



ADUR & WORTHING
COUNCILS

Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee
30 November 2023

Key Decision [No]

Ward(s) Affected:N/A

Interview with Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner and Local Police Commander

Report by the Director for Sustainability and Resources

Executive Summary

1. Purpose

1.1 This report provides some background and guidance to assist the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JOSC) in interviewing Katy Bourne, Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and Chief Inspector, Sarah Leadbeater, Sussex Police District Commander for Adur, Horsham and Worthing on local Police and crime issues covered within their remits. The remit for the PCC is set out in paragraph 4.2 of this report.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That the Committee consider any representations from the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Inspector on the local Police and crime issues affecting Adur and Worthing and any other issues within their remits and question them on these issues and make any recommendations or comments to them for consideration.

3. Context and purpose of Scrutiny

- 3.1 As part of its current Work Programme for 2023/24, JOSC requested that the Sussex PCC and local Police Commander attend JOSC in order that they can be questioned on local policing matters which have affected Adur and Worthing and also to question the Commissioner on her work in holding Sussex Police to account and the strategic direction and priorities for Sussex Police. The Commissioner and previous Commander last attended JOSC at its meeting on 7 February 2019 - see link to minutes here [JOSC meeting on 7/2/19](#)

4. Issues for consideration

- 4.1 JOSC has the opportunity to interview the PCC and local Police Commander.

- 4.2 The Sussex PCC was re-elected in May 2021 and as part of her role she is responsible for:-

- Holding to account the Chief Constable of Sussex Police for the performance of the police force which makes the Police answerable to the communities which they serve and to ensure that the Police focus on local priorities;
- Setting the strategic direction and priorities for Sussex Police through the Police and Crime Plan;
- Setting the Police budget (approximately £361 million) and local Police precept - The amount local residents pay for policing in their Council Tax;
- A Statutory duty to commission support services to victims of crime and to deliver community safety initiatives including restorative justice and crime reduction grants.

- 4.3 In consultation with the Chief Constable and residents of Sussex, the PCC has published a [Police and Crime Plan](#) which sets out the strategic policing direction for Sussex with objectives for how policing services will be delivered in Sussex up to 2024. The aims and objectives of the Plan have been carefully developed to ensure that they accurately reflect the policing, crime and community safety issues which local people and businesses say are important to them. The current Police and Crime Plan has identified four key policing and crime objectives:-

- Public Priority 1 – Strengthen policing, tackle crime, prevent harm and anti-social behaviour
- Public Priority 2 – Relentless disruption of serious and organised crime

- Public Priority 3 – Support and safeguard victims and tackle violence against women and girls

5. Engagement and Communication

5.1 The JOSCS Chairs, the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner, the Local Police Commander and relevant Officers have all been consulted on this report.

6. Financial implications

6.1 There are no direct financial implications relating to this report.

Finance Officer: Emma Thomas

Date: 17/11/23

7. Legal Implications

7.1 Under Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council has the power to do anything to facilitate or which is conducive or incidental to the discharge of any of their functions.

7.2 Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 provides a Local Authority to do anything that individuals generally may do (subject to any current restrictions or limitations prescribed in existing legislation).

Legal Officer: Joanne Lee

Date:17/11/2023

Background Papers

Information referenced in the report

Officer Contact Details:-

Mark Lowe

Scrutiny and Risk Officer

Tel: 01903 221009

mark.lowe@adur-worthing.gov.uk

Sustainability & Risk Assessment

1. Economic

There is a correlation between economic development and growth being improved with lower rates of crime and improved policing whereas there is a correlation between economic downturn if there are higher rates of crime or reduced policing.

2. Social

2.1 Social Value

Effective policing, low level crime rates and the delivery of the Police and Crime Plan will help achieve social value.

|

2.2 Equality Issues

Matter considered and no issues identified.

2.3 Community Safety Issues (Section 17)

The remit of the Police and Crime Commissioner is set out in Paragraph 4.2 of this report and the Commissioner is responsible for monitoring the performance of the Police. The Police and Crime Plan sets out to strengthen policing and reduce crime.

2.4 Human Rights Issues

Matter considered and no issues identified.

3. Environmental

Matter considered and no issues identified.

4. Governance

Matter considered. JOSC can request the Commissioner and Police Commander to attend its meetings to ask them questions on matters relating to community safety.