written questions;
- (c) **Letters:** to consider any letters;
- (d) **Notices of Motion:** to consider any Notices of Motion referred from Council or submitted directly to the Committee.

6. COMMUNITY SAFETY ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS AND COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

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

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

- a) **Community Trigger** **11 - 20**

8. LOCAL ISSUES: STANDING ITEM

- a) **Community Safety Partnership Performance for 2012/13: Crime Trends and Performance** **21 - 32**

- b) **Reducing Burglaries: Successful Approaches - Presentation by Sussex Police**

- c) **Dealing with Violence Against Women & Girls - Presentation by Commissioner for Community Safety**

COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM

9. **SUSSEX POLICE & CRIME PANEL: MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11 JANUARY 2013; 7 FEBRUARY 2013 & 4 APRIL 2013** 33 - 50

10. **EAST SUSSEX FIRE AUTHORITY: MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 7 FEBRUARY 2013** 51 - 56

11. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The remaining dates for the 2013/14 municipal year:

- 7 October 2013
- 9 December 2013
- 3 March 2014

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.

The closing date for receipt of public questions and deputations for the next meeting is 12 noon on the fifth working day before the meeting.

Agendas and minutes are published on the council's website www.brighton-hove.gov.uk. Agendas are available to view five working days prior to the meeting date.

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 Ross Keatley, (01273 291064, email ross.keatley@brighton-hove.gov.uk) or email democratic.services@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Date of Publication - Friday, 31 May 2013

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM

4.00pm 25 FEBRUARY 2013

COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillor; Morgan (Opposition Spokesperson), Bowden, Mac Cafferty, Meadows, Shanks, Simson, Marsh, Cox, Cobb and Hawtree

In Attendance: Councillor Gilbey and Pissaridou

Sussex Police: Ch/Spt Graham Bartlett, Spt Whitton

Statutory Services: John Loveridge (East Sussex Fire & Rescue) and Gary Ambidge (East Sussex Fire & Rescue)

Communities of Interest: Clare Tikly, Colin Tribe, Dave Murtagh, Paul reading, John McPhillips, Derek Peacock, Francis Tonks, Dr Sobhi Yagoub, Emma Lacey (Safety Net), Larissa Steer (Safety Net), Paul Price, Simon Burgess

Officers: Linda Beanlands (Commissioner, Community Safety), Simon Court (Senior Solicitor), Nahida Shaikh (Community Safety Manager - Cohesion), Matt Easteal (Senior Sustainable Communities Officer), Simon Bannister (Environmental Improvement Officer), James Rowland (Violence Against Women & Girls, Commissioner), Ross Keatley (Democratic Services and Nathan Birch (Democratic Services)

PART ONE

35. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR FOR THE MEETING

- 35.1 Councillor Meadows proposed Councillor Morgan and this was seconded by Councillor Marsh. Councillor Bowden proposed Councillor Mac Cafferty and this was seconded by Councillor Shanks. A recorded vote was then taken and Councillors: Simson, Cox, Cobb, Mac Cafferty, Shanks, Bowden and Hawtree voted that Councillor Mac Cafferty be appointed as Chair, and Councillors: Meadows, Marsh and Morgan voted that Councillor Morgan be appointed Chair for the meeting.

RESOLVED – That Councillor Mac Cafferty be appointed Chair for the meeting.

36. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS**36a Declaration of Substitutes**

36.1 Cllr Marsh was present in substitution for Cllr Carden; Cllr Cox was present in substitution for Cllr Barnett; Cllr Cobb was present in substitution for Cllr Pidgeon and Cllr Hawtree was present in substitution for Cllr J Kitcat.

36b Declarations of Interest

36.2 There were none.

36c Exclusion of the Press and Public

36.3 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).

RESOLVED - That the press and public are not excluded from the meeting.

37. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

37.1 It was noted that Mr Peacock's name had been omitted from the minutes.

37.2 **RESOLVED** – That, with the above addition, the minutes of the Community Safety Forum meeting held on 10 December 2013 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

38. CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS

38.1 The Chair welcomed Chief Spt. Graham Bartlett to his final Community Safety Forum meeting and thanked him for all his work. The Chair also welcomed Spt. Steve Whitton to his new role, covering as District Commander.

38.2 The Chair advised that the presenters had requested to move item 43C, Improving the Physical Environment, to the beginning of the particular section of the agenda and he agreed to this.

39. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

39.1 There were none.

40. MEMBER INVOLVEMENT

40.1 There was none.

41. COMMUNITY SAFETY ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS AND COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

41.1 There were none.

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

42.1 There were none.

43. LOCAL ISSUES: STANDING ITEM**43C IMPROVING THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT**

43.1 A presentation was made by Matt Easteal (Sustainable Communities Officer) and Simon Bannister (Environment Improvement Officer) around work done to improve the physical environment in Turner Park and potential implications across the city. The work done had been more widely recognised and they had recently been invited to speak at a conference in Sweden.

43.2 The theory of the crime triangle – Victim-Offender-Place – was brought to the forums attention and the way place is an important factor and the City Councils role as a place manager in guiding and controlling potential offenders.

43.3 The forum received a video presentation outlining the changes made to the physical environment of Turner Park. It was explained how many park areas are seen as an asset to a community, but Turner Park was not. The park had been designated as a “tolerated graffiti area” but this had left the park under used, unwelcoming and led to further graffiti in other areas outside the park. Almost every surface in the park had some form of graffiti or tagging.

43.4 The decision had been taken to bring Turner Park back into use by the wider community. The area was cleared of graffiti and the park was no longer a designated area for this activity. A friends of the park group was also set up to encourage community participation. The Turner Tower was cleaned and restored as a focal point, art work was placed in the park and a ball court was established. The involvement of local people, including The Friends and the Local Area Team, was vital in achieving the changes. This work was all done despite an unsuccessful Lottery Fund bid. There was now real local ownership of the park and new items within the park such as artworks are being respected in a way they were not before.

43.5 The presentation went on to look at the wider physical environment across the City. The Environment Improvement team had carried out a survey looking at various areas of the City, scoring each area on the items street scene, vehicles, people and buildings. On this scoring system London Road, Lewes Road, St Nicholas and Haddington had received the highest negative scores.

43.6 Various work had been done in some of areas surveyed. This included; a gating order for Brunswick Row; improvements to alleys and encouragement to increase their use; old telephone boxes removed; cable tie safari; the set up of the London Road LAT. In

general a holistic approach had been taken, involving multi agencies and the wider community.

- 43.7 Cllr Morgan noted that the first gating orders had been used successfully in the Whitehawk area and welcomed the initiative to remove telephone boxes, something he would contact the Environment Improvement team about directly. In response to a question about the budget allocated for improvements Cllr Morgan was advised that as a non direct service team there is no specific fund, but the team provide advise and support to other departments to improve the physical environment as part of their own programmes.
- 43.8 Cllr Marsh asked what further information was available and how this was disseminated. The officers advised that further information is available on the Safe in the City web pages and the LAT's were being supported to promote the work via Wordpress sites that are being set up with support from the team.
- 43.9 Cllr Bowden welcomed the report and highlighted Turner Park as great achievement with little direct investment in cash terms, but a lot of community help and support. He further suggested that the Community Payback scheme was an excellent resource in helping achieve future projects, but also giving ownership of projects to those participating in the Payback.
- 43.10 Mr Peacock asked about the area opposite Dukes Mound, specifically the run down nature of the area and the potential for it being regarded as unsafe. In response he was advised that the area was the subject of regular cleaning operations by City Clean and volunteers from the Terence Higgins Trust (THT). The Police also added that their work was aimed at community safety and they too worked closely with the THT in this respect.
- 43.11 Cllr Bowden raised a further point around street lighting being a vital part of maintaining an area as safe. Cllr Pissaridou advised the officers about a path in her ward, between Ingram Crescent East and Bolsover Road, which was currently not lit. She was concerned that this would quickly become an unusable space at night if this was not resolved. In response the Chair agreed that this would be looked at as quickly as possible.

43A CRIME TRENDS AND PERFORMANCE FIGURES

- 43.12 The Commissioner for Community Safety presented the report describing recent activities and progress relating to priority areas in the Brighton & Hove Community Safety, Crime Reduction and Drugs Strategy 2011-14; statistical updates relating the first five months of 2012/13 – April to December 2012 were also highlighted. Graphs showing monthly crime data from April 2008 to January 2013 were provided which set recent data in the context of both longer term trends and seasonal crime cycles. A slight upward trend in total crimes recorded was noted, but that this was again slowing.
- 43.13 C/Spt. Bartlett responded on behalf of the Police, stating that the increase in recorded crimes has been driven by increased theft, mainly from the person. Theft of mobile phones in the nigh time economy was a cause for concern, but this was now on a downward trend after recent operations. The last year had seen a significant number of

burglaries, some 300+ at approximately 40 per week, but again this was now on a downward trend with just 13 reported last week.

- 43.14 A member of the Domestic Violence (DV) Team commented that the Police were concerned with the 34% of DV cases that did not end with a successful conviction. There was currently a three month plan to review these cases in conjunction with the Crown Prosecution Service and look at ways of reducing the number of retractions in DV cases. Factors under review included the levels remand in DV cases and earlier contact from DV advisors.
- 43.15 Cllr Bowden believed that the levels of LGBT related DV victims was significantly underreported and wondered if this was due to lack of support structure. In light of the recent murder in Hove, Cllr Bowden also again raised the issue of attacks on the homeless being recorded as hate crimes and asked if there may be better ways of recording such incidents. C/Spt. Bartlett commented that the Police Street Community Team were passionate about increasing the levels of reporting from the homeless. Whether or not these incidents were labelled as a hate crime did not diminish the level of seriousness which this dedicated team pursued each case. A major aim was to improve confidence within the homeless community to defend themselves from attack and report any crimes as they occurred. The Commissioner for Community Safety advised that the Council had several DV advisors in post, including a trained LGBT specialist and there was also a specific working group on this issue.
- 43.17 From the floor it was suggested that in DV cases the sentencing was not always appropriate and proposed that the forum could invite a judiciary speaker to help inform the matter. The Chair **agreed** that this was a good idea and that a suitable speaker be invited to the next meeting. The Police added that they also had an advisor at court to help promote more standard and appropriate sentencing.
- 43.18 Cllr Hawtree enquired if the high level of bicycle thefts in Brighton and Hove was driven by organised gangs or one off crimes. He also asked what items were being targeted in burglaries and if there was a seasonal pattern to the drug related deaths in the city. In response Spt. Whitton stated that the bicycle thefts were a mixture of individual and gang organised thefts. Burglaries were mainly of the high value, easily portable items such as laptops. With regard to the drug related deaths, unfortunately the Police do not have any specific figures.
- 43.19 Cllr Simson enquired if the Commissioner on Violence against Women & Girls would move the fight against DV forward. Cllr Simson also enquired if there had been an increase in drink spiking incidents in relation to sexual offences. In response the Commissioner for Community Safety believed that the a wide ranging approach, covering a variety of issue in this area including working with perpetrators would have a positive effect. C/Spt. Bartlett commented that the Police did not have any specific evidence of an increase in spiking of drinks, but it remained a factor in some cases.
- 43.20 Cllr Shanks highlighted the issue of children being caught up DV incidents and asked if the policy was joined up with support ion Children's Services. The Commissioner for Community Safety responded that she also sat on the Children's Safeguarding Board. The place of any child(ren) in all DV cases remained equally important in all agencies and partners. Gail Gray added that there is a RISE worker seconded to the Children's

Team and that from April 2013 the definition of DV will relate to 16 years of age and older.

- 43.21 Mr Peacock asked about any seasonal patterns to reported crimes and if the Police had specific seasonal operations. C/Spt. Bartlett responded that Operation Columbus was targeting race hate crimes and that there were ongoing LGBT crime operations. In the main there are few standing operations, but operations are run as required. He explained that to help guide the operational decision making the Police had other data around what they described as bands of tolerance. This meant that if the levels of specific crime moved above certain levels within a local area, neighbourhood or divisionally then additional operations may be required. C/Spt. Bartlett believed the forum may be interested in seeing this information, but would leave that for his successor.
- 43.22 Dr Yagoub enquired about sentencing with regard to hate crimes and if a future report to the forum would be possible. He also asked how the Police had reduced the burglaries so dramatically. The Commissioner for Community Safety **agreed** to look at such a report for a future meeting. C/Spt. Bartlett responded that the reduction in burglaries had been achieved with increased arrest levels. He also advised that within Brighton & Hove the Police have not seen an increase in gold thefts from the Asian community as has been seen in Crawley.
- 43.23 Cllr Hawtree asked if the Police monitored classified ads and online sales for stolen property. C/Spt. Bartlett stated that all outlets are monitored, but that in the main thieves looked to convert their stolen goods to cash as quickly as possible. A major area of work was monitoring future trends, identifying the future must have items as this would allow the Police to profile type and location of future offenders.
- 43.24 **RESOLVED** – That the contents of the report be noted.

43B SERVICE OFFER: ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR AND HATE CRIME

Managing Public Demonstrations

- 43.25 Spt. Whitton made a verbal presentation on the March for England demonstration/counter demonstration to be held on 21 April 2013. This would be a significant challenge for the city and the Police, but every effort was being made to minimise any issues, including the risk to life. There was a potential for disorder, but it was important from the Police's point of view to work with the whole community. Planning was still ongoing, but the main aim was to mitigate the potential for disorder.
- 43.26 Cllr Bowden raised the issue of demonstrators arriving by train and drinking in licensed premises around the station. He also highlighted the use of outside officers who did not know the city, being unable to direct the public away from the main areas of demonstration and the subsequent being caught up in the previously used kettling tactic. Spt. Whitton hoped there would be no surprises on the day, but the Police would still consider containment in the interest of public safety. Out of area officers would still be

used, but it was hoped there would be better communication to avoid such incidents as described. As always the Police would work closely with the licensees around the issue of drinking on the day.

- 43.27 Mr Tonks, representing the Older People's Council, suggested that the march caused major disruption in the City, stopping people from going about their day to day business, affecting trade and even bringing fear to some people. He believed that on these grounds alone the march should be banned. In response Spt. Whitton explained that only the Home Secretary can ban demonstration, when requested by the Local Authority and on the advice of the Police. The ban would normally only be requested if there were a serious threat to public order. The problem with banning a legal demonstration is that an illegal one may still take place, but without the planning or resources in place to deal with any issues.
- 43.28 Dr Yagoub, of the Racial Harassment Forum, questioned if a demonstration which included calls to remove British Citizens from the United Kingdom could be seen as an incitement and therefore illegal. He added that the seriousness of the emotional impact on local residents should not be underestimated. Spt. Whitton stated that the March for England was publicised as celebration of St Georges Day specifically. The Chair suggested that the Racial Harassment Forum and the Police should meet in the run up to the demonstration to discuss any concerns.
- 43.29 Mr Peacock pointed out that Brighton and Hove had the highest bill for Policing demonstrations outside of London. He suggested that there should be additional funds made available from the Police and Crime Commissioner for these costs. The Chair **agreed** to contact the PCC and make such a request.
- 43.30 Cllr Morgan believed that one person's right to demonstrate reduced the others rights to go about their normal life. Cllr Cox believed that the Brighton and Hove should no longer be seen as a city of protest. In the face of rising costs, loss of business and the mass disruption the price of all demonstrations was too high. Cllr Cox also questioned what powers there were to levy a cost against those demonstrating. Cllr Bowden raised the issue of the PCC freezing their budget and the additional costs incurred. Cllr Hawtree wondered at the level of local people taking part in the march. In response to these points Spt. Whitton commented that the level of local participation was significant He added that unlike sports clubs, who had a specific legal duty to pay for their policing, there was no obligation to pay on the organisers of a march or demonstration.

43D SAFETY NET: PRIORITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

- 43.31 Larissa Steer and Emma Lacey, of the child safety charity Safety Net, made their presentation to the forum. The presentation included slides on;
- What is Safety Net
 - Listening to children & young people
 - Consulting children
 - What children say
 - Making a difference
 - The next step

- 43.32 Ms Steer and Ms Lacey explained that Safety Net offered family support; a home safety scheme; child protection training; Safety Squads - allowing young people to have a meaningful say around their safety concerns; various workshops, including art, filmmaking and cooking to help encourage participation.
- 43.33 Cllr Hawtree welcomed the use of cooking as a way of encouraging community cohesion. Cllr Marsh welcomed the cookery workshops in both Bevendean and Whitehawk as examples of a positive difference being made. Ms Lacey explained that while not a specific safety issue, cooking workshops allowed children and families to work together in a fun way that also had educational benefits.
- 43.34 Cllr Shanks thanked safety Net for all their work. She believed it was important to hear the young person's voice to help move issues forward. MS Lacey explained that their contact with young people helped educate and hopefully alleviate any future hate crimes.
- 43.35 The Chair **agreed** that a member of the Youth Council be invited to future forum meetings. Cllr Gilbey asked if Safety Net could speak to the Portslade Youth Forum and this was agreed.

43C DRUG COMMISSION CONSULTATION

- 43.36 The Community Safety Commissioner circulated the interim report of the Independent Drugs Commission for Brighton and Hove. There would be period of consultation than the Commission would meet on 6 March 2013 to issue its final report. This would then be passed to the safe in the City Partnership Board. She asked if forum members could please complete a consultation form, either on line or the form supplied with the report. She also advised that once the final report has been published it would also be seen by the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee and the various commissioning groups to help inform policy in a practical way.
- 43.37 Cllr Simson noted that the Local Area Teams had also taken the drugs issue onboard and would welcome the report.

- 43.38 **RESOLVED** – That the contents of the report be noted.

43F PARTY HOUSES

- 43.39 **RESOLVED** – That the contents of the report be noted.

44. SUSSEX POLICE & CRIME PANEL: MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 26 NOVEMBER 2012

- 44.1 **RESOLVED** – That the contents of the minutes be noted.

45. EAST SUSSEX FIRE AUTHORITY: MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13 DECEMBER 2012

- 45.1 **RESOLVED** – That the contents of the minutes be noted.

46. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

46.1 **RESOLVED** to note the dates of future meetings.

The meeting concluded at 6.28pm

Signed

Chairman

Dated this

day of

Community Safety Forum 10 June 2013

Agenda Item 7a

Brighton and Hove Community Trigger Trials Assessment Report

1. Local Background

Brighton and Hove is a city of about 274,000 people, it has a vibrant and lively city centre with a strong tourist and night time economy. There is a large LGBT population of an estimated 30,000 people and an estimated BME population of 53,000. There are two universities, the student population is about 22,000. On the outskirts of the city there are a number of large areas of social housing, in the city centre there are a large number of houses in multiple occupation. The majority of social housing is still managed directly by the council. Reported ASB in the city is predominantly:

- ASB towards neighbours by adults and families in social housing and the private rented sector. Perpetrators often present with mental health and/or alcohol as an underlying issue accompanied by higher than average levels of worklessness and low educational attainment
- Night-time economy alcohol related disorder
- Street community ASB
- Youth related ASB

There are on average between 40 and 45 ASBOs in place at any one time, and each year there are two or three premises closure orders.

2. Agencies involved

The city has had designated ASB officers in place for a number of years. There are two teams dealing exclusively with ASB: a Partnership Casework Team and a Housing Services Team totalling 12 officers. The police also have 6 officers whose primary function is to deal with ASB. These teams and officers all work closely together to reduce risk and harm for victims, protect communities and bring perpetrators to justice where necessary and are overseen by the Senior ASB Co-ordinator for the city. Increasingly over the past 18 months colleagues from the YOT, environmental health, RSLs, fire and rescue and health and social care have become involved in problem solving ASB cases.

The Community Trigger trials have been led by police and ASB Teams.

3. Brighton and Hove Process

The trigger threshold in Brighton and Hove is met where an incident has been reported once before and no action has been taken and more than one week has passed since the incident was reported or the incident affects more than one household or business premises.

Trigger activations are received by the Senior Caseworker in the Casework Team and together with the Senior ASB Co-ordinator a subjective assessment is made as to whether the trigger threshold has been met. Contact is made with the client within one working day and the process is explained. This includes an undertaking to give a full response within five working days. Where it is legitimately activated a lead agency is allocated, reviews the case and responds to the client within the above timeframe.

Vulnerable victims identified through the trigger are risk assessed and harm reduced using an internet cloud based multi agency casework system and overseen by the Multi Agency Risk Assessment and Tasking meeting (MARAT).

The Senior ASB Co-ordinator reports on the Community Trigger to the Crime and Disorder Partnership. Gaps in service identified through the Trigger would be addressed at the meeting.

Hate incidents are managed using the same process as ASB in the city and a decision was made early on in the trials to include hate incidents. Communities affected by hate incidents have appreciated the inclusion of hate incidents in the process.

There have been nine activations in Brighton and Hove, five where the threshold was met and four where it was not, a summary of the activations are attached

4. Partnership working

There is a strong ethos of partnership working in Brighton and Hove. The trigger and the associated process for managing ASB are relatively new. In some cases there have been discussions about who should be the lead agency. The trigger has led to the identification of gaps in the services of some agencies. It is important that agencies work collaboratively to provide the best service to clients and work together to support each other and address gaps in service.

5. Resource impact

The trigger process is managed within existing resources and accountability processes. It works as an additional safety net to ensure victims have proper recourse to services and helps services address gaps in provision. The lead agency does need to spend an amount of time reviewing cases where the client has activated the trigger and communicating effectively with the client the outcome of that review and any actions arising.

6. Communications

There have been three strands to communications in Brighton and Hove, firstly, some local publicity and a wide distribution of leaflets and posters. The other two strands are more sustainable. Caseworkers promote the trigger as part of the general service offer relating to ASB and hate incidents directly in community meetings and to relevant statutory and non statutory agencies. Finally the trigger is embedded in online reporting. Where a client is reporting ASB or a hate incident online and the trigger threshold is met they are alerted that they have met the threshold and they are asked if they want to activate the trigger.

7. Professional feedback

All managers involved in the process have given feedback on its effectiveness. Police colleagues have found that the process does take some time and with the quick turnaround required there is some concern as to how to swiftly and effectively resource a response. Some police colleagues think the threshold is too low and that the process should only be used where more than one household is affected.

Environmental health colleagues feel the existing complaints process would have been more effective. Council housing colleagues have been very positive about the process recognising that it provides an opportunity for direct communication and service recovery with tenants who feel they have not received the best service.

Officers in the ASB and hate crime Casework Team overseeing the process have recognised that there needs to be clearer guidance to managers on how to manage the process and note that the most significant outcomes of the trial has been to improve communication with residents who feel that they had not received a good service and to identify gaps in service provision.

8. Innovation

Brighton and Hove manage ASB and hate incidents in the same way based on the risk and harm approach so from the outset the trigger has been available for ASB and hate incidents. So far there have been no activations in relation to hate incidents but in communicating its availability with

communities affected they have fed back that they feel reassured. This has a positive impact on trust and confidence.

A redeveloped community safety website has provided an opportunity to build the trigger activation threshold into the ASB and hate incident online reporting form. Where the threshold is met those reporting are notified that they have hit the trigger and they are given an option to activate it. This makes the trigger part of normal business and advertises it directly to those who meet the criteria.

9. Setting the threshold

The threshold in Brighton and Hove is met where an incident has been reported once before and no action has been taken and more than one week has passed since the incident was reported or the incident affects more than one household or business premises. There was considerable debate with colleagues locally in agreeing the threshold with some understandable concern that it was set too low and would result in a flood of activations. This has not been the case and the trigger is seen by professionals as a safety net.

10. Info sharing

The process is managed within existing information sharing protocols and practices.

11. Issues and solutions

There are several issues that have arisen for us in Brighton and Hove. Firstly this trial was aimed at getting the most vulnerable and disenfranchised to report incidents. The experience has been that the trigger has been activated by residents who we have not assessed as high risk victims. We need to continue with our broader engagement work directly with communities and third sector agencies serving those communities to encourage them to report incidents, the trigger will be a strand of that engagement work.

Agencies and managers in Brighton and Hove have responded with varying degrees of enthusiasm and effectiveness to trigger activations. We need to have clearly articulated agreed guidance, protocols and briefing to agencies involved to achieve a uniformly high level of response to trigger activations.

The trigger threshold and timescales may need to be reconsidered to maximise the number of agencies involved. Some housing providers have limited local resources that may cause them to question whether they can meet the criteria required.

Finally we may need to have a more formal process for reporting on trigger activations and responses. At the moment any issues would be addressed with the CSP. With PCCs now appointed we need to ensure they are also briefed on activations and responses.

12. Benefits

Participating in the trials has helped us to consider our responses to ASB and hate incidents and critically how our responses are received or perceived. The trigger works for us a means of service recovery ensuring appropriate responses to bring about resolution wherever possible. It is not a complaints procedure, learning from activations will help close gaps in service and improve responses to ASB and hate incidents.

13. Case studies

A synopsis of trigger activations is attached in Appendix 1.

*Peter Castleton
Community Safety Manager
Brighton and Hove City Council*

Appendix 1

Synopsis of trigger activations in Brighton and Hove

Trigger 1 – complete

Trigger regarding regular protests taking place outside a pregnancy advisory clinic, situated in a good class residential area in the suburbs of Brighton. On one morning per week the clinic offers an abortion service. Across the road from the premises occupied by the clinic is a 6th form college.

Approximately two years ago, regular protests began to be held outside the premises by an evangelical church group. The protests consisted of holding up placards with photographs of aborted fetuses. Protesters asked passers by if they would like to discuss the moral issues surrounding abortions. These protests were originally held on one morning per week (Wednesday) as this coincided with the days on which the abortion service was offered. The clinic changed the days on which the abortion service ran, and consequently the protests increased to three per week. The size of images being displayed also increased. A second protest group which is also linked to a church group began to also protest outside the premises.

The police response to these protests was to launch Operation Madeira. This consisted mainly of a high visibility presence of two officers being provided at times when the protests were occurring. The protests and graphical images were considered by some councillors, residents and students to be distasteful and to constitute anti-social behaviour. Various meetings were held with residents and those affected. Meetings were also held with appropriate representatives from Brighton and Hove City Council in order that a joint solution could be devised. The opinion of the local Neighbourhood Police Inspector, shared with the legal team from Brighton and Hove City Council was that the protests were proportionate and lawful, and that they did not amount to a breach of the Public Order Act or any other legislation. Reasons for this were given to those who had complained and a Residents meeting was convened where police again explained their rationale.

The Trigger was instigated by one of the residents in the locality. Her rationale was that ASB was being committed regularly and that more than one household was being affected. The complainant was contacted within the five working days and actions taken were fully discussed.

As a result of this Trigger, the local Neighbourhood Policing Team distributed 200 leaflets in the locality, and contacted numerous students by e-mail, canvassing their views as to the impact which the repeated demonstrations have had on them. Ten replies were received, nine of which condemn the protests, and one of which highlights the rights of the protesters.

A meeting of all agencies with an interest and / or duty to act was called and options to deal with the ongoing issue were discussed. In this meeting it was agreed that all legislation which may be appropriate had been fully considered. Also discussed was the issue of proportionality, and whether the multi agency response to the protests had taken into account the rights of those protesting.

A report was compiled for the Chief Executive of Brighton and Hove City Council. This broadly stated that all options had been considered. The notable exception was that the Primary Care Trust (who had responsibility for the clinic) were brought into the problem solving process. Dialogue continues between the Community Safety Department within the council and the Primary Care Trust.

The Neighbourhood Policing Team considered holding a public meeting, but it was felt that this was not necessary as all avenues open to partners had been explored, and no additional significant actions had been instigated as a result of the Trigger.

All people who had replied to the original correspondence (E-mails and letter drop) were written to and a full update of actions, considerations, legislation etc was given.

The original complainant was happy that the NPT Inspector and the partnership had canvassed views in the area, and held further comprehensive multi agency meetings. She is also satisfied in having been kept updated. However, she is not happy with the fact that the demonstrations continue.

Trigger 2 and 3 – complete

Two separate reports about the same problem family in an ongoing case being managed by the Council Housing Department. The ASB manager for council housing did an immediate quick-time review of the case, and met with both residents within five days. He explained the plan in place to address the issue and both residents were satisfied with this response.

This is a good example of how the trigger can be used by managers to remedy cases quickly and perform service recovery if necessary.

Trigger 4 – threshold not met

Trigger report from a victim of persistent name-calling of 'paedophile' from neighbours and local residents, in various public places such as supermarket, library, on the street. Victim has mental health issues, and believes he may have previously upset the perpetrators, and would like help with apologising to them in order to stop the verbal abuse. Not dealt with as a trigger as it was the first time the issue had been reported. ASB action plan implemented lead by Council Housing

Trigger 5 – threshold not met

The Trigger relates to the victim's neighbour shouting abuse & making threats, and the neighbour's sons intimidating the victim (one son is wanted by police). The victim has received further abuse from the neighbour because the victim has reported it to police. There had been criminal damage to property, but it is not clear whether it's the same perpetrator. The side gate has been kicked in, front gate taken, shed roof smashed. Other neighbours are not being targeted. Not dealt with as a trigger as it was the first time the issue had been reported to the RSL. ASB action plan implemented lead by the RSL.

Trigger 6 – threshold not met

The complainant reported victimisation and harassment by a neighbour. Both parties are council tenants. This case has already been fully investigated by council housing, and has also been the subject of a stage 2 complaint which was not upheld. The complainant had previously been advised that Council housing would only investigate new incidents of ASB, and that the complainant should contact the Ombudsman if not happy with the previous investigation. This message was re-iterated in writing to the complainant.

Trigger 7 – threshold not met

The complainant reported harassment by a neighbour. The complainant is currently on court bail having been charged with harassment of his neighbour. The police feel that the complainant is the offender in the situation and is using the community trigger to muddy the waters. He was advised to take legal advice if he is unhappy with the actions of the police or make a complaint to the IPCC. The police agreed to give suitable words of advice to the complainant's neighbour's friend who called the complainant a "rotter" when they passed each other in the city centre.

Trigger 8 – threshold met

The complainant reported that a noise abatement notice had been served on her neighbours who had been making noise for over a year, but breaches of the notice had not been enforced as no officer has witnessed a breach. The complainant also gave details of three other neighbours being affected by the nuisance. Environmental Health and Licensing were identified as the lead agency, and responded in writing to the Trigger within five working days.

The written response from Environmental Health was formal, corporate and similar to a response to a complaint. Direct face to face contact with the client by a manager with a solution focussed approach may have been more appropriate as a trigger response.

Brighton Trigger 9 – complete

The complainant reported that she and her partner have ongoing issues with a student property next door. They have reported domestic noise previously and received a response at that time from Environmental Health Dept (EHL), they have phoned police on a number of occasions with regard to ASB in the street either through parties spilling into the street or the neighbours and their visitors causing a disturbance, and have been disappointed with the police response. The final straw was a group of about 8 people attending the property at 0330 and demanding to be let in, hammering on the door and shouting “Let us in you f**kers!!”.

A Community Safety Team (CST) Officer spoke at length to the complainant and liaised with Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) and EHL. The Community Safety Officer also spoke to the student’s letting agent and University. An action plan was implemented thus:

- A CST visit to warn the students regarding their future behaviour and that of their visitors
- A letter drop to find any other affected local residents
- A letter from the University and letting agent reminding the students of their responsibilities as tenants
- An EHL investigation into noise nuisance
- A future reporting and feedback plan to be agreed with the complainant after the above actions have been carried out. It was agreed that the above actions would be carried out or begin within one working week

In the initial Trigger report the client stated she had “*lost faith in the police*” and declined the offer to speak to a police supervisor. At the end of the trigger process the complainant stated that she was happy with the action plan and with the response to the Community Trigger.

Report to Community Safety Forum – 10th June 2013

Subject: Crime trends and performance in Brighton & Hove, Position up to April 2013

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 also provides statistical updates for key crime groups for 2012/13, ie. April to March 2013.
- 1.2 Graphs showing monthly crime data from April 2009 to April 2013 are also provided. These set recent data 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 Total crimes recorded by the police declined year on year between 2004/5 and 2011/12. However, 2012/13 this decline has levelled out with a total of 23,602 police recorded crimes, marginally fewer than the number recorded in 2011/12, just meeting the target to reduce the number of crimes recorded. Theft and handling offences increased by 4% and this influenced the trend in total crimes since they have made 49% of total crime in 2012/13. The end of year position for theft and handling offences has shown an improvement compared with the position in October 2012 when they was showing a 9.5% increase and total crimes were up by 2.4%.

Neighbourhoods and quality of life

- 3.2 In 2012/13 (Apr to Mar) there were 11.5% fewer offences of criminal damage recorded by the police than in 2011/12, continuing the long term downward trend. Street appearance surveys continue to be carried out by Cityclean and show that graffiti remains at relatively low levels, but that litter is increasing. Sussex Police telephone public perception surveys back up the result in respect of litter.
- 3.3 Partnership work at the Local Action Team level is ongoing and LATs have identified a need to be better promoted, accountable and accessible to the communities they aim to represent. In response to this, materials to promote LATs which are suitable for use at events and 'pop up' opportunities such as school gates and local fêtes are being produced. Community groups are also being supported to set up and manage their own independent web presence to enable them to share ideas and solutions and officers have attended events to promote community involvement in community safety/crime reduction activities.
- 3.4 The Community Safety Projects Team continues to feed into development projects in the city to improve safety. An example of this has been to improve the design of the subway at the bottom of West Street leading to the seafront after dark so that it encourages people to use it rather than crossing at road level, where there have been a number of road casualties.
- 3.5 The Safe in the City website, which became live (www.safeinthecity.info) before Christmas, has been structured around providing residents with information they need (getting help section) and with providing opportunities for them to help improve safety in the city (getting involved section). The website has a facility for on-line reporting on ASB and hate crime incidents. It also holds key documents for the partnership, such as the recently produced second revision of the Community Safety, Crime Reduction and Drugs Strategy 2011-14.

Drugs Misuse

- 3.6 In February 2013 national data for drug related deaths that occurred during 2011 were published. 20 deaths were recorded in Brighton & Hove, which is a 35% reduction on 2010 when there were 34 (and 50 in 2009). The 2012 result also represents an improvement in the relative ranking within the UK; the city no longer has the highest number of deaths recorded per head of population, as we now rank at eighth highest. Interim local data suggest that numbers in 2012 are on a par with those in 2011 (16 recorded in the first nine months). The Independent Drugs Commission Report¹, published in April, notes the trend in drug-related deaths as "encouraging" whilst emphasising that "the distress caused to families and friends makes it a necessity that better ways are constantly sought to minimise these personal tragedies". A working group has been set up to take forward the 19 recommendations in the report.
- 3.7 The work of the Neighbourhood Liaison Officers, who work to reduce substance misuse harm in communities and families, has been promoted to Local Action Teams and, as a result, areas for focussed work have been identified and local action plans are being taken forward to address specific issues. Another example of local area

¹ Report available at <http://www.safeinthecity.info/sitc-document/independent-drugs-commission-final-report-april-2013>.

partnership work is an initiative which is being taken forward to reduce the problem of drug consumption in stairwells of low/high rise blocks of flats.

Reducing Offending

- 3.8 There was an increase in all acquisitive crimes (incl. theft/handling, burglary and robbery) of 4.6% in 2012/13 compared with 2011/12 and this builds on an increase experienced the previous year (2010/11). This increase has been driven by the steep increase in theft and handling offences experienced up until October 2012, but since then these offences have dropped (as mentioned in para. 3.1 above) and at the end of the year there is a lower increase in acquisitive crime than there was half way through the year.
- 3.9 The number of domestic burglaries in 2012/13 (1,143) was 45% higher than in 2011/12 (791) when numbers were at a historically low level. Following a steep rise in the number of domestic burglaries last summer numbers remained high until January, but there has been a drop in subsequent months. The number of domestic burglaries in the month of April is at a more typical volume. There were 10% fewer vehicle crimes in 2012/13 compared with 2011/12. This comprises 15% fewer crimes of theft from vehicles, while the number of thefts of motor vehicles (fewer in number than thefts from vehicles) has gone up by 5%.
- 3.10 Partnership work aimed at stopping reoffending and tackling the underlying reasons behind offending is ongoing. Screening of 1,769 people, and medical assessments by specialist nurses of 450 offenders at Brighton courts and custody suites have taken place between August 2012 and March 2013. This has led to referrals of 134 clients to medical services, with mental health being the most common issue identified. A sentencing option related to mental health is being made available for appropriate cases. Further progress has also been made around Community Reintegration which seeks to enable offenders to become better citizens, rebuild lives, and connect with services and people in their local community. This includes the support of a volunteer beyond the end of statutory interventions.
- 3.11 A series of restorative justice training events for volunteers and staff began in May 2013. Restorative justice enables those affected by a particular incident to play a part in repairing the harm and finding a positive way forward. When targeted, especially around acquisitive or violent offences and where the offender has a medium or high risk of reoffending, it can both reduce further offending and result in high victim satisfaction.

Alcohol Misuse and Alcohol-related Disorder

- 3.12 Alcohol-related hospital admissions were on an upwards trend from the beginning of 2010 until October 2011, but this trend appears to have reversed over the last few months, with numbers recorded between Apr 2012 and Jan 2013 being 8.5% lower than in the same months in 2011/12.
- 3.13 The number of injury violence crimes climbed up from a low point in February 2012 and continued on a rising trend until September (peaking later in the year than in previous years) but dropped again up to February which recorded the lowest number for the year. In 2012/13 there were 1,578 injury violence crimes, an increase of 1.7% compared with the same months in 2011/12, and against a 3% reduction target.
- 3.14 Work continues around developing a network of designated best practice retailers who are branded as such and commit to specific measures such as better proxy

purchase detection, corralled drinking areas, limited alcohol promotion and better information for consumers.

- 3.15 A recent project has looked at student drinking behaviours. This was led by students as part of their volunteer placement posting. The results will be used to develop a health promotion campaign directed at students with the aim of reducing excessive drinking.
- 3.16 A Scrutiny Panel on Alcohol is to be convened and will focus on four areas: developing alcohol free events; responsible retailers; promoting responsible drinking and Brighton and Hove's culture as a party city.

Anti-Social Behaviour

- 3.17 In 2012/13 22% of the 1,507 people surveyed in the Sussex Police local neighbourhood telephone survey² believed that one or more of six types of ASB (drug dealing/use; drunk/rowdy behaviour; vandalism/graffiti; litter/dog fouling; noisy neighbours; and teenagers hanging around) was a fairly big or very big problem in their neighbourhood. This compares poorly with the 16% of residents surveyed in the last nine months of 2011/12. The area of ASB which has contributed most to this increase is litter/dog fouling. All types of ASB problems were perceived to be more problematic by residents living in the city centre.
- 3.18 The dedicated duty line for anti-social behaviour and hate crime has been running since May 2012 (01273 292735 or communitysafety.casework@brighton-hove.gov.uk). In the twelve months up to the end of April 2013 613 reports have been made to the duty system; 386 of those relate to ASB, 86 to race, 30 to disability, 16 to sexual orientation, 3 to trans gender, 1 to religion and 91 others. Over that 12 month period there were 126 new cases for the Casework Team.
- 3.19 Partnership work is in place to address the behaviour of those committing youth disorder. This involves dedicated officers in the police and Casework Team focussing on the behaviour of the most prolific youth ASB offenders with a view to taking out ASBOs or other enforcement action as necessary to dissipate the group and reduce their ASB and impact on communities and individuals. The Youth Offending Team, Integrated Team around the Family, Education and the Youth Service are working together to ensure appropriate support is in place for young people involved in the group. There is also work to develop an early intervention strategy which ensures signs of problems are addressed an early stage, preventing young people's behaviour escalating into criminality and youth disorder where possible.
- 3.20 Findings from the Community Trigger trial operating in the city has helped to inform the development of the new Anti-Social Behaviour Act. The trigger process will continue to operate locally until the ASB Act is implemented in 2014 so that services can continue to develop and enhance their responses to those who activate the trigger.

Children, Young People and Families

- 3.21 The number of young people aged 10-17 entering the criminal justice system continues to decrease (69 in 2012/13 compared with 87 in 2011/12). However, the

² The sampling rate for the Local Neighbourhood Survey carried out by Sussex Police is being reduced from April 2013, so in future it will no longer be possible to analyse these data down to police district level.

most recently available data (although this dates back to the 12 months ending Jun 2011) show that reoffending by young offenders was on an increasing trend and that there was more re-offending by young offenders in Brighton & Hove compared with most other local authorities. The review of our Youth Offending Service is approaching completion and the resulting action plan will focus on improving outcomes for young offenders.

3.22 Key findings from the 2012 Safe and Well at School Survey include:

- Just under a quarter of pupils aged 14-16 years reported having tried drugs, for whom cannabis being used most frequently (80%): Of those using cannabis, 19% use it most days and a further 16% use it at least once a week.
- Of those aged 11-14 years, 35% had ever tried an alcoholic drink, lower than the 60% reported in 2010. Older children (14-16 years) reported much higher levels of drinking; 79% had tried alcohol (lower than 85% in 2010) and, of these, 34% had had an alcoholic drink in the last week and 58% had been drunk in the last month.

3.23 Work by RU-OK (the young people's substance misuse service) with families/parents/carers around the misuse of substances by their young people is being well attended and has received positive feedback from participants.

Domestic Violence

3.24 In 2012/13 there were 3,404 domestic violence crimes and incidents recorded on the police crime database, 29 (1%) more than in 2011/12. Domestic violence crimes made up 14% of total crimes recorded in 2012/13. If this increase represents more people coming forward to report incidents of domestic violence, this is a positive result.

3.25 In 2012/13 the police solved 48% of domestic violence crimes with 32% of crimes being charged. In this same period 68% of finalised court cases resulted in a positive outcome (mostly a conviction), an improvement on the position earlier in the year and on a par with the level achieved in 2010/11, but lower than the 78% achieved in 2011/12. A meeting of agencies concerned took place to help understand any reasons behind unsuccessful outcomes and to agree any appropriate actions to improve DV court outcomes. The withdrawal of victims/witnesses from the criminal justice process is the single biggest factor behind unsuccessful prosecutions. Court waiting times have increased and this may be affecting victim/witness withdrawal. There have also been changes to the Specialist Domestic Violence Courts from April. We will continue to monitor and respond to any effects of these changes.

3.26 Other work is seeking to improve how victims who have reported to the police are referred on to support services, including Victim Support and RISE. As well as improving victim experience, this work also presents an opportunity to improve access to support for high risk heterosexual male victims of domestic abuse.

3.27 The change to the definition of domestic violence to include 16 – 18 year olds and coercive control was introduced nationally in April 2013. The Violence Against Women and Girls Commissioner is working with others to assess the impact of this locally and integrate the new definition of domestic violence into multi-agency working.

Sexual Offences

- 3.28 The number of police recorded serious sexual offences in 2012/13 was 373, and this compares with 332 recorded in 2011/12. This increase of 12% contrasts with the position half way through the year when a decrease was noted. The last six months has shown a notable increase compared with months earlier in the year. This coincides with the release of publicity around abuse by Jimmy Savile which may have increased people's confidence to report incidents. In 2012/13 76 (84%) of the 91 sexual offences which have reached the court stage have resulted in a successful outcome.
- 3.29 Recent work in this area has included a review of access to and uptake of counselling services for victims who have accessed the Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC). There is also preparatory work around future commissioning of the specialist sexual violence service, with the commissioning of a joint service beyond the boundaries of Brighton & Hove being explored.
- 3.30 Links have been established with both the Universities of Brighton and Sussex to ensure the needs of students are incorporated in the development of the Violence against Women and Girls Strategy.

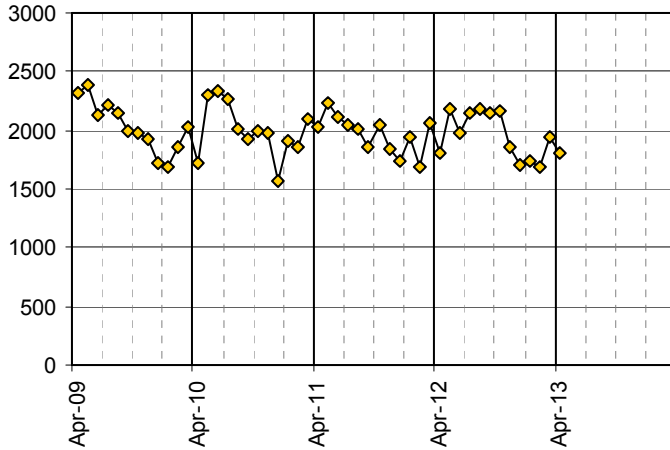
Hate Incidents and Crimes

- 3.31 The police recorded 164 **racist and religiously motivated incidents and crimes** in 2012/13 on their crime database, 16% more than in the same period in 2011/12. The police made charges for 67 racist or religiously motivated crimes over this period. 81% of prosecutions at court resulted in successful outcome (mostly a conviction) in 2012/13 (65 out of 80 finalised prosecutions), dropping back from the level of 89% achieved during 2011/12. There has been heightened religiously motivated activity in the city during the second half of May, presumably as a reaction what happened in Woolwich. Local partnership work has been undertaken to support Muslim communities in various ways, and has reiterated the need for people to report incidents.
- 3.32 In 2012/13 there have been 65 **LGBT hate incidents and crimes** recorded by the police, compared with 62 in 2011/12. In 2012/13 the police solved 28 crimes with 17 of these being charged. 21 out of 24 prosecutions finalised at court had a successful outcome.
- 3.33 The police have recorded 12 **disability hate crimes** and no crime-related incidents on the crime database in 2012/13; this compares with five recorded in 2011/12. There have been two finalised cases at court and these both had a successful outcome.
- 3.34 A Sussex-wide seminar was held on hate crime at Slaugham Manor in March. This examined what prevents people reporting incidents and what can be done to increase reporting across Brighton & Hove and the rest of Sussex. Ways of further enabling engagement between the statutory authorities and communities, including a focus on communities of multi-identities such as the LGBT disabled community, BME LGBT, and the older LGB and Trans communities were also discussed. A pan-Sussex hate crime booklet has been published and is being distributed around partner agencies and organisations in the city and across Sussex. It contains county-wide information on all reporting avenues available for hate incidents and crimes.

Safe in the City Partnership

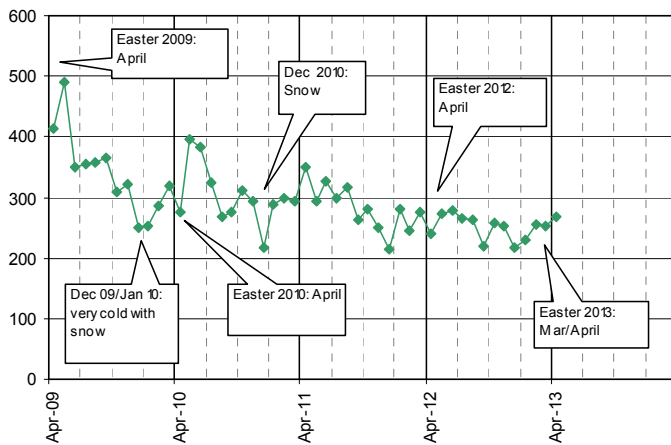
Crime trends up to April 2013 (monthly data)

Total Crimes, Apr 2009 to Apr 2013



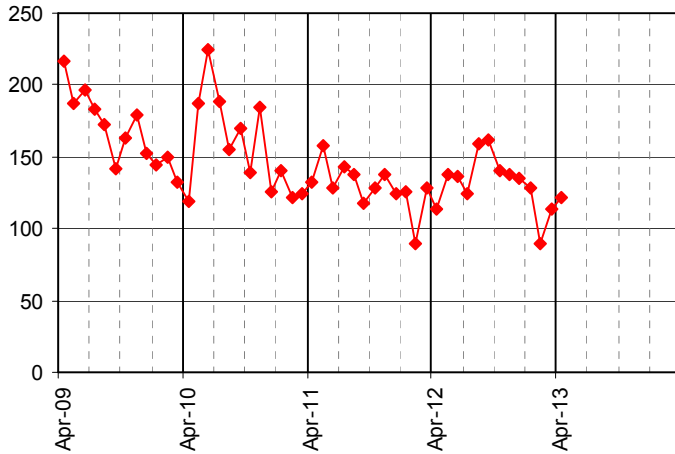
3.35 The seasonal decline in total crime which is usually seen during late summer was not evident in 2012, but the last few months (from November 2012) have shown a more typical seasonal drop.

Criminal Damage, Apr 2009 to Apr 2013



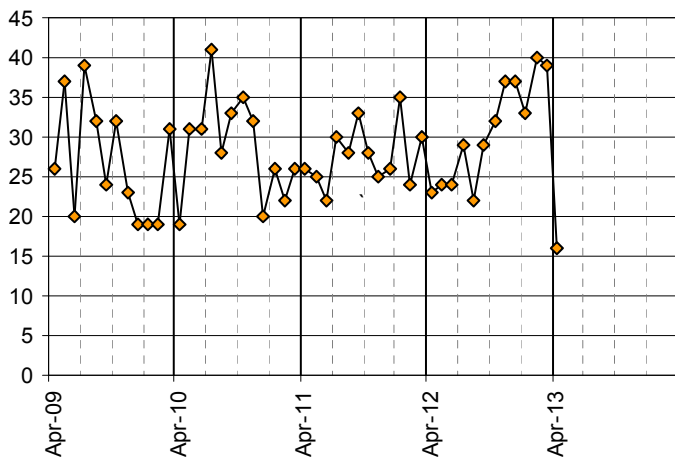
3.36 The long term downward trend in criminal damage continues. The usual seasonal pattern (higher numbers in the summer months) has been less apparent during 2012/13.

All Injury Violence
Apr 2009 to Apr 2013



3.37 The number of injury violence crimes climbed up from a low point in Feb 2012 and continued on a rising trend until September, peaking later in the year than in previous years. Numbers in Jan – Apr 2013 have been similar to the same months in 2012.

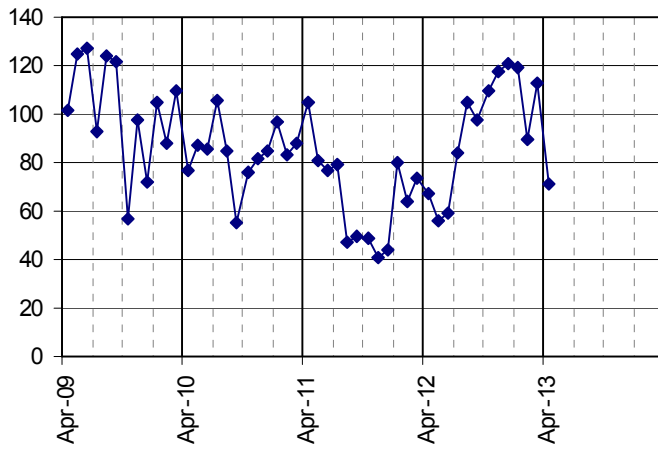
Sexual Offences Apr 2008 - Apr 2013



3.38 The number of police recorded sexual offences in second half of 2012/13 showed a notable increase compared with the first half. However, the number recorded in the month of April 2013 has dropped down to its lowest monthly level since at least Apr 2009.

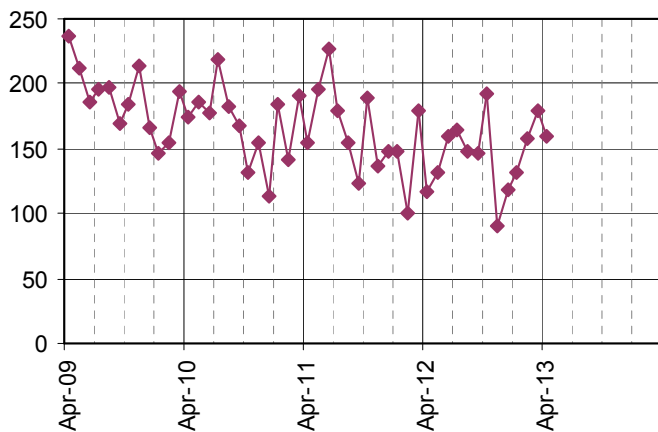
Safe in the City Partnership

Domestic Burglary, Apr 2009 to Apr 2013



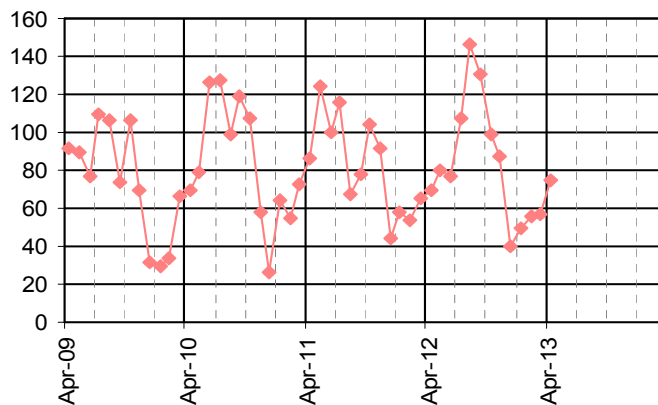
3.39 There was a long term declining trend in domestic burglaries up to 2011/12. From May 2012 onwards numbers rose steadily and levels up to March 2013 remained well above those in 2011/12. Numbers have dropped again in the month of April 2013.

Vehicle Crime, Apr 2009 to Apr 2013



3.40 Vehicle crimes have fluctuated over the past year, but the general trend is downwards. 91 crimes were recorded in Nov 2012, the lowest monthly number recorded for many years, but have risen again since then.

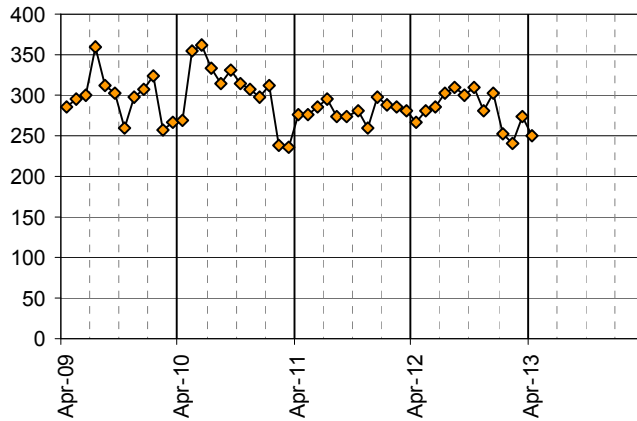
Theft of a Pedal Cycle, Apr 2009 to Apr 2013



3.41 A strong seasonal pattern in cycle thefts continues and is linked to those months when more people tend to cycle.

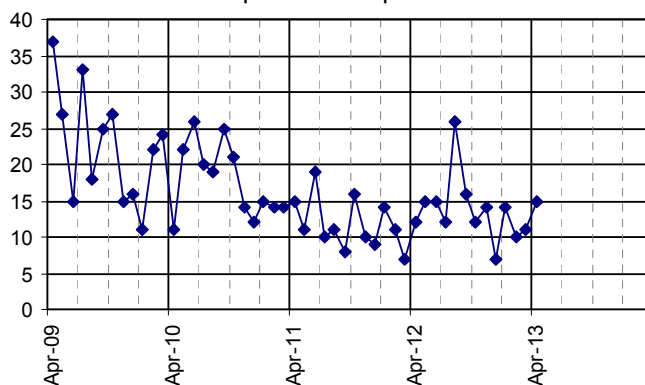
Police crime data presented in this report only reflect those crimes which are reported and recorded. There is likely to be a level of underreporting in many crime types. However, domestic violence and the hate crimes on this page may be particularly liable to underreporting.

Domestic Violence Crimes and Incidents
Apr 2009 - Apr 2013



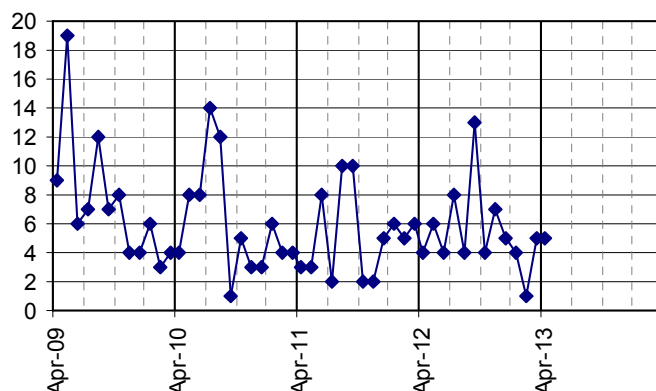
3.42 The number of domestic violence crimes and crime-related incidents recorded during 2011/12 was between 250 and 300 each month. Monthly numbers have mostly remained within this range during 2012/13.

Racist and Religiously Motivated Crimes and Incidents (police crime database),
Apr 2009 to Apr 2013



3.43 The long term declining trend in police recorded racist and religiously motivated incidents and crimes was stabilising at around 10 – 15 incidents per month during 2011/12. The month of August showed a spike up to 26 incidents (as mentioned previously), but the following five months reverted to a more typical level.

Homo/bi/transphobic crimes and crime-related Incidents (police crime database),
Apr 2009 to Apr 2013



3.44 The number of police-recorded homophobic, biphobic or transphobic crimes and crime-related incidents has been at ten or below since summer 2010, with the exception of the month of September when 13 were recorded.

Safe in the City Partnership

Performance data for key crime types, position at end March 2013

	number of crimes Apr 11-Mar 12	number of crimes Apr 12-Mar 13	rank within 15 bench-marked CSPs ³
Police recorded crimes			
Total Crimes	23618	23602	6
Criminal Damage	3394	3005	14
Injury Violence	1552	1578	5
Sexual Offences	332	373	n/a ⁴
Domestic Burglary	791	1143	3
Theft from/of a Motor Vehicle	1934	1739	4
Theft and handling (excl. motor vehicle theft)	11137	11564	9
Pedal Cycle Theft	988	1000	7
Police recorded crimes and crime-related incidents			
Domestic Violence Crimes and Incidents	3375	3404	n/a
Racist/Religiously motivated Crimes and Incidents	141	164	n/a
LGBT Hate Crimes and Incidents	62	65	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. Data reflect the ranking for the most recent three month period.

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.

Safe in the City Partnership

Disability Hate Crimes and Incidents	5	12	n/a
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Sussex Police and Crime Panel

11 January 2013 – at a meeting of the Panel held at 10.30 a.m. at County Hall, Lewes.

Present:

David Simmons	Adur DC
Len Brown (1)	Arun DC
Ben Duncan	Brighton and Hove CC
Warren Morgan	Brighton and Hove CC
Tony Dignum	Chichester DC
Nigel Boxall	Crawley BC
John Ungar	Eastbourne BC
David Elkin (Vice-Chairman)	East Sussex CC
Rosalyn St Pierre	East Sussex CC
Trevor Webb	Hastings BC
Brian Donnelly	Horsham DC
Andy Smith	Lewes DC
Christopher Snowling	Mid Sussex DC
Robin Patten	Rother DC
Claire Dowling	Wealden DC
Andrew Smith	West Sussex CC
Brad Watson (Chairman)	West Sussex CC
Tom Wye	Worthing BC
Graham Hill	Independent
Sandra Prail	Independent

(1)Substitute for Paul Wotherspoon

Apologies for absence were received from Paul Wotherspoon (Arun DC).

In attendance: Katy Bourne, Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner; Dan Steadman and John Eagles (Office of the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner); and Ninesh Edwards and Matthew Evans (Host Authority - West Sussex CC).

Declarations of Interest

33. In accordance with the code of conduct, the following personal interests were declared:

Nigel Boxall	Chairman of Crawley CDRP
Andy Smith	Member of Lewes Community Safety Partnership
David Simmons	Member of Safer Communities Partnership, Adur
Ben Duncan	Chairman of Brighton and Hove Community Safety Partnership Member of Safe in the City CDRP
Brad Watson	Member of Horsham Safety Partnership
Robin Patten	Member of Rother Safety Partnership
Graham Hill	Member of Horsham Safety Partnership Senior Service Delivery Manager for Victim Support charity
Tom Wye	Member of Adur and Worthing Safety Partnership

Christopher Snowling	Member of Mid Sussex Partnership
Brian Donnelly	Member of Horsham Safety Partnership
Trevor Webb	Member of East Sussex County Council
Claire Dowling	Chairman of Safer Wealden
David Elkin	East Sussex Safety Partnership

34. It was requested that a listing of standing personal interests, particularly in relation to membership of Community Safety Partnerships, be circulated in advance of meetings of the Panel. It was intended that the listing of personal interests would be agreed at meetings to avoid repetitive and time-consuming declarations at future meetings.

Minutes

35. Andy Smith corrected the declaration of personal interest recorded in the minutes of the last meeting to remove the word Kings from the title of the Lewes Community Safety Partnership. Ben Duncan corrected the declaration of personal interest recorded in the minutes of the last meeting to confirm the title of Brighton and Hove Community Safety Partnership.

36. John Ungar referred to a request made at the previous meeting relating to the Treasury's Green Book and whether adherence to guidance contained in the Green Book was required in compiling the draft budget. John Eagles, interim Chief Finance Officer, confirmed he would provide this information.

37. Resolved – That subject to the corrections outlined in paragraph 35 above the minutes of the meeting of the Sussex Police and Crime Panel held on 26 November 2012 be confirmed as a correct record.

Police and Crime Plan and Proposed Precept

38. The Panel considered a report by the Police and Crime Commissioner which set out the draft Police and Crime Plan for 2013/14 and the proposed precept for 2013/14 (copy appended to the signed version of the minutes). The Commissioner introduced the report and advised the Panel of changes to the section of the Plan relating to Community Safety Partnerships (CSP) priorities as contained on an addendum report. The addendum report provided the priorities of CSPs for 2013/14 in place of the priorities for 2012/13 printed on the agenda report received by members previously. Copies of the addendum report were circulated to the Panel (copy appended to the signed version of the minutes).

39. The Commissioner explained that the development of the Plan was an iterative process and outlined the changes below to the local priorities:

- An amendment to the third bullet point under Crime and Community Safety to state that Sussex Police would tackle priority crime types including hate crimes;
- Under Victim Focus the first bullet point would be amended to: Improve the experience of victims and witnesses of the Criminal Justice System; and
- An additional bullet point to the section entitled Public Confidence to provide a local priority of building trust in the Police.

40. The Panel raised the points below in the discussion that followed:

- Under the Crime and Community Safety priority the third bullet point appeared to equate domestic abuse with anti-social behaviour including anti-social driving. *This was not the intention of the Plan and the Commissioner confirmed that domestic abuse was a key priority – an amendment to the bullet point would be undertaken which would include reference to the Think Family and Troubled Family initiatives.*
- It was noted that the priorities did not contain mention of a focus on racial crime. *The bullet points for the priorities would be expanded in the final version of the Plan to include meaningful reference to racial crime.*
- A reference to Environmental Crime in the priorities was requested; the incidence of such crime in Sussex had increased. A definition of Environmental Crime was problematic, Lewes CSP categorised Environmental Crime as a priority under anti-social behaviour. The table of CSP priorities circulated at the meeting did not indicate that Environmental Crime was a priority for Lewes CSP. Consideration should be given to including the policing of the Hunting Act within a priority for Environmental Crime.
- Clarification was sought concerning what consultation would be undertaken with CSPs in setting the priorities in the Plan. It was felt that clear criteria would be required to define an underperforming CSP. The on-going role of the Countywide CSPs was also queried. *It was explained that the timeframe for producing the Plan was tight and that CSPs should contact the Office of the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner (OSPCC) as soon as possible with agreed priorities to feed into the Plan. A more structured process would be in place in future years to involve the CSPs in the production of the Plan. Targets would be set for CSPs against which it would be possible to assess performance and the Commissioner's Office would be closely involved in the work of the Partnerships. Under the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 the Commissioner was responsible for agreeing funding to the CSPs and holding failing CSPs to account. The Act did not define a failing CSP but the merger of CSPs could not be permitted without local agreement.*
- The Panel encouraged the Commissioner to expand the range of businesses to be consulted in the plan to include engagement with local chamber of commerce and not focus solely on the Federation of Small Business. Reference should also be made to other partners, such as the Fire and Rescue Service. The fundamental partnership that existed between the police and the public should also be emphasised to encourage community involvement in policing. *The Commissioner explained that she would seek to encourage local communities to take greater responsibility for policing.*
- The Panel was divided in its support for the proposed precept. Support was expressed for the 0% increase in the precept for 2013/14 but it was felt that the Commissioner should consider future increases in the precept as a 0% increase would not be sustainable on an on-going basis. Opposition to the proposed 0% increase was also expressed with the proposal representing a voluntary cut in funding. It was explained that the public would be positive about paying more tax for the police if a good service was provided. *It was confirmed that financial projections were already being undertaken to investigate increases of 1, 2 and 3 % in future years.*
- The proposed 0% precept increase was understood as a manifesto pledge but without sight of medium and long term financial planning and an understanding of the current state of reserves and balances it was impossible to assess whether the proposed precept was sustainable.

- A lack of detail in the plan and budget and the absence of measurable outcomes were raised as impediments to meaningful scrutiny. In order to agree the objectives of the Plan it was necessary to conduct discussion around what could be delivered and how the success of the objectives would be measured. A cost-benefit analysis of the budget to assess the aims of the Plan was required together with an assessment of the environmental and social impacts. In future the Panel requested that data be provided from previous years to provide historic context to the budget and precept. *It was confirmed that in future comparative figures would be provided. The preparation of the budget for 2013/14 had relied on provisional figures but the proposed precept had not changed throughout the process. It was emphasised that the Plan was a strategic document and that Sussex Police would provide operational delivery of the Plan. The Panel was assured that the Plan would contain greater detail and be a more complete document by the time it was signed off.*
- Assurance was sought that the requirements of the Treasury's Green Book had been met. *It was confirmed that during the preparation of the Budget the Green Book and financial code of practice from CIPFA had been adhered to.*
- The draft revenue budget contained a sum of money dedicated to Special Constables which indicated an intention to increase their number. However there was no reference in the Plan to Special Constables. Further information about the role of Special Constables was sought. *The Commissioner confirmed that the £154,000 had been dedicated to the recruitment of Special Constables with the intention to appoint 300 initially, rising to 400 in the medium term with the eventual aim of appointing 500. Special Constables were seen as a method of achieving more effective policing in local communities by providing a more visible police presence. Consultation over the role of Special Constables had been conducted with the public and had been a manifesto pledge of the Commissioner.*
- There was very little mention in the Plan of collaborative work undertaken with Surrey. It was noted that collaboration with other partners was a key element of the Plan that required greater detail. The Panel supported the investigation of opportunities for co-location and joint working with local authorities. *The Commissioner had set out in the Plan under the section entitled Future Commissioning and Collaboration the clear intention to continue to work with Surrey Police to explore further possible opportunities for joint working.*
- The role of the Panel following the incorporation of greater detail into the Plan was queried. The Panel was divided over the need for an extra meeting to assess an updated version of the Plan. *It was confirmed that the Panel could express its support of the principles at the current meeting and request the further detail be circulated by email. Alternatively the Panel could decide to meet again in February to consider an updated version of the Plan. The Commissioner confirmed that she would welcome another meeting to outline a further iteration of the Plan.*
- It was felt that a precise definition of hate crime would be a useful addition to the Plan.
- The reduction in Basic Command Unit funding to divisions as listed in the draft revenue budget was queried. *It was confirmed that the Home Office had reduced the funding which had been anticipated and addressed in budget planning.*

- The disproportionate level of resources required for policing in Brighton was raised and it was felt that this should be mentioned in the Plan.
- The Panel queried whether savings of £9.6m outlined in the Budget were achievable. *It was explained that the Chief Constable had devised a plan to accomplish the savings, which should be achievable due to the better than expected financial settlement for the forthcoming financial year.*

41. The Panel voted to approve the proposed precept of £138.42 (for a Band D property) for 2013/14 which represented a 0% increase.

42. Resolved – That the Panel approves the proposed precept of £138.42 (for a Band D property) for 2013/14.

43. Ninesh Edwards, Office of the Clerk to the Panel, provided clarification and summarised the topics that the Panel had discussed whilst considering the Plan. The Panel was required to make a report to the Commissioner on the draft Plan and the issues to be included in the report to include:

- The importance of providing a clear distinction in the priorities between domestic abuse and anti-social behaviour;
- The incorporation of Environmental Crime into the priorities contained in the Plan and a clearer definition of Environmental Crime;
- A removal of the reference to the Federation of Small Business in the Plan to encourage broader engagement with other local business interest groups such as Chambers of Commerce;
- A comment on the draft nature of the Plan and a lack of sufficient detail;
- The importance of assessing the Plan and Budget in the context of financial data and performance frameworks/outcomes from earlier years and a cost benefit analysis;
- The need to provide a clearer definition of hate crime;
- An emphasis upon the importance of community involvement in supporting and delivering the Plan;
- The need for clear criteria to define an underperforming CSP; and
- The need for clarification of the deadline for the submission of CSP comments and a means to provide this information to the Commissioner.

44. A motion was proposed and seconded to agree the principles of the Plan and that the comments of the Panel be provided to the Commissioner. A majority of members on the Panel voted to agree the motion. It was requested that an updated version of the Plan containing greater detail be circulated to the Panel when available.

45. Resolved – That the Panel agrees the principles of the draft Police and Crime Plan and agrees to provide comments to the Commissioner.

Appointments to the OSPCC

46. The Panel received a report from the Police and Crime Commissioner relating to senior appointments to the OSPCC (copy appended to the signed version of the minutes). The Commissioner outlined the report and informed the Panel of the extension to the Chief Constable's contract of one year. The Chief Executive and the Chief Financial Officer of the OSPCC were currently interim appointments and work

would be on-going in the forthcoming months to undertake a selection procedure and make permanent appointments to the roles.

47. The Panel queried the process for the extension of the Chief Constable's contract and the senior interim appointments. It was confirmed that new, permanent appointments would be subject to confirmation hearings of the Panel and that the arrangements that had been put in place were to ensure a continuity of leadership.

48. Rosalyn St Pierre and John Ungar left the meeting at 12.12 p.m.

49. Resolved – That the Panel:

- a) notes the interim appointments of the Chief Executive and Chief Financial Officer; and
- b) notes the extension of the contract Chief Constable by one year to 30 September 2014.

Commissioner's Question Time

50. The Chairman asked members of the Panel to put questions to the Commissioner and confirmed that the question time would be limited to 20 minutes.

51. Robin Patten asked the Commissioner; whether CSP funding would be passported to District and Boroughs in a similar arrangement to the provision of funding to the County Council; what system would be used to provide analytical data to CSPs; and what financial planning was being undertaken to address any shortfall arising from the loss of the Council Tax Support Scheme by 2014/15? *It was confirmed that funding of the CSPs during 2013/14 would remain the same as in 2012/13 with the allocation of funding from the County Council; it was confirmed that the Caddy System was no longer used for data and a revised system would be introduced; and the loss of the Council Tax Support Scheme was factored into financial projections for forthcoming years.*

52. Warren Morgan asked the Commissioner about recent press reports relating to the role of the Commissioner and whether it was appropriate to lobby for a review of domestic violence sentencing policy? *The Commissioner confirmed that she had raised the issue with Criminal Justice partners and was keen to lead on methods to address domestic violence.*

53. Andrew Smith asked for an update on meetings between the Commissioner and her counterpart in Surrey. *The Commissioner confirmed that she had met with the Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner and further meeting dates were scheduled.*

54. Trevor Webb sought reassurance from the Commissioner that she had a focus on addressing crime committed against disabled people. *The Commissioner confirmed that she was concerned about disabled crime which was incorporated in her priority on hate crime.*

Quarterly report of complaints

55. The Panel received a verbal update from Mr Edwards of two pieces of correspondence purporting to be complaints against the Commissioner that had been received by the Clerk to the Panel since the publication of the papers for the current meeting. It was confirmed that the Clerk to the Panel had reviewed the correspondence and determined that the complaints did not allege criminal activity and therefore it was appropriate that the correspondence be considered under the informal complaints procedure of the Panel.

56. The Chairman called for members of the Panel to form the Complaints Subcommittee to meet following the meeting to consider the correspondence received. The Panel was reminded that a subgroup of members would consist of three to five members and would strive to include a minority member and an independent member. It was agreed that Brian Donnelly, Sandra Prail, David Simmons, Andrew Smith and Brad Watson would form the membership of the subgroup to consider the two pieces of correspondences received.

57. Resolved – that Brian Donnelly, Sandra Prail, David Simmons, Andrew Smith and Brad Watson convene the Complaints Subcommittee to consider the two complaints received under the informal complaints procedure.

Written Questions

58. The Panel received and noted an update from the Chairman that no Written Questions from the public had been received in advance of the meeting. The Chairman confirmed that work was being undertaken to publicise the facility for members of the public to submit questions to the Panel ahead of the meeting in June.

Meeting Dates 2013/14 and Date of next meeting

59. The Panel received and noted the dates below for meetings of the Panel in 2013/14:

- Friday 28 June 2013
- Friday 11 October 2013
- Friday 24 January 2014

60. The next meeting of the Panel was scheduled for Friday 28 June 2013 at County Hall, Lewes.

The meeting ended at 12.35 p.m.

Chairman

Sussex Police and Crime Panel

7 February 2013 – at a meeting of the Panel held at 11.15 a.m. at County Hall, Lewes.

Present:

Paul Wotherspoon	Arun DC
Nigel Boxall	Crawley BC
John Ungar	Eastbourne BC
David Elkin (Vice-Chairman)	East Sussex CC
Rosalyn St Pierre	East Sussex CC
Trevor Webb	Hastings BC
Brian Donnelly	Horsham DC
Andy Smith	Lewes DC
Christopher Snowling	Mid Sussex DC
Robin Patten	Rother DC
Claire Dowling	Wealden DC
Andrew Smith	West Sussex CC
Brad Watson (Chairman)	West Sussex CC
Tom Wye	Worthing BC
Graham Hill	Independent
Sandra Prail	Independent

Apologies for absence were received from David Simmons (Adur DC), Pat Beresford (Adur DC), Warren Morgan (Brighton and Hove CC), Tony Dignum (Chichester DC) and Eileen Lintill (Chichester DC).

In attendance: Katy Bourne, Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner; Steve Waight, Candidate for Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner; Dan Steadman (Office of the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner); and Diane Henshaw, Ninesh Edwards and Matthew Evans (Host Authority - West Sussex CC).

Declarations of Interest

61. In accordance with the code of conduct, the following personal interests were declared:

Nigel Boxall	Chairman of Crawley CDRP
Andy Smith	Member of Lewes Community Safety Partnership
Brad Watson	Member of Horsham Safety Partnership Political Colleague of the candidate for Deputy Commissioner at West Sussex CC
Robin Patten	Member of Rother Safety Partnership
Graham Hill	Member of Horsham Safety Partnership Senior Service Delivery Manager for Victim Support charity Member of Crawley Community Safety Partnership Board
Tom Wye	Member of Adur and Worthing Safety Partnership Cabinet Colleague at Worthing BC of the candidate for Deputy Commissioner
Christopher Snowling	Member of Mid Sussex Partnership

Brian Donnelly	Member of Horsham Safety Partnership
Trevor Webb	Member of Hastings Safer Partnership
Claire Dowling	Chairman of Safer Wealden
David Elkin	Member East Sussex Safety Partnership
Paul Wotherspoon	Member of Safer Arun Partnersip

Minutes

62. Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting of the Sussex Police and Crime Panel held on 11 January 2013 be confirmed as a correct record.

Procedure to be followed at Confirmation Hearings

63. The Panel received and noted the procedure to be followed at confirmation hearings of the Police and Crime Panel (copy appended to the signed version of the minutes). The Panel was informed that prior to the confirmation hearing and questioning of the candidate there would be a brief question time for the Commissioner. The Commissioner would receive questions regarding the proposed appointment of a Deputy Commissioner.

Commissioners Question Time

64. The Panel asked the Commissioner the following questions:

- Why did the Commissioner need a Deputy? *The Commissioner had reviewed her commitments over her first 12 weeks in office and had determined that she required a deputy.*
- Why was the Panel not informed of the proposed appointment for a Deputy Commissioner at the meeting in January 2013? *The proposed appointment had not been finalised by the time of the meeting in January.*
- How did the skills of the candidate complement those of the Commissioner? *The Commissioner had a private sector background and the candidate had broad experience of public sector finance. The Commissioner had experience at District and Parish tiers of local government, the candidate had experience of upper tier local authorities.*
- What resources would be required for the role and how had the salary been set? *Central government had determined that the salary of a Deputy should not exceed 75% of the salary of the Commissioner. The proposed candidate's salary had been set below this threshold. No expenses for travel within Sussex would be claimed by the Deputy Commissioner.*
- National press reports had made allegations of cronyism in the case of some Deputy Commissioner appointments; how would the Commissioner address any allegations of cronyism? *The candidate had not been a member of the Commissioner's campaign team during the elections and the candidate's broad qualifications demonstrated his suitability for the role.*
- The proposed appointment concerned the previous Chairman of the Sussex Police Authority (SPA). Such elements from the past conflicted with the legislative objectives of establishing new ways of working.

The candidate would bring useful experience to the role and provide the Office of the Commissioner with a fresh perspective.

Confirmation Hearing

65. The Chairman introduced the candidate and explained that the Panel would be asked to agree to go into closed session at the end of questioning of the candidate to determine its recommendations to the Commissioner.

66. The Panel asked the proposed candidate for Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner the following questions:

- The Panel queried how the candidate was initially made aware of the role. *The candidate was informed of the position by the Commissioner in a telephone call at 7.00 p.m. on a Friday night late in January.*
- The position of Deputy was a full time role, how would the candidate balance his existing commitments with the role of Deputy Commissioner? *It was possible for a County Councillor to also hold a full-time job but the candidate would review pressures on his time in due course and make adjustments to his commitments. The Candidate confirmed that it was most likely that he would stand down as a Worthing Borough Councillor if the pressures on his time were excessive.*
- The Commissioner had asked the candidate to remain a County Councillor but the Panel queried what would be the benefit of such a dual role? *By remaining a County Councillor the candidate would retain an important link with a key strategic partner of Sussex Police.*
- Did the candidate feel that there was a conflict of interest relating to the allocation of the Community Safety budget which was ported to the County Council for distribution? *Community Safety budgets for 2013/14 had already been announced and it was not felt that a conflict of interest existed.*
- The Candidate was questioned on his involvement with minority groups and if he could interact effectively with all faith groups? *The candidate's religious beliefs would not prevent him working with other faith groups. The candidate had encountered and worked with a wide range of diverse groups across Sussex.*
- It was recognised that the candidate had extensive experience in West Sussex but he was questioned on his work in East Sussex. *The candidate confirmed that he had worked across Sussex with a range of local leaders and authorities. The rural/urban split was similar in East and West Sussex and the candidate explained that he had an understanding of issues across these areas. The coastal strip in West and East Sussex was comparable and the candidate had experience of working in Brighton and Hove and in Worthing.*
- The candidate was asked how he would seek to engage with communities, in particular, hard-to-reach groups. *The Candidate felt it was important to work closely with local authorities and engage with communities on the ground.*
- As the Chairman of the SPA the candidate had occupied a position that to all intents and purposes was the Commissioner. The candidate was asked if he supported the strategic approach of the Commissioner and if he agreed with the work undertaken to streamline the management

of the Office of Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner? *The candidate had been aware of the proposals in the Commissioner's election manifesto and had supported her approach during her time in office. The Office of the Commissioner was a very different body to the SPA and required a smaller officer structure.*

- The candidate was asked about potential accusations of cronyism and the allocation of police resources for events such as political party conferences. *The candidate was unsure if there was a public perception of cronyism and confirmed that the role of Deputy Commissioner was not outwardly political. Resources for policing were considered objectively without political bias.*
- The Panel referred to the candidate's CV circulated prior to the confirmation hearing (copy appended to the signed version of the minutes) and queried why the document only provided detail from 1992. *The candidate provided a verbal summary of his full CV.*

Exclusion of Press and Public

67. Resolved – That under Section 100(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I, of Schedule 12A, of the Act by virtue of the paragraph specified under the item and that, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption of that information outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information

Determination of recommendations to the Police and Crime Commissioner

Exempt: paragraph 1, Information about individuals

68. Paul Wotherspoon left the meeting at 12.20 p.m.

69. The Panel considered the appointment of the proposed Deputy Commissioner and agreed to recommend that the proposed candidate is not appointed to the post. The Panel was concerned that the other duties of the candidate as a County and Borough Councillor would impact on his ability to undertake the role. In addition the Panel did not feel that the Commissioner had provided sufficient detail relating to the role and functions of the Deputy Commissioner.

Chairman

Unconfirmed minutes of the Police and Crime Panel meeting on 4 April 2013 subject to confirmation/amendment at the next meeting of the Panel

Sussex Police and Crime Panel

4 April 2013 – at a meeting of the Panel held at 11.15 a.m. at County Hall, Lewes.

Present:

Len Brown (1)	Arun DC
Alan Robins (2)	Brighton and Hove CC
Nigel Boxall	Crawley BC
David Elkin (Vice-Chairman)	East Sussex CC
Rosalyn St Pierre	East Sussex CC
Brian Donnelly	Horsham DC
Andy Smith	Lewes DC
Christopher Snowling	Mid Sussex DC
Robin Patten	Rother DC
Claire Dowling	Wealden DC
Andrew Smith	West Sussex CC
Brad Watson (Chairman)	West Sussex CC
Tom Wye	Worthing BC
Graham Hill	Independent
Sandra Prail	Independent

(1) Substitute for Paul Wotherspoon

(2) Substitute for Warren Morgan

Apologies for absence were received from David Simmons (Adur DC), Paul Wotherspoon (Arun), Warren Morgan (Brighton and Hove CC) and John Ungar (Eastbourne BC).

In attendance: Katy Bourne, Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner; Steve Waight, Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner; Mark Streater (Candidate for Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer of the Office of the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner (OSPCC)); John Eagles (Candidate for Chief Finance Officer of the OSPCC) and Diane Henshaw, Ninesh Edwards and Matthew Evans (Host Authority - West Sussex CC).

77. The Chairman opened the meeting and informed the Panel that Matt Follett had been appointed by Brighton and Hove City Council as a principal, standing member of the Panel in place of Ben Duncan.

Declarations of Interest

78. In accordance with the code of conduct, the following personal interests were declared:

Nigel Boxall	Chairman of Crawley CDRP
Andy Smith	Chairman of Lewes Community Safety Partnership
Brad Watson	Member of Horsham Safety Partnership
Robin Patten	Member of Rother Safety Partnership
Graham Hill	Member of Horsham Safety Partnership Senior Service Delivery Manager for Victim Support charity Member of Crawley Community Safety Partnership Board

Unconfirmed minutes of the Police and Crime Panel meeting on 4 April 2013 subject to confirmation/amendment at the next meeting of the Panel

Tom Wye	Member of Adur and Worthing Safety Partnership
Christopher Snowling	Member of Mid Sussex Safety Partnership
Brian Donnelly	Member of Horsham Safety Partnership
Claire Dowling	Chairman of Safer Wealden
David Elkin	Member East Sussex Safety Partnership
Len Brown	Member of Safer Arun Partnership

Minutes

79. Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting of the Sussex Police and Crime Panel held on 7 February 2013 be confirmed as a correct record.

Part II Matters

80. The Panel was asked to consider if any item on the Part II agenda should be brought into Part I. The Panel agreed that the grounds for exemption for each of the items on the Part II agenda still applied and it was agreed that each of the items would be considered in the closed session.

81. Resolved – That the exemptions applied to the items on the Part II agenda remain valid and no item should be brought into Part I for consideration.

Procedure to be followed at Confirmation Hearings

82. The Panel received and noted the procedure to be followed at confirmation hearings of the Police and Crime Panel (copy appended to the signed version of the minutes).

Confirmation Hearing for Chief Executive Officer

83. The Chairman introduced the confirmation hearings and explained that the Panel would question the candidate for Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer first and then the candidate for Chief Finance Officer. The Panel would then be asked to agree to go into closed session at the end of questioning of the candidates to determine its recommendations to the Commissioner. The Chairman welcomed the candidate for Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer.

84. The Panel asked the proposed candidate for Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer the following questions:

- The OSPCC had a very different remit to the old Police Authority with a number of non-policing elements. The candidate was asked what he could offer in terms of the non-policing and non-operational aspects of the role and provide examples of work with Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) and other third parties? *The candidate had worked in political and sensitive environments with partners such as health, education and CSPs in Sussex and at a regional level. The candidate possessed scrutiny and oversight skills to ensure that the decisions made by the Commissioner were transparent and legitimate. As District Commander in West Sussex the candidate had led the formation of CSPs and was involved in the establishment of*

safeguarding groups and Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships and led on the formation of the Drug and Alcohol Action Team. In London the candidate had led an initiative to introduce the automatic number plate vehicle recognition system.

- The Panel questioned how the candidate would cope with the move from an operational to a strategic role and how he would work alongside the Chief Constable? *A challenge for the candidate would be to demonstrate he was undertaking the role of Chief Executive with impartiality and objectivity; principles that had been evident throughout his career. In terms of the strategic role the candidate would bring broader executive skills to the role to engage effectively with other agencies and partners.*
- The candidate was asked what would be the key challenges of the Monitoring officer function and what relevant experience he possessed for the role. *A key function of the Monitoring Officer function would be the managing and handling of complaints against the Commissioner, determining the seriousness of complaints and identifying action that was required; whether that involved working with the Panel to undertake informal resolution of complaints or escalation to the IPCC. The candidate had relevant experience of police officer and police staff tribunals which he had chaired and for which he had conducted investigations.*
- The candidate was asked: how he would seek to develop new skills required for the role; any areas he felt he had only limited experience; and how he would address any skills deficit? *The candidate explained that he would seek to learn from other Chief Executives and best practice nationally and to develop his knowledge of the guidance and legislation that defined the relationship between the Commissioner, the Panel and the Chief Constable.*
- The Panel queried how the candidate would seek to engage the voluntary sector and include voluntary organisations in the development of the Police and Crime Plan? *Whilst in West Sussex the candidate had used the voluntary sector in an initiative to establish a victim care and support charter. Victim support was one of the four priorities in the Police and Crime Plan and it was essential to engender the support of volunteers in police services.*
- The Panel queried how the candidate would bring dynamism to the OSPCC and encourage staff to be innovative and creative? *The candidate would draw on leaderships skills and qualities that he had demonstrated during his career to lead staff to translate the Police and Crime Plan into action.*
- The candidate was asked what would represent success in the role. *Safer communities and the perception of safety would be indicators of success which would be assessed through constant feedback and appraisal.*
- To ascertain personal independence skills the Panel asked the candidate what he would do if he was aware that the Commissioner was about to undertake an unwise action? The Panel asked for an example of how the candidate had challenged an undertaking of a superior? The Panel further asked for an example of when the candidates ideas had been strongly opposed and what his reaction had been? *The candidate would initially determine if the Commissioner's actions were legal, misguided or inconsistent with policy objectives. If*

Unconfirmed minutes of the Police and Crime Panel meeting on 4 April 2013 subject to confirmation/amendment at the next meeting of the Panel

unlawful it was a key role of the Chief Executive to ensure the Commissioner complied with the law but if misguided the candidate would ensure that the Commissioner had all necessary guidance and advice. An example of challenging a superior involved the composition of a report at the request of a superior that the candidate ensured contained relevant findings from national reports. The candidate had been involved in the composing of business cases for the configuration of forces across the South East region that had not received universal agreement.

- The candidate was asked how he would look to develop the relationship between the OSPCC and the Panel with a particular emphasis on effective communication. *The candidate would seek to facilitate good communication and build strong relationships between the Panel, the Commissioner and the Chief Constable.*
- The candidate was asked what had motivated him to apply for the position. *The candidate explained that he had a passion to deliver the role in his home county of Sussex and would utilise transferable skills to undertake the job to a high level.*
- The candidate was asked how he intended to address the fear of crime in local communities. *The candidate explained that a priority of the Police and Crime Plan was to increase public confidence and ensure user satisfaction. This was seen not just as the responsibility of the Police but also the broader Criminal Justice system. The candidate was keen to engage the CSPs and voluntary sector to improve victim satisfaction and deliver public confidence.*
- The Panel referred to the prospective reviews of funding for CSPs based on measures of effectiveness. How would the candidate help the Commissioner establish best practice across the CSPs? *Funding for CSPs would be evidence-based and take account of where the greatest risk existed and where funding would be of greatest benefit. Monitoring of CSPs would focus on how the groups addressed local risks and how dynamic they were in responding to newly emerging priorities.*

85. The Chairman thanked the candidate and the Panel adjourned for five minutes from 11.55 a.m. to 12.00noon.

Confirmation Hearing for Chief Finance Officer

86. The Chairman welcomed the candidate for Chief Finance Officer. Prior to the start of the confirmation hearing for the Chief Finance Officer the Panel asked the Commissioner how many of the eight applicants for the post were shortlisted. The Commissioner confirmed that three candidates were shortlisted during the selection procedure.

87. The Panel asked the proposed candidate for Chief Finance Officer the following questions:

- The Panel asked the candidate how he would handle current and future financial challenges. *The candidate explained that he worked with Sussex Police since the comprehensive spending review in 2010 to identify savings which currently totalled £31m. Strategies had been*

Unconfirmed minutes of the Police and Crime Panel meeting on 4 April 2013 subject to confirmation/amendment at the next meeting of the Panel

produced such as the new ways of working and the review of estate holdings with the intention of realising further savings in future years.

- The candidate was asked about the main differences in financial management under the old regime and under the new arrangements and how he would address any challenges this produced. *The main difference was that the old regime was focused on the police, under new arrangements the focus was on police and crime. The greatest challenge was the coordination of wide range of funding streams into financial management arrangements including the assimilation of funding streams for areas such as community safety and criminal justice.*
- The Panel asked the candidate to confirm what he would do if he was aware of the Commissioner undertaking a course of action he felt was unwise. *The candidate explained that he had a fiduciary responsibility to the taxpayers of Sussex to raise any illegal activity committed by the Commissioner with the Office of the Commissioner, the Chief Constable and the external auditor.*
- The candidate was asked to confirm what courses he had undertaken to keep his knowledge up to date. *The candidate had undertaken various CIPFA courses including: day-to-day accounts; treasury management process; and end of year/closing the accounts process.*
- The candidate was asked how changes to income resulting from the Local Government Finance Act 2012 had impacted on funding and been included in budget planning. *The candidate confirmed that liaison with East and West Sussex Finance Officers Association had taken place and scenario planning had been undertaken to take account of income affected by the Act.*
- The Panel asked about the structure of the new police governance arrangements and if the candidate had identified any changes he felt were desirable? *The new structures were still relatively new and the candidate did not feel that such an assessment could be made at such an early stage.*
- The candidate was asked how he would define success in his role. *The candidate explained that enabling the Commissioner and Chief Constable to provide value for money and to deliver sound financial management would be indicators of success.*
- The Panel asked about arrangements for presenting the budget and precept for 2014/15 to the Panel. *The candidate explained that a greater level of detail would be available to the Panel for the 2014/15 budget and in the autumn a report would be presented containing details of the precept assumptions for the Panels consideration.*

88. The Chairman thanked the candidate and the meeting adjourned at 12.15 p.m. and reconvened at 12.30 p.m.

Exclusion of Press and Public

89. Resolved – That under Section 100(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I, of Schedule 12A, of the Act by virtue of the paragraph specified under the item and that, in all the circumstances of the case,

Unconfirmed minutes of the Police and Crime Panel meeting on 4 April 2013 subject to confirmation/amendment at the next meeting of the Panel

the public interest in maintaining the exemption of that information outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information

Determination of recommendations to the Police and Crime Commissioner

Exempt: paragraph 1, Information about individuals

90. The Panel considered the appointments of the proposed Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer and Chief Finance Officer and agreed to recommend that the proposed candidates were appointed. The Panel was content that the professional competence and personal independence of the candidates had been established.

Chairman

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 7 February 2013.

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

1. FIRE AUTHORITY SERVICE PLANNING PROCESSES FOR 2013/14 AND BEYOND – DRAFT ANNUAL PLAN 2013/14 AND DRAFT REVENUE BUDGET

1.1 The Fire Authority has considered relevant reports on the Service Planning Processes for 2013/14 and beyond for approval for the purposes of setting the 2013/14 Council Tax precept and other relevant matters.

1.2 Draft Revenue Budget 2013/14

1.2.1 The Fire Authority has considered a report that set out the final draft Fire Authority Revenue Budget for 2013/14. In the view of the Treasurer, in line with the requirements set out in Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003, the estimates used for the purposes of calculating the budget, revenue and capital, had been produced in a robust and transparent way and the proposed financial reserves were consistent with Fire Authority policy, and were prudent and necessary. In the nature of FRS business, Members were reminded of the need to recognise that risks, financial and otherwise, and their consequent impact on the budget and reserves, may change during the year and would need to be continually reviewed and managed in line with the Fire Authority's own policy.

1.2.2 The Treasurer advised that whilst the Local Government Finance Settlement (LGFS), announced on 4 February 2013, had been slightly better than anticipated, the Authority would still have to find savings in the order of £3.5m by 2017/18.

1.2.3 The Fire Authority recognised that a risk existed in the estimates used for business rates income and noted that provision had been made in Reserves and Balances, and any adjustments to make up a deficit could be managed through these provisions without it affecting the detailed budget proposed.

1.2.4 The Treasurer advised that there remained significant uncertainty about funding after 2014/15 which was unlikely to be resolved until after the completion of Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) 2013. There was also a range of risks associated with the new funding regime which would need to be monitored and assessed during 2013/14. For these reasons, plans for 2014/15 onwards would need to be revisited later in the year.

1.2.5 At its meeting on 17 January 2013, the Fire Authority had approved the 2013/14 Committed Budget of £38.932m and related detailed provisions, fees and charges, etc. and the 2013/14 to 2017/18 Capital Programme.

- 1.2.6 Under the new funding arrangements, the provisional 2013/14 Finance Settlement included Revenue Support Grant of £10.195m; Retained Business rates (including top up) of £6.782m, Council Tax Transitional Support Grant of £0.092m and a further Council Tax Freeze Grant of £0.249m for two years if the Fire Authority accepted a nil increase in the precept for a further year.
- 1.2.7 Final figures on council tax base and council tax collection fund had enabled a Revenue Budget to be set at £39.079m, for council tax band D increases to be kept to £81.86 if this latest council tax freeze grant was accepted. Any additional surplus would be transferred into Reserves to be set aside to fund future spending pressures and proposals.
- 1.2.8 Members were advised that the collection fund was in surplus by £0.136m compared with the estimated net nil reported on 17 January 2013. It was proposed to transfer this one off collection fund surplus to Reserves to assist in funding future service pressures in 2013/14 or future years.
- 1.2.9 Members considered the shortfalls and levels of savings predicted to be required from 2013/14 to 2017/18 in the three options presented to them, i.e. a council tax freeze, an increase of 1% and an increase of 1.94%. The level of savings required would present significant challenges to the Fire Authority, and a Members' Seminar had been arranged for 25 February 2013 to consider the way forward for the Authority to address the future budget shortfalls. He urged that the Fire Authority should give early consideration to preparing a strategic approach to the budgets from 2015/16 to 2017/18 and beyond when the financial pressures faced by the Authority would be greater.
- 1.2.10 The Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive reminded Members that out of 24 Fire & Rescue Services across England, 15 were part of County Councils who set their budgets. The remaining Fire Authorities were either well placed larger authorities with greater opportunities to absorb budget pressures with possible increased income from a share of business rates, or smaller authorities who had been given greater flexibilities and grants. Representations had been made to the Minister to allow all Fire Authorities to raise their precepts by up to £5, but the Minister had allowed only those Authorities in the lower quartile to do this. East Sussex Fire Authority was middle-placed and had none of the advantages of a larger CFA or the financial grants provided to the smaller authorities.
- 1.2.11 He advised Members that there was a danger that ESFA could become isolated and asked Members to consider re-opening discussions with West Sussex County Council about a merger between East Sussex and West Sussex Fire & Rescue Services.
- 1.2.12 The Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive referred to the letter from Brandon Lewis M.P. regarding the Council Tax freeze grant. He recognised that there was a potential risk to the future funding for the Fire Authority should Members decide not to accept the freeze grant. The Treasurer re-iterated that the freeze grant would be paid for two years across 2013/14 – 2014/15. All other authorities across East Sussex were accepting the freeze grant, except Brighton & Hove City Council and Chichester. There still remained a significant level of Government grant in the funding settlement for ESFA.

1.2.13 Members debated the budget proposals and the implications of accepting the freeze grant, or increasing the council tax by 1% or by 1.94%.

1.2.14 The Fire Authority resolved that:

- i. the detailed recommendations set out in section 1.2 of the report be approved, i.e.
 - a. the final budget figures of £39.079m for 2013/14 a 2.38% reduction on the 2012/13 base budget of £40.030m;

Option A – Accept Council Tax Freeze Grant and do not increase Council Tax precept in 2013/14.			
	Revenue Budget Summary	2012/13	2013/14
Actual		Original Estimate	Original Estimate
£'000		£'000	£'000
(617)	Council Tax Freeze Grant (11/12)	(617)	0
	Council Tax Freeze Grant (12/13)	(743)	0
	Council Tax Freeze Grant (13/14)		(249)
	Council Tax Support Grant Transitional		(92)
(77)	Collection Fund Surplus (Surplus)	(21)	(136)
(24,674)	Council Tax Requirement	(24,764)	(21,625)
(25,368)	TOTAL COUNCIL TAX INCOME	(26,145)	(22,102)
(39,203)	TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS AND PRECEPTS	(40,030)	(39,079)
	Surplus (147,000 added to balances)		0

- b. To note that the final Council Tax Base for 2013/14 and the confirmed Collection Fund Surplus, which deliver a positive movement in available resources of £0.147m compared to that previously estimated which will be transferred direct to Reserves as part of the committed budget;
 - c. To note the previously approved Capital Programme payments for 2013/14 totalling £4.150m which have no related revenue consequences;
 - d. To note that as the Council Tax Freeze Grant has not been rejected in favour of a precept increase of up to 2%, it is not necessary to take decisions as to whether to support specific community safety initiatives for a limited period time; and
 - e. the Prudential Indicators set out in Appendix 2, be approved.
- ii. It be noted that the final tax base figures have been provided by the billing authorities and the Local Government Finance Settlement has been confirmed;
 - iii. It was moved by Councillor Thomas and seconded by Councillor Howson that East Sussex Fire Authority accepts the Council Tax Freeze grant in 2013/14 to achieve a nil change in precept.

In accordance with Standing Order 22.1, four Members having requested it, a recorded vote was taken on the motion to accept the government's Council Tax Freeze Grant, the result which was as follows:

For (9): Councillors Fawthrop, Howson, Kenward, Livings, Pidgeon, Theobald, Thomas, Tidy and Waite.

Against (9): Councillors Carden, Duncan, Healy, Heaps, Ost, Powell, Rufus, Scott and Sparks.

Abstentions (0).

There being an equality of votes, in accordance with Standing Order 22.3, the Chairman exercised his second casting vote. The motion was therefore carried.

- iv. **RESOLVED** - That in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992, the acceptance of the latest Council Tax Freeze Grant in 2013/14 to achieve a nil change in precept and the following be approved:
- a the amount calculated by East Sussex Fire Authority as its net budget requirement for the year 2013/14 is £39.079m; a decrease of 2.38% on the 2012/13 base budget of £40.030m;
 - b the amount calculated by East Sussex Fire Authority as its Council Tax Requirement for the year 2013/14 is £21.625m and the basic amount of its council tax (i.e. for a Band D property) for the year 2013/14 is £81.86 (based on final tax base figures), a nil increase on the 2012/13 figure of £81.86 to accord with the Government's further support to council taxpayers in view of the economic situation and commensurate grant support for a national freeze on council tax in 2013/14; and
 - c Brighton & Hove City Council and the borough and district councils (the billing authorities) be advised by the Treasurer of the relevant amounts payable and the council tax in the other bands, in line with the regulations and table set out below and to issue precepts accordingly;
- v. The Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive be authorised, after consultation with the Chairman and the Treasurer, to make adjustments to the presentation of the budget to reflect the final Local Government Finance Settlement, if required.

Council Tax Calculations
 East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service
 Precept for 2013/14
 ref S.43 Local Government Finance Act 1992

	£	£
NET BUDGET REQUIREMENT		39,078,800
Forecast Business Rates retained	2,230,654	
Top Up Grant	4,551,494	
Total Base Line Funding	6,782,148	
Add Revenue Support Grant	10,194,540	
Total Grant funding (excluding transitional/freeze grant)	16,976,688	
Council Tax Grant 13/14	249,029	
Council Tax Support Grant Transitional	91,867	
Previous Year's Surpluses/(Deficits)	135,809	
Total Council Tax Required		21,625,407
Tax Base	264,175.60	
Basic Council Tax (Band D equivalent)		81.86
Basic council tax as calculated above		£.p
Band A	6/9	54.57
Band B	7/9	63.67
Band C	8/9	72.76
Band D	9/9	81.86
Band E	11/9	100.05
Band F	13/9	118.24
Band G	15/9	136.43
Band H	18/9	163.72
Basic council tax as calculated above	Tax Base	Precept (£)
Brighton & Hove	79,781.90	6,530,946.33
Eastbourne	32,476.60	2,658,534.48
Hastings	23,319.00	1,908,893.34
Lewes	34,436.00	2,818,930.96
Rother	35,021.30	2,866,843.62
Wealden	59,140.80	4,841,265.89
		21,625,414.62

2. SUSSEX CONTROL CENTRE

- 2.1 The Fire Authority was advised on progress made with the Sussex Control Centre. Property issues were being finalised for the adaptations of Haywards Heath Fire Station. A contract for the new mobilising and control systems had been awarded to Remsdaq. Following control room staff training and preparation, the 'Go-Live' date was on schedule for 31 March 2014. West Sussex County Council had begun the TUPE process to transfer staff and ACO Rolph had formally written to WSF&RS on measures for the TUPE process. She had met regularly with control room staff at West Sussex, and the Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive and the Deputy Chief Fire Officer would be meeting with the relevant staff in May.

3. MEMBER ALLOWANCES – ANNUAL REVIEW

- 3.1 The Fire Authority considered a report on the allowances that should be paid to Members with effect from 1 April 2013. The current Member Allowance Scheme provides for allowances to be up-rated annually from 1 April based on the headline increase of the previous year's national pay award for LGS staff. There has been a nil pay award for LGS staff. The Fire Authority has agreed that there should be a nil increase in rates for Members Allowances for 2013/14.

4. PREPARATIONS FOR FUTURE DELIVERY OF FINANCIAL SERVICES FOR EAST SUSSEX FIRE AUTHORITY

4.1 Future Arrangements

- 4.1.1 The Fire Authority considered a report that set out the current position regarding the proposals to provide a range of financial services for the Fire Authority with effect from 1 April 2013, after the existing contracts expired on 31 March 2013. The Fire Authority resolved that following any further legal advice and satisfactory completion of terms, responsibility be delegated to the Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive, after consultation with the Chairman and the Treasurer, to approve the appropriate agreements for a range of financial services for East Sussex Fire Authority with effect from 1 April 2013.

4.2 Role of the Treasurer

- 4.2.1 The East Sussex Fire Service's Combination Scheme required the Authority to appoint a Treasurer, and Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 required every local authority to secure that one of their officers is responsible for the proper administration of their financial affairs. It was proposed that in the near future, the Authority would make its own direct appointment to the role of Treasurer and Section 151 Officer for a fixed period not exceeding 18 months. However, it was necessary to put in place interim arrangements until such time as the appointment was made. It was resolved that, as an interim measure, Mo Hemsley, East Sussex County Council's Assistant Director (Service Finance), be appointed to the position of Treasurer to the Fire Authority and Section 151 Officer.

COUNCILLOR JOHN LIVINGS
CHAIRMAN OF EAST SUSSEX FIRE AUTHORITY
12 March 2013