



**MINUTES of
Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting as the
CRIME AND DISORDER COMMITTEE
9 OCTOBER 2013**

PRESENT

Chairman	Councillor A J Cussen
Vice Chairman	Councillor R P F Dewick
Councillors	M F L Durham, A S Fluker, M S Heard, Miss M R Lewis and Mrs M Thompson
Substitute Member	Councillor P G L Elliott
In attendance	Councillor S J Savage

452. APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTION NOTICE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor N R Pudney and in accordance with notice duly given Councillor P G L Elliott was attending as a substitute for Councillor Pudney.

453. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 13 March 2013 be approved and confirmed.

454. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Councillor A S Fluker declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item No. 5 as he rented property to the Essex Police Authority.

Councillor M S Heard declared a pecuniary interest in Agenda Item No. 5 as he was employed by the Essex Police Crime Commissioner.

Councillor S J Savage declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item No. 5 as he was the Council's substitute on the Police Commissioner Panel.

455. HALF YEAR REVIEW OF MALDON DISTRICT COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

The Committee received a presentation from the Community Safety Partnership Manager and the Community Safety Projects Officer on the Maldon District Community Safety Partnership (CSP). The following significant points were noted:

- Priorities for 2013 were to maintain/reduce existing low levels of crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB); reduce the harm caused by alcohol and drug misuse; protect vulnerable persons including victims of crime and domestic violence and serious acquisitive crime.
- These priorities linked with the Maldon District Council (MDC) service pledges which aimed to ensure the community felt safe from crime and ASB. The CSP were attending meetings with the Ranger service in order to establish clearer and more effective links. The CSP priorities also linked into the Public Health issues which are centred on alcohol and drug misuse, binge drinking, smoking cessation, health and wellbeing and the needs of an aging population.
- Following the introduction of a Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) a Police and Crime Plan had been developed and published with community engagement and public consultation being a key area. Events had been held in Maldon and Burnham-on-Crouch with the PCC. Members were advised of the grants awarded to continue the work of the CSP and in particular that Maldon was one of the areas to gain funding from the new Initiatives fund.
- The CSP worked with Essex Police and it was noted that the shared District Policing Area was working well and provided a good use of resources. It was noted that accredited staff met regularly with the Police. A community messaging scheme funded by the PCC and proceeds of crime scheme is to be introduced across the whole of Essex and would provide an alert system across the whole of the County.
- The Community Safety Partnership Manager outlined the funding schemes and risks identified for 2014 and the joint working being undertaken with Chelmsford City Council which provided greater resilience. Through increasing the reputation of the CSP it was hoped that additional funding streams would be identified.
- It was hoped that new powers and tools in respect of ASB would be available from April 2014, although the bill is currently having its third reading at parliament before gaining Royal assent.
- A more robust approach was being taken to ASB and a community trigger introduced which would help with addressing issues and involve a closer relationship with the Council's Environmental Health team as the new powers will have responsibility for dangerous dogs.
- The introduction of the Scrap Metal Dealers Act from 1 October 2013 meant that all scrap metal dealers now had to be licensed with the aim of helping to reduce metal theft.

- The Community Safety Projects Officer advised that community engagement had again been a key focus with Officer's attending Neighbourhood Action Panels, co-operative working with Neighbourhood and Farm Watch groups as well as holding events and working with local groups and schools.
- The Projects Officer highlighted several of the events organised by the CSP with local groups which included the continuation of Crucial Crew workshops for Year 6 students across the District which had seen an increase in students compared to previous years. Education workshops had been held and included the Reality Roadshow and Stay Safe This Summer.
- The CSP was working to raise awareness and understand public perceptions of crime in the area. The Team had attended a number of local events carrying out public perception surveys and handing out leaflets to raise awareness.
- The diversionary joint event between the CSP and other partners held over Halloween aimed at the elderly and 13 – 16 year olds had proven very popular and was being run again this year. The fish and chip supper (for the elderly) was already fully booked. The Partnership Manager outlined how the success of this project and other similar events were measured.
- A number of diversionary activities had been organised and had proven very successful. Some of these projects through their popularity took place on a regular basis and were now self-funding, for example the freerun event with Team Traceur and Mayland Boxing Club.
- Details were provided regarding the new Keep Safe project in conjunction with Maldon Pioneers whereby shops in Maldon High Street became designated 'Safe Havens' for vulnerable adults. This initiative assisted in meeting the CSP's priority of protecting vulnerable persons. The project had recently been expanded to Heybridge and Officers were in discussion to roll the scheme out in Burnham-on-Crouch. The Park Rangers had also signed up to the scheme and offered a mobile safe haven. In response to a question the Partnership Manager provided details of how these projects were measured in respect of making communities feeling safe. It was suggested that Officers liaise with the Council's Economic Development Manager who may be able to promote the project through the Think Local Group she organises. In respect of expanding the project to Burnham-on-Crouch it was suggested that the Team speak to Burnham-on-Crouch Town Council.

At this point, the Committee were introduced to Detective Chief Inspector (DCI) Louise Beattie, who was covering as DCI for the North Local Policing Area.

Members were advised that the integrated offender management system was in place and working towards reducing reoffending. A cohort classification scheme had been introduced which together with case management worked to identify the options available for each offender and the correct pathway. DCI Beattie provided detailed information regarding the cohort system, the classifications of offenders as either red, amber, green and blue and the work undertaken to help get Offenders off the lifestyle choice they had made.

In response to a question DCI Beattie advised that burglary other offences (i.e. anything other than a dwelling burglary) had seen a decrease year on year. Analysis

of data showed a trend in more rural crime, for example shed and allotment crimes. In response to a further question regarding thefts from hairdressers in Maldon High Street, DCI Beattie advised that she would review the data in respect of these thefts.

The Chairman thanked the Officers for their presentation.

456. HALF YEAR REVIEW OF OPERATIONAL POLICING FOR THE MALDON DISTRICT 2013 / 14

The Committee received a presentation from Detective Chief Inspector Louise Beattie. DCI Beattie outlined the current structure arrangements in place at Essex Police and how these related to the Maldon District. The following significant points were noted:

- The All Crime detection rate was 16.0% which was 11% down on the same period last year. It was noted that this was a local figure and not the detection rate for Essex. The All Crime solved rate was 23.08%; the solved rate figures included neighbourhood resolutions which did not involve prosecutions. There had been a 6.5% reduction in Anti-Social Behaviour compared with the previous year.
- The presentation highlighted the areas of good performance which included a reduction in offences relating to vehicle crime, shoplifting and criminal damage but an increase in the solved rate for domestic burglary and serious sexual crime. The area of shoplifting was highlighted as an area for improvement and DCI Beattie stressed how compared with other similar sized areas the Maldon District was looking really good. In response to a question the Committee were advised that an increase in technical influences such as forensics had assisted with the improved performance.
- The performance update noted that the All Crime figure showed a 10.4% decrease on last year. Theft from motor vehicle crimes were down on last years' figures. Members were advised of an operation launched in January 2013 following identification of trend in offences relating to motor vehicles and how since its operation the offences had stopped and not returned. Offences relating to Theft of Motor Vehicles had increased and DCI Beattie provided the Committee with some details of these. There was a trend around 4 x 4 and van theft and the Police were working with Farm Watch in relation to this.

Members were advised that in comparison with all Districts and Sub-Districts Maldon was the lowest in relation to crime figures etc. For the last four years Maldon was the only District in the County that had a year on year decrease in dwelling burglary offences. Members felt that this was a piece of good news and that the Police should do more to publicise such impressive results. DCI Beattie agreed with these comments, advising how the Police were not good at promoting themselves. In response to a suggestion that the Police could work with the Communications teams both at the CSP and District Council, DCI Beattie advised that she would discuss this further with the CSP Partnership Manager.

In response to further debate, DCI Beattie reiterated that the biggest battle they faced was the fear of crime. She explained how crime reduction was measured and the importance for all matters to be reported to the Police.

It was noted that there were two Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras in use around the District. In response to a request for a static ANPR on the Lower Burnham Road, the Partnership Manager advised that this had been raised at a recent meeting and the desire to have two static cameras in two areas. There were budget provisions relating to this which would have to be addressed, perhaps through a partnership between organisations.

The Chairman thanked the Detective Chief Inspector Beattie for her presentation.

There being no other items of business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.25pm.

A J CUSSEN
CHAIRMAN

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