



**MINUTES of  
Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting as the  
CRIME AND DISORDER COMMITTEE  
12 OCTOBER 2011**

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**PRESENT**

Chairman	Councillor A J Cussen
Vice Chairman	Councillor N R Pudney
Councillors	F A Delderfield, A Fluker, D G Horner, Miss M R Lewis and M J Wood
In attendance	Councillors H M Bass, M Heard, R H G Porter and Mrs M Thompson

**366. APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor R P Dewick.

**367. MINUTES**

The Chairman advised that in respect of the resolution requesting that a letter be sent to Essex Police regarding Neighbourhood Action Panels, he had asked for an update via email to Members as to whether this letter had been sent or not. This was noted.

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 9 March 2011 be approved and confirmed.

**368. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor A Fluker declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest in Agenda Item No. 4 as he rented property to the Essex Police Authority.

Councillor Miss M R Lewis joined the meeting at this point.

**369. UPDATE REPORT ON THE PROGRESS OF THE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP AND ADOPTION OF THE VICTIM-OFFENDER-LOCATION MODEL, IMPACT OF THE POLICING REVIEW, NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION PANEL REVIEW AND INTRODUCTION OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONERS**

The Committee received and noted the report of the Head of Community and Leisure Services detailing progress of activities undertaken by the Community Safety

Partnership (CSP) and the planned change of working practice under the Victim-Offender-Location model. The report also outlined the likely impact of the recent Policing review, Neighbourhood Action Panels (NAPs) review and the introduction of Police and Crime Commissioners.

The report provided information regarding the CSP and the work undertaken following a joint independent peer review with Chelmsford CSP in October 2010. The Community Safety Partnership Manager advised that this was a period of transition for the CSP and there were a number of activities which affected the partnership, along with the Police, Fire and Primary Care Trust. Members noted the new and shared posts which were in place to assist the CSP.

The report provided information on the following areas detailed in the report.

**Progress of Activities:**

The Responsible Authorities Group (RAG) had approved the strategic assessment, partnership plan and funding to support four key priorities which were outlined in the report. The work done by the CSP to make itself more accessible was highlighted and the Community Safety Partnership Manager showed Members a number of leaflets and publications which had been produced to assist.

As a result of the Government's Counter-terrorism Strategy, training had been agreed for retailers and staff to promote the awareness of security threats from terrorism, based on 'Project Argus' (a scenario based interaction DVD).

The Prevent Strategy had been reviewed and following recommendations from this review relating to preventing violent extremism Officers were looking to carry out further work with the two secondary schools in the District in conjunction with the Essex Police Community Engagement Team.

The Community Safety Partnership Manager reported that there was now an expectation for the CSP to undertake domestic homicide reviews. The report advised that Officers would be attending a training session on these reviews and further information would be provided once this had taken place. In response to a question regarding domestic homicide reviews, the Community Safety Partnership Manager advised that this would involve looking back at lessons learnt as well as what involvement other agencies had with a particular family and making recommendations on what could be done in the future to improve things. It was hoped that Essex County Council would be taking a lead on this but this had yet to be confirmed. Members were advised that there was a statutory duty to report to the Home Office within 28 days of a homicide occurring.

Councillor Miss M R Lewis apologised for being late and advised that she had just returned from attending the National Youth Building Awards and provided the Committee with an update on the awards, in particular those relating to the Local Youth Building project.

**The Victim-Offender-Location (VOL) Model:**

This model had been adopted by a number of CSPs and highlighted as good practice by both Local Government Improvement & Development and the Home Office. Officers outlined that a change to this model had been approved by the Responsible

Authorities Group. Implementation would reduce the number of meetings per annum and allow Officers to dedicate more resources to targeted intervention to address emerging trends. A consultation event with CSPs had been organised for 21 October 2011 where terms of references, key priorities and initial scoping would be discussed.

**Essex Police Review (Essex Police Policing):**

The document “The Future of Operating Police in Essex” had been produced following a review of all aspects of policing in Essex and was attached as Appendix 1 to the report. The main change to the Maldon District would be the introduction of borderless policing and the reduction of Local Policing Areas. The report outlined the changes to Local Policing Areas and how these would be further split into District Policing Areas.

The Community Safety Partnership Manager advised that as part of these changes it was hoped that the Neighbourhood Policing teams would be extracted less than that which occurred at the moment. He outlined how there would be response hubs in Dunmow and South Woodham Ferrers and in response to questions provided Members with further details. Members noted that these plans were still at a very early stage and it was hoped more detailed information would be available for the next meeting of this Committee.

In response to a question regarding a Member of the Police attending meetings of this Committee, the Community Safety Partnership Manager explained that the Police would normally attend the March meeting to provide a yearly update but he was happy to speak to the District Commander about attending all meetings.

Members were reminded of a tour of the Dengie peninsular with Essex Police which had been organised for the following day. The Community Safety Partnership Manager outlined the purpose of this visit and the perceived lack of policing in the Dengie. He confirmed that areas such as Tollesbury would also be highlighted.

**Essex Police Review of Neighbourhood Action Panels (NAPs):**

The report provided a background to NAPs and highlighted the results and recommendations of a recent review which had been carried out to look at the effectiveness of the meetings. Members noted that the NAPs had now been renamed Neighbourhood Meetings following recommendations arising from the review.

The Community Safety Partnership Manager reported that the CSP would continue to organise Neighbourhood Meetings until the implementation plan was introduced.

Councillor F A Delderfield reported that he regularly attended his local Neighbourhood Meetings and reported on the poor turnout, highlighting that there was little public interest. He felt that the activities of such a meeting should be dealt with by the Parish Councils and therefore reduce the risk of duplication and the need for additional meetings. Councillor D G Horner referred to an Area Planning meeting of another Council which he had attended and how Police issues were discussed first and felt this which should be considered for Maldon.

Councillor Miss M R Lewis referred to the last meeting of this Committee where NAPs had been discussed at great length. She requested that another letter be sent to

Essex Police advising that the Council had noted the update from the review but still felt that the way forward would be to drop NAPs. This was agreed. Other Members made reference to the NAPs being badly advertised, ill attended and a waste of resources. Following further discussions the Community Safety Partnership Manager advised that he would put forward the views of the Committee.

**Policing and Crime Commissioners:**

It was noted that in November 2012 Police Authorities would be abolished and Essex along with 40 other force areas would be replaced with a Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC). The role and responsibilities of the PCC were outlined in the report.

Members were advised that the introduction of a PCC would have a major impact on the function of the Police and CSPs in terms of funding. The Community Safety Partnership Manager reported how it was imperative for the CSP to be presented as an efficient and effective partnership to maximise funding opportunities. He explained how this would be a big period of transition.

In response to a question regarding the cost implications of the proposed election of the commissioners, the Community Safety Partnership Manager advised that it was his understanding that the Home Office would be meeting any costs.

In response to a question regarding automatic number plate recognition the Community Safety Partnership Manager provided Members with some further information and a discussion on this and cameras ensued.

The Chairman thanked the Community Safety Partnership Manager for his presentation.

**RESOLVED**

- (i) that a further letter be sent to Essex Police regarding Neighbour Action Panels and how this Council feels the way forward would be to drop them;
- (ii) that the progress of the activities of the Community Safety Partnership and planned change of working practice undertaken by the adoption of the Victim-Offender-Location Model and the update on the Essex Police Review, Review of Neighbourhood Action Panels and the Police and Crime Commissioners be noted.

There being no other items of business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8:37pm.

A J CUSSEN  
CHAIRMAN