



**MINUTES of
Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting as the
CRIME AND DISORDER COMMITTEE
24 OCTOBER 2012**

PRESENT

Chairman	Councillor A J Cussen
Councillors	M F L Durham, R P Dewick, A Fluker, Miss M R Lewis and Mrs M Thompson
In attendance	Councillors H M Bass and S J Savage

509. APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor N R Pudney.

510. MINUTES

RESOLVED

- (i) that the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 14 March 2012 be received.

Minute No. 782 - Annual Policing Update

Councillor S J Savage asked whether the Neighbourhood Action Panels had been reviewed at this time. The Community Safety Partnership Manager informed the Committee that this review had been completed and approved by the Community Services Committee earlier in the year.

RESOLVED

- (ii) that the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 14 March 2012 be approved and confirmed.

511. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

Councillor M F L Durham declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item No. 4 as the Member representative for the Community Safety Partnership.

The Chairman advised the Committee of a slight change in the order of business in terms of the receiving of presentations.

512. MALDON DISTRICT COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

The Committee received a presentation from the Community Safety Partnership Manager in connection with the main report on the Maldon District Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Update. The following significant points were noted:

- There had been a lot of changes during the past year, including general funding for community safety teams being reduced across Essex. More changes were due to take place in November with the introduction of Police Crime Commissioners.
- These changes were part of the new landscape the CSP were working on, involving more victim led recompense and a greater focus on joint commission in the Local Policing Area.
- The Victim Group and an Offender Group in Chelmsford and Maldon were to be merged into single groups, as the same people attended each, although the Location Groups would stay the same. This change will result in savings.
- The CSP had a 100% success rate for project based funding bids, raising £130,000 in the Chelmsford and Maldon areas. These successful projects included an Alcohol Outreach project, Accident and Emergency Data Sharing, Brickhouse Farm Day of Action and Crucial Crew. Similar projects had been lined up for the future.
- It is expected that the new Police Crime Commissioner will set a Budget in February 2013. To fit in with this timescale Maldon CSP will need to identify its priorities and carry out its strategic assessment by the end of this year.

513. ANNUAL POLICING UPDATE

The Committee then received a verbal update from Inspector Chris Kilgallen of Essex Police who was in charge of neighbourhood policing in Maldon and South Woodham Ferrers.

It was noted that the crime reduction figure for this year was ahead of target at 2.9%. There had been reductions in the level of Criminal Damage and Anti-Social Behaviour. Although the amount of Domestic Burglaries had increased, no “hot-spots” had been located and after the detection of the one main perpetrator, this trend had ceased.

In response to questions asked by a Member, Inspector Kilgallen stated that acquisitive theft may have increased for a number of reasons, including tightening of recording methods, the economic downturn or the increase in the price of metal. It was further noted that the proportion of crime related to drug and alcohol use was not recorded.

It was reported that the target detection for the Essex Police Force of 28% was not being met within neighbourhood policing, which was currently at a 20.89% detection rate. It was hoped that this may be improved with an upcoming restructure. Inspector Kilgallen also reported a 17.5% decrease in Anti-Social Behaviour in the Maldon

District, which she believed was a genuine reduction in such behaviour, rather than a lack of reporting it.

A Member raised the point that the response rate of the Police in the more rural areas was incredibly slow. Several Members also stated that they were unimpressed with the fact that when local residents had called the 101 number for non-emergencies, they were directed to an answer phone machine. The Committee impressed the point that there seemed to be a communication problem between the police and the local residents.

Discussion was had regarding the Neighbourhood Action Panels (NAP's). A Member stated that they were disappointed with the functioning of the Maldon NAP since they were reviewed and would like the meetings to return to the form they had previously taken. The Community Safety Partnership Manager suggested that any problems Councillors encountered with the NAP's should be raised with him.

A Member expressed their unhappiness with the casual nature of the Community Police's involvement with the NAP's and Parish Councils. It was suggested that specific visits from the Community Police should be scheduled in a couple of times a year. In response, Inspector Kilgallen stated that community engagement was a challenge as residents were often less keen to discuss matters that weren't a personal burning issue. It was stated that Community Officers could be asked to attend Parish Meetings and such appearance would be known in advance. It was suggested by Members that a paper update could be circulated to the Parishes.

514. MALDON DISTRICT COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

The Committee received and noted the report of the Head of Community and Leisure Services detailing the process of activities undertaken by the Community Safety Partnership and the impact of the election of the Police and Crime Commissioner in November 2012.

It was raised by a Member that there was no customs or audit control involved in the Drug and Alcohol Team even though Maldon had an extensive Coastline. The Community Safety Partnership Manager stated he would investigate.

In response to questions raised Inspector Kilgallen suggested that many of the Police Officers working in the area did not see the Police Crime Commissioner Elections as relevant to them and the impact of such would only really be known a year or more into the elected Commissioners term. She also stated that at the moment, before the scheduled restructure, there would be three Neighbourhood Officers on duty per shift.

RESOLVED that the progress on the delivery plan for 2011 / 12, the success of the new working arrangements, the timescales for the election of the Police and Crime Commissioner by November 2012 and proposed changes for tackling anti-social behaviour are noted.

There being no other items of business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8:59pm.

A J CUSSEN
CHAIRMAN

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