

PERFORMANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY MEETING

DATE: 18 January 2019

LOCATION: East Sussex County Council, County Hall, Lewes

PRESENT: Police & Crime Commissioner – Katy Bourne (KB)
Chief Executive Officer – Mark Streater (MS)
Chief Constable – Giles York (GY)
Deputy Chief Constable – Jo Shiner (JS)
Digital Content Officer – Sammi Carwardine
Executive Support Manager – Gina Wheatley
Head of Performance – Graham Kane (minutes)

OPERATION TREBOR – DRONE DISRUPTION AT GATWICK AIRPORT

The disruption at London Gatwick Airport in December impacted on thousands of travellers and saw well-rehearsed plans around Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), more commonly known as drones, tested to their fullest.

A. What is the latest position in respect of the policing operation?

B. Are you confident that Sussex Police has effective contingency plans in place and the capability and capacity to respond to any further drone disruption at the Airport?

C. What are the lessons and learning that the Force will take from this incident?

GY confirmed that Operation Trebor is the Sussex Police response to the deliberate and sustained act of criminal drone activity at London Gatwick Airport that was designed to disrupt airport operations in December 2018.

The nature and impact of this criminal act was both challenging and unprecedented on a global scale. Sussex Police, Gatwick Airport Limited (GAL), the Government and the military responded quickly and robustly to mitigate the immediate risk to life and to return airport operations to stability.

This was a serious criminal offence and Sussex Police is carrying out a thorough and comprehensive investigation, using national assets and the support and expertise from other agencies, to bring to justice the person, or persons, responsible.

The Force approach involved three strands: Prevention; Response and Investigation.

Prevention – Prior to December 2018, the Force had comprehensive and tested plans in place to mitigate the threat from UAVs. These plans were developed and tested with key partners, including the Centre for Protection of National Infrastructure (CPNI), as recently as October 2018;

Response – This included the immediate activation and scaling-up of the drone response plan, with extra police officers deployed to patrol the area to locate the drone and its operator(s). It was emphasised that more than 800 additional shifts were worked as part of the physical policing response; and

Investigation – A dedicated and experienced Senior Investigating Officer (SIO) led the investigation from the outset. Immediate appeals for information and intelligence were made to local communities and interest groups, supported by a £50,000 reward offered by GAL, through Crimestoppers (0800 555 111), for any information that identifies the person, or persons, responsible. It was highlighted that more than 1,000 houses were visited as part of extensive house-to-house enquiries, together with physical searches to 25 sites relevant to potential drone sightings.

The Chief Constable is confident that the Force has tried and tested plans in place to respond to any further UAV disruption at the Airport. Sussex Police and partners have already enhanced the contingency plans in place and have shared these with other airports across the country which has been well received. The national capability to respond to any further attacks has been strengthened as a result of this criminal act.

The key lessons and learning that the Force took from Operation Trebor will be captured through a structured internal review and an evaluation report, with independent assistance from the College of Policing. Any operational learning will be shared with other police force areas and national partner agencies. The final report is expected to be available by the end of February 2019. The Chief Constable made a commitment to transparency and agreed to make as much of the final report available in the public domain as possible. KB requested a copy of the finished report.

It was also emphasised that GAL has implemented new measures, including the purchase of anti-drone equipment, to assess the risk from further drone disruption and to minimise the risk to public safety for members of the public using the Airport. Further clarification was provided that, whilst any threat assessment will be carried out jointly by Sussex Police and GAL, any decision to shut the runway has to be taken by the Airport.

The ongoing criminal investigation comprises of three strands: developing community intelligence; technology and forensics. GY also confirmed that Sussex Police did not disclose the identities of the couple arrested in connection with the UAV disruption at Gatwick Airport. Sussex Police were satisfied that there were reasonable grounds to arrest the couple and that their arrest was both lawful and necessary. It was critical to conduct all possible lines of enquiry whilst the couple remained in police custody and it is because of this process that the Force was able to eliminate the couple from their enquiries at the point they were released.

The Commissioner concluded by reading an extract from a letter received from the Secretary of State, as follows: "The Government takes drone incidents seriously and, as such, has planned a national round-table meeting for the near future. This meeting will involve Chief Executive Officers from UK airports, the drone industry, and a range of Government departments including the Home Office, Ministry of Defence, Department for Transport (DfT), CPNI, National Air Traffic Services and the Civil Aviation Authority. The Home Office is also actively seeking a representative from the police forces to participate. The meeting will focus on what happened at Gatwick, other airport counter-drone mitigations, commercial counter-drone capabilities and future response.

In addition, CPNI plan to organise an airport drone incursion rehearsal, likely to be scheduled for early this year. Alongside that, the DfT Aviation Security Team will set up a Drone Security Action Group. The date of the first meeting is yet to be decided. Police representatives will be welcome to take part in both of these activities, and we look forward to working with you in future.

*The Government published its response to the consultation **Taking Flight: The Future of Drones in the UK** on 7 January 2019, which outlines some of the steps the Government will be taking to help prevent future similar incidents."*

ACTION: KB requested a copy of the finished Operation Trebor evaluation report.

POLICING COASTAL BORDERS

The media recently reported that almost 100 migrants attempted to cross the Channel from France over the Christmas period using small boats and dinghies to reach the coastline. This rising number was declared a “major incident” by the Home Secretary and remains a particular concern to me because of the number of ports, harbours and marinas along the Sussex coast.

A. What assurances can you provide me that Sussex Police are well positioned to respond to any potential threat along Sussex coastline?

B. Are you concerned that the capacity of the UK Border Force will make Sussex an easier target for human trafficking and people smuggling?

C. How is Sussex Police supporting Project Kraken to increase public reporting of unusual or suspicious activity near the coastline and strengthen the general maritime industry’s response to these threats?

GY provided KB with assurances that Sussex Police is working closely with the UK Border Force, HM Coastguard, Home Office and National Crime Agency (NCA) to respond to any potential threat to the borders of Sussex from air, land or sea.

In particular, the Force has specific plans in place to respond to any potential threat to the ports, harbours, marinas and beaches along the 137 miles of coastline in Sussex – from Chichester Harbour to Camber Sands. The Chief Constable confirmed that the Force has undertaken training, in partnership with the UK Border Force, to understand better the challenges of dealing with criminality and vulnerable individuals simultaneously.

It was, however, emphasised that the prospect of migrants attempting to land on a beach in Sussex is unlikely because the distance from France is almost twice as far as it is to the beaches in Kent. The prevailing winds and currents also make this a more difficult option. This position is ratified further by the confirmation that there have been no reports of this type of landing on any of the beaches in Sussex in the past year.

Project Kraken is a joint initiative delivered by the UK Border Force, NCA and police force areas which aims to increase public reporting of unusual or suspicious activity near the coastline and strengthen the general maritime industry’s response to these threats. The role of Sussex Police is to support the above referenced partners to tackle the threat posed by organised crime groups.

It was emphasised that reporting channels have been simplified to make it easier for people across the country who live or work near the coastline and waterways, or who take part in water-based activities, to contact either the police through the 101 non-emergency telephone number or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111. Sussex Police has a plan in place to refresh Project Kraken in the coming months, including an internal and external awareness raising campaign.

The Chief Constable explained that there had been three intelligence reports made to Project Kraken in the last three weeks that resulted in a coordinated and joint response from the agencies. GY is confident that individuals are aware of the need to report any unusual or suspicious activity to Sussex Police and that the Force is able to respond to these reports effectively, in partnership with a number of different agencies. It was, however, recognised that on each of these occasions there was no evidence of criminality taking place.

OPERATION DRAGONFLY – CHRISTMAS DRINK-AND-DRUG-DRIVE CAMPAIGN 2018 – RESULTS

As discussed at last month's PAM, 'Operation Dragonfly', the dedicated Sussex Police drink-and-drug-drive campaign, took place in December 2018.

A. Can you provide me with the total number of drivers who were breathalysed or tested for substances and subsequently arrested for drink-or-drug-driving offences?

B. What other initiatives does the Force have planned to target the 'fatal four': excessive speed, not wearing a seatbelt, using mobile phones when driving and drink-and-drug-driving throughout the rest of the calendar year?

JS confirmed that between 1 December and 31 December 2018, Sussex Police made more than 240 arrests for drink-and-drug-driving offences in Sussex as part of Operation Dragonfly.

Over the month of December, Sussex Police stopped and breathalysed over 612 motorists, of which 147 individuals were arrested for drink-driving. This failure rate of 24% was consistent with the average failure and refusal rates in previous years. Over the same period, increases were recorded in both the number of individuals who were stopped and tested for substances, using the drug-wipe test, and the number of individuals who were arrested for drug-driving after providing positive readings. In particular, it was emphasised that almost 50% of those who were arrested for drug-driving were under the age of 25 years old. This has highlighted the potential requirement for a targeted campaign in the future.

It was also reported that four individuals were tragically killed on the roads of Sussex during the month of December, although none of these were as a direct result of drink-and-drug-driving. The Deputy Chief Constable remains confident that the Force is using all available powers proportionately in order to protect those using the roads responsibly in Sussex.

Members of the public with specific concerns about individuals they suspect of drink-or-drug-driving were again encouraged to report these to Sussex Police. This can be done by text to 65999, through Operation Crackdown (www.operationcrackdown.co.uk), by email to contactcentre@sussex.pnn.police.uk or via the Sussex Police website (www.sussex.police.uk). Individuals can also contact the independent charity Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111. If it is known that someone is drink-or-drug-driving, members of the public should call 999 immediately.

The Deputy Chief Constable confirmed that over 100 reports were received from members of the public over the course of the campaign. This was acknowledged to be a positive number and highlighted that it is starting to become socially unacceptable to drink-and-drug-drive.

The Force has a number of local campaigns and initiatives planned to target each of the 'fatal four' throughout 2019. This includes support for the full calendar of campaigns scheduled by the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) throughout the calendar year.

POLICE OFFICER AND PCSO RECRUITMENT UPDATE

Last year, I was given public support to increase the policing part of the Council Tax for 2018/19. I was pleased to be able to use the additional funding raised by the precept uplift and the use of reserves to open the recruitment process for police officers and PCSOs to modernise and strengthen local policing in Sussex.

A. At October's PAM, it was highlighted that more than 150 new police officers and staff had already started with Sussex Police, with a total of 220 officers anticipated to be in Force by the end of 2019. Can you provide me with a progress update with regards to this recruitment?

B. I'm pleased to note that some of these individuals have completed their classroom-based training and are now visible on the streets of Sussex. Are you able to confirm where and in which teams these individuals been posted in throughout Sussex?

JS confirmed that a total of 148 police officers had been recruited to Sussex Police across four separate intakes in 2018/19 to date, with a further intake of 72 officers scheduled to commence their classroom-based training in March 2019. The Force has also taken on 50 experienced transferees from other police force areas in England and Wales, including the Deputy Chief Constable herself, which will result in a total of 270 additional officers in post before 31 March 2019.

*The Force is also planning to recruit a further 168 officers across 2019/20, including the first set of entrants under the **Police Constable Degree Apprenticeship** (PCDA) scheme. It was highlighted that Sussex Police will be opening up recruitment again for police officers in spring 2019 but that no date has yet been decided.*

The Chief Constable concluded by encouraging anyone interested in becoming a police officer to join the Force as a member of police staff. This is because it is recognised that a number of individuals become involved in policing as police staff before following the career path to become officers in the future. Further information about the current vacancies within Sussex Police is available [here](#).

The Deputy Chief Constable confirmed that the Response teams in Brighton & Hove, East Sussex and West Sussex will each receive 10, 21 and 58 of these police officers, respectively, now that they have each achieved Independent Patrol (IP). A further 13 individuals are still working locally towards achieving their IP, before 11 of these officers will join Brighton & Hove Division, and the other two individuals shared between East Sussex Division and West Sussex Division.

In addition, there are 38 police officers who are currently in the process of completing their 15 week classroom-based training, before they will be posted as follows: 12 to Brighton & Hove, 12 to East Sussex and 14 to West Sussex. It was emphasised that the Force looks closely at the establishment and strength before any decisions are taken as to where and in which teams these individuals will be posted into throughout Sussex.

*It is also worth noting that five individuals recruited through the **Police Now** – National Graduate Leadership Programme – have been posted to the Prevention teams as follows: One to East Sussex Division and four to West Sussex Division. Three new recruits have left the organisation too.*

PROPOSED PRECEPT INCREASE 2019/20

Over the past few months, I have been consulting with members of the public to find out whether local taxpayers would be prepared to pay more to support policing in Sussex. I will be taking my considerations to the Sussex Police & Crime Panel on Friday, 1 February 2019.

A. What work has been undertaken to develop a business case that sets out the rationale for additional investment in Sussex Police?

B. If received, can you confirm where and in what areas any additional investment raised through the precept would be invested in Sussex?

GY began by acknowledging that the Force understands what it means to local taxpayers to increase the policing element of the Council Tax. The police grant settlement, announced in December 2018, confirmed that up to £509 million could be added to police funding by enabling Police & Crime Commissioners to increase the policing precept by up to £24 for a Band D equivalent property. It was emphasised that this could make a "really significant difference" to local policing in Sussex.

The Chief Constable confirmed that significant work had been undertaken by the Force to develop a business case which sets out the emerging priority areas and the rationale for requiring this additional investment in 2019/20 and beyond. Sussex Police has also undertaken a piece of work to look at what members of the public are saying to the Commissioner and the Force about where they would like to see a difference in the policing services provided locally.

*The **Sussex Police 2018/22 Transformation Strategy** is a four-year plan to grow and improve the organisation that was launched in April 2018. The Strategy set out how the Force will use the additional funding provided by the Police & Crime Commissioner in 2018/19 to: strengthen local policing; improve ways for the public to make contact with the Force and further modernise the service to meet new and increasingly complex demands.*

It was highlighted that the areas currently set out in Strategy still remain accurate and that any additional investment raised through the precept in 2019/20 would continue to be invested in these areas. The Chief Constable concluded by reiterating a previous commitment that "any money raised locally, will be spent locally".