

# Policing Matters

A newsletter for stakeholders

Issue 05 – May 2010

## Welcome to the fifth edition of Policing Matters, a joint publication from Kent Police and the Kent Police Authority.

The aim is to keep you updated with news from both organisations. This edition includes the announcement of a new Chief Constable for Kent, Ian Learmonth, information about the Safer Kent Awards, the single non-emergency number for Kent Police and news about Kent's collaboration with Essex.

**Adrian Leppard**  
Chief Constable

**Ann Barnes**  
Chair of Kent Police Authority



## Collaboration

The Collaboration Programme between Kent and Essex Police has gathered pace since both forces agreed in April 2007 to 'full collaboration on Operational Functions and Support Services, whilst maintaining operational independence'.

To date £8m of new savings has been identified through collaboration but efficiencies are only part of the picture. Collaboration is about delivering the highest possible quality service to the communities of Kent and Essex.

Two current projects involve the formation of a Serious Crime Directorate with more than 1,100 personnel and the joining together of both IT departments.

Kent and Essex are already sharing resources through a series of formal agreements in areas including Major Crime, Specialist Search, and Firearms Intervention. Other progress includes sharing the use of the Essex Police Helicopter; developing a Joint Marine Unit; and setting up a single unit to procure goods and services.

## Single non-emergency number

**01622 690690** is now the **single non-emergency** number for Kent Police across the county.

All local station numbers ending in 055 will be discontinued.

Adopting a single non-emergency number will make it easier for members of the public to contact Kent Police and to avoid confusion about which number non-emergency number to use. No other Kent Police telephone numbers or direct dial numbers to individual officers, teams, departments or members of staff will be affected by this change. Nor will neighbourhood policing team numbers change.

Single non-emergency number

**01622 690690**

Call **999** if a crime is in progress or life is in danger

Use this number for non-urgent crime reporting, incidents of anti-social behaviour and general enquiries

## Force Contact and Control Centre

This is the new name for our Force Communications Centre from **1 June 2010**. The new name encompasses the two core elements of work that the centre undertakes. Chief Superintendent Alan Horton: 'We are so much more than a communications centre – our call takers are the first point of contact for the public and our officers and staff are also in charge of the deployment of resources.'

The service that the **Force Contact and Control Centre** provides to both the public and Kent Police employees will remain the same.



**Kent  
Police**

**Protecting and serving  
the people of Kent**



## New Chief Constable appointed

Kent Police Authority has appointed Ian Learmonth as the new Chief Constable of Kent Police.

Ian Learmonth, aged 52 from Ellingham, Norfolk, is Deputy Chief Constable for Norfolk Police. Ian has been a serving police officer since 1976 and has served at two other UK police forces before joining Norfolk Constabulary.

He began his career at Essex Police and spent 28 years in various roles including being posted to Stanstead Airport. After a 28-year career with Essex Police, Ian joined Strathclyde Police in May 2005.

In his role as Assistant Chief Constable he had responsibility for support services, roads policing, emergencies planning and most of the major projects on operational policing.

Ian was one of four candidates vying for the post. The other three candidates were:

- Giles York, Deputy Chief Constable for Sussex Police
- Simon Ash, Chief Constable of Suffolk Police
- Alfred Hitchcock, Deputy Chief Constable of the National College of Police Leadership and National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA).

The shortlisted candidates faced an intense two-day interview process (19, 20 May) including a media interview and describing how they would deal with a topical police scenario. This was then followed by a formal interview with the panel scoring each candidate.

Talks will now begin with Norfolk Police Authority and it is hoped that Ian Learmonth will start in post in early July.



The new Chief Constable, Ian Learmonth and the Kent Police Authority Chair, Ann Barnes

## We listened and set new police targets

This year's Policing Plan features the priorities you told us you wanted to see the police doing.

Following your feedback we now have targets for a more visible police presence, a commitment to visit all victims of crime, or repeat incidents or vulnerable victims of anti-social behaviour.

We're also looking at cutting red tape. To read a full version of the targets set for the force check out [www.kentpoliceauthority.gov.uk](http://www.kentpoliceauthority.gov.uk) A public friendly version of the Policing Plan newspaper will be delivered to households in July.



## Your chance to make a nomination

Do you know someone who has made a difference in your neighbourhood? Helped improve your quality of life? The Safer Kent Awards celebrates outstanding work by individuals or groups who work with the public.

You can put forward those that are making a difference to where you live – such as Police Community Support Officers, volunteers in the police service, Community Wardens, Special Constables, Neighbourhood Watch, and young people – they can all be nominated for their efforts.

Closing date for entries is the **1 July 2010**. You can fill in a nomination form online at [www.kentpoliceauthority.gov.uk](http://www.kentpoliceauthority.gov.uk)



Kent Police Authority would like to thank the following companies for their donations.

- The co-operative [www.co-operative.coop/membership](http://www.co-operative.coop/membership)
- Kent Peoples Trust [www.kentpeoplestrust.org.uk/](http://www.kentpeoplestrust.org.uk/)
- Kier South East [www.kier.co.uk](http://www.kier.co.uk)
- mhs Homes [www.mhshomes.co.uk](http://www.mhshomes.co.uk)
- Veolia Environmental Services [www.veolia.co.uk](http://www.veolia.co.uk)

### Contact Kent Police:

Kent Police Headquarters, Sutton Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 9BZ

For non-urgent enquiries please call **01622 690690** or email: [enquiries@kent.pnn.police.uk](mailto:enquiries@kent.pnn.police.uk)  
[www.kent.police.uk](http://www.kent.police.uk)

### Contact the Kent Police Authority:

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**Mark Gilmartin** Chief Executive

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