



**MINUTES of
Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting as the
CRIME AND DISORDER COMMITTEE
21 APRIL 2010**

PRESENT

Chairman	Councillor R C Laurie
Vice Chairman	Councillor A J Cussen
Councillors	A R Cheshire, R Pratt, N R Pudney, Mrs A N Warr and D N Williams
Substitute Member	Councillor B E Harker

839. APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTION NOTICE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor R G Boyce CC. In accordance with notice duly given, Councillor B E Harker was attending as a substitute for Councillor Boyce.

840. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 7 October 2009 be approved and confirmed.

841. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were received.

**842. MALDON DISTRICT COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP ACTIVITY
2009 / 2010**

The Committee received and noted the report of the Head of Leisure and Liveability that provided an update on the Maldon District Community Safety Partnership activity up to 31 March 2010.

It was reported that Maldon had the fourth lowest figures in its family group for the level of crime for the period December 2009 to February 2010, equating to 7.33 crimes per 1,000 residents. Appendix A to the report detailed the actions successfully completed, together with those which had been withdrawn through lack of resources or where it had been decided the action was not required. A reduction of funding had seen the loss of the Alcohol Harm Reduction Officer in March 2010. Further reductions in funding reported were;

- 50% cut to the capital fund to the Safer & Stronger Communities Fund Capital Grants, equating to £9,900 to the Maldon District; and
- The Police Authority had confirmed that the Crime Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) had withdrawn their second Homes grant.

In the last quarter, successful recruitment of a Community Safety Partnership Officer had occurred and the Anti-social behaviour Co-ordinator and Community Initiatives Officers had extended their contracts until 31 March 2011. In addition the Policing and Crime Bill had also received Royal Assent, and from April 2010 will extend the CDRP's remit to include 'Reducing Re-offending'.

The Committee asked questions in relation to the 50% cut to the capital fund and the definition of 'Second Homes Grant'. In response the Partnership Manager of Community Safety & Local Strategic Partnership advised that the Safer & Stronger Communities Fund (SSCF) Capital Grant was not provided by the Council but provided by Local Area Agreement via Safer Essex. Representation had been made to Safer Essex seeking clarification on why significant cuts had been made but they had advised that the reduction in funding was beyond their control. In previous years, staff had been funded by the SSCF and other funding streams sought by Officers because the community safety budget provided by the Council had always been small. A contingency fund had been built up over the years but due to the significant cuts now being made to funding, was being used to support expenditure for 2010 / 11. The Officer added that approval had twice been obtained from Safer Essex in the last two previous years to spend capital funding on revenue items. The Officer advised that she was not aware of where the terminology came from with regards to the 'Second Homes Grant' and suggested that the Committee receive at its next meeting, a copy of the financial report that also goes to the Responsible Authorities Group (RAG) so as to see the funds available. This was agreed by Members and asked to be included on the agenda for the next meeting of the Committee.

Looking at Appendix A to the report, clarification was sought regarding two 'Improvement Outcome' actions that had not been completed. The Officer advised that based on analysis of statistics it had been concluded that 'knife crime' was not a problem in the District and acting on it might unnecessarily raise the fear of crime, while 'marine crime incidents' related to the whole Essex coast and the Police Marine Unit were now content that they had the resources required.

Furthermore, it was asked how the Council monitored its CCTV cameras in place around the district and if the covert CCTV van was still in operation. It was advised that the covert van was still being successfully used around the district. The monitoring of the cameras was dealt with by the Head of Leisure and Liveability and the Parks department by way of a laptop. In addition, there would soon be cameras in King Street, Maldon following a spate of incidents in that road and would be monitored by Essex Police.

The Committee noted the contents of the report.

843. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

To resolve that under Section 100A (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 Paragraph 7 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act, and that this satisfies the public interest test.

844. DRAFT COPY OF STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT 2010 / 2011

The Committee received and noted the report of the Head of Leisure and Liveability that provided an outline draft copy of the Strategic Assessment for the Maldon District Community Safety Partnership, to be approved by the Responsible Authorities Group Strategy.

It was reported that the Strategic Assessment was a restricted document produced for key members of the Statutory Agents, required to be produced by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (Review 2007). The document outlined actions that addressed issues affecting the District.

The Chairman thanked the Officer for the informative information she had provided and wished her well in her future career.

845. ANY OTHER ITEMS OF BUSINESS

Before the close of the meeting the Chairman thanked Members their forbearance during an interesting year of meetings. He thanked everyone for their contributions and highlighted some subjects that would be included in the workplan for the next municipal year;

- Staff Survey;
- Complaints Procedure; and
- District Nursing.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.26pm.

R C LAURIE
CHAIRMAN

This page has been purposely left blank