

**ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL
COUNCILLOR FEEDBACK REPORT FROM OUTSIDE BODIES**

Report to Overview Select Committee – 22 October 2019

Name of Meeting:	Sussex Police & Crime Panel
Date of Meeting:	27 September 2019
Report by:	Councillor Mrs Gill Yeates – The Council's nominated representative
Relevant Cabinet Member:	Councillor Mrs Yeates - Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing

This is the second meeting of the Police and Crime Panel which I have attended now and I have also had a training day in the interim.

The main agenda item was to review the legal agreement which supports the South East Regional Integration Partnership (SERIP) between Sussex, Surrey, Hampshire and Thames Valley. The Panel felt that the agreement, which is lengthy and detailed, covered the structure and procedures well. However, we were asked to consider how, if at all, the Sussex Panel could hold the Chief Constables of the other Forces to account for cross-border initiatives.

One example given is that Sussex armed Police receive used weapons from Thames Valley and this initiative is Thames-led so cannot be directly scrutinised by the Sussex Panel. Another is that Police vehicles are fitted out and maintained in Sussex but managed by Surrey.

The Commissioner assured us that she meets with the Commissioners for the other three Forces and that this mechanism for scrutiny works. The Panel were advised that the law does not provide for any form of joint working of Police and Crime Panels.

There was a quick update to the 101-telephone service. A 'queue buster' option is now offered for the caller to be called back rather than waiting. In July, there were 34,000 calls with an average waiting time of 8 minutes.

The Member representing Chichester District Council raised a question regarding the closure of the Chichester custody suite last year as to whether this represented good value for money as it had been financed originally by a PFI (Public Finance Initiative) which still has about 12 years left to run on a 30-year contract. The Commissioner was unable to comment as this arrangement was put in place before the creation of her post. She did state that it was 'mothballed' and could reopen if required. The Hastings one has just been modernised and she invited the Panel to visit. This leaves our nearest one as being Worthing.

I asked whether the Commissioner had discussed with the Chief Constable as to whether higher priority could be given to speeding when the Force was up to full strength in the light of the Dept for Transport statistics showing the percentage of vehicles exceeding various limits. The answer was that it is considered a priority and the Commissioner went on to say that the day before had been the annual Project Edward day which is working towards zero road deaths in Europe.

Only half of the Panel has so far visited Gatwick Airport as one of the dates was deferred to November and it will, therefore, be discussed at the next Panel.