



**MINUTES of
Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting as the
CRIME AND DISORDER COMMITTEE
12 MARCH 2014**

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, N R Pudney and Mrs M Thompson
In attendance	Councillors P G L Elliott, R Pratt and S J Savage

889. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None received.

890. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 9 October 2013 be approved and confirmed.

891. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Councillor S J Savage declared a non-pecuniary interest a member of the Police Commissioner Panel.

Councillor A S Fluker declared a non-pecuniary interest as he rented property to the Essex Police Authority.

Councillor M S Heard declared a non-¹pecuniary interest as he was currently employed by the Essex Police Crime Commissioner until the end of March 2014.

892. OPERATIONAL POLICING FOR THE MALDON DISTRICT

The Committee received a presentation from Chief Inspector (CI) Ronnie Egan, District Commander, Essex Police. CI Egan outlined the current position on crime for the Maldon District. The information was provided:

¹ Minute No. 489 refers

- Crime offence: Maldon had seen an all crime offence reduction of 12.9% (254 offences) from 1 April 2013 to the 31 January 2014 when compared to the same period for the previous year. In response to a question raised, Chief Inspector Ronnie Egan remarked that she believed this reduction was attributed to good partnership working with other authorities and organisations, with lots of pro-active work having taken place.
- Crime Solved: With an all crime solved rate of 23.35%, Maldon was 2.3% better than the same period for the previous year.
- Anti-Social Behaviour: The Maldon District had an 8.7% reduction in Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) which equated to 102 incidents compared to the same period for the previous year.
- Areas of Good Performance included other burglary, vehicle crime and racially aggravated crime.
- Areas for improvement in terms of ‘solved rate’ included ‘other burglary’ and ‘robbery’. A Member provided details of a burglary involving a resident in his Ward and the service provided by Essex Police. In response CI Egan confirmed that there were improvements to be made but that a Police Officer should always follow up a burglary with a second visit to the related premises.
- Offenders: A brief update was provided on the work Essex Police carried out regarding offenders and youth offenders.

The Committee was informed of the work Essex Police was undertaking as part of the Evolve Programme set up to transform the way Essex Police Operated. CI Egan reported on the impact the programme had made to the visibility of the Police and its involvement with the local community.

In response to comments Members were advised of the ongoing work Essex Police was undertaking with organisers of local events to identify the needs in respect of Policing presence and resources.

At this point, Councillor R Pratt declared a non-pecuniary interest as he was a member of the Burnham-on-Crouch Carnival Committee.

Some concerns were raised in respect of the levels of speeding vehicles on local roads, particularly around the Dengie peninsular and in response CI Egan advised that she would raise the matter with the Casualty Reduction Team based at South Woodham Ferrers. In addition the Police would seek to work with local communities in respect of the SpeedWatch initiative.

In response to a question regarding the recently introduced 101 service, CI Egan reported that all calls were monitored and targets measured. She agreed to provide a detailed breakdown of the figures relating to this for the next meeting of the Committee.

Concern was raised regarding the decision to disband the marine section at Burnham-on-Crouch. CI Egan assured Members that Essex Police would continue to work with other agencies that could assist if information was reported to the police regarding criminal activity on the water.

Following a Member request, CI Egan confirmed she would provide figures for drug offences, seizures and warrants issues at the next meeting of the Committee.

The Chairman thanked the Chief Inspector Egan for her presentation.

893. ESSEX POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

The Chairman introduced Mr Nick Alston CBE, Essex Police and Crime Commissioner. In a change to the agenda, the Chairman confirmed that this would be a question and answer session rather than a presentation.

Mr Alston congratulated CI Egan and her team on the crime figures for this area, advising Members that Essex Police website provided a breakdown of these by Ward. He provided a detailed update on various aspects of the work being undertaken by Essex Police, this included:

- Policing crime plan;
- Crime Prosecution Service;
- Low solve rate for crime;
- Savings resulting from the Evolve Programme and its impact on local policing;
- Mental health work;
- Road safety;
- Working with other forces across the country.

A lengthy discussion ensued and Mr Alston provided the Committee with additional information regarding the work of Essex Police including:

- Young Offenders, drivers and drugs: In response to a question regarding the figures relating to young offenders, young drivers and drugs Mr Alston advised of restrictions in place relating to persons under the age of 18 but how the Police were working with partner organisations to reduce levels.
- Burnham-on-Crouch Marine Unit: Further comments were made regarding the marine unit at Burnham-on-Crouch and Mr Alston provided reasoning behind the proposed closure advising that the Chief Constable would review this in light of any future increase in marine crime. It was noted that some of the Officers from the marine unit would be transferring to the Southminster station therefore ensuring that any local knowledge would be retained, where possible.
- Assistance with Planning Enforcement: A Member commented on enforcement notices currently outstanding as they were awaiting police assistance. In response Mr Alston advised that attendance by the Police in respect to an enforcement matter would be dealt with in terms of priority but that he would look into any specific cases if provided with relevant details.
- Drugs: In response to a question Mr Alston outlined the work being undertaken by Essex Police and agreed to provide figures relating to this to a future meeting of the Committee.

The Chairman thanked Mr Alston for attending the meeting and the information he had provided.

894. ANNUAL REVIEW OF MALDON DISTRICT COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

The Committee received a presentation from the Community Safety Manager and the Community Safety Projects Officer on the Maldon District Community Safety Partnership (CSP). Members were advised of staff training that had taken place throughout the year and details of the Independent Advisory Group and Community Engagement were provided.

In response to a question raised regarding the role of the Community Safety Team, the Community Safety Manager provided Members with information on the Team and provided specific examples of projects and outcomes it had achieved. A Member at this point referred to the excellent work of the team.

Councillor N R Pudney left the meeting at this point.

The following significant points were noted:

- Priorities for 2014 / 15 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 priorities also linked into the Public Health issues which were centred on health and wellbeing, alcohol and drug misuse, smoking cessation, the needs of an aging population and building a cohesive community.
- The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Bill was due Royal Assent by Spring 2014 with it due to be introduced in Autumn 2014. The Officer explained the impacts of the new bill and its potential benefits.
- Information on the Independent Advisory Group (IAG) for Maldon and Chelmsford and Community Engagement was provided. The CSP Projects Officer advised that community engagement had again been a key focus with Officers attending local events such as the Burnham-on-Crouch Carnival and the Blackwater Country Show.
- The Community Safety Projects Officer highlighted the results from a recent public questionnaire seeking to identify public perceptions, fear of crime and community cohesion. The results indicated that ASB, burglary and vehicle crime were areas of the highest concern.
- Members were reminded of the CSPs role and how it commissioned work and developed initiatives. He gave an example of the free running project at Burnham-on-Crouch which had developed into a substantial project which engaged around 50 children each week. A Member also made reference to the boxing project underway in Mayland and the 'Safe Havens' set up in Maldon High Street for vulnerable persons.
- The Projects Officer highlighted several of the events organised by the CSP with local groups including the continuation of Crucial Crew workshops for Year 6 students across the District, the Reality Road show aimed at Year 10

students, assemblies for Years 8 to 11 during an alcohol awareness week and specific diversionary events held over Halloween aimed at the elderly and youths and regular events held for youths.

- An Educational Reality Roadshow was taking place at Ormiston Rivers Academy during March 2014, which reached out to 120 year 9 students.
- Examples of literature available from the CSP was highlighted
- Details were provided regarding the Keep Safe project in conjunction with Maldon Pioneers whereby shops in the High Street would become designated 'Safe Havens' for vulnerable adults. This initiative would assist in meeting the CSP's priority of protecting vulnerable persons.

In response to a question raised, the Community Safety Manager provided details of alcohol commissioning and how the Maldon District had not previously not benefitted from funding from Essex County Council to tackle the issue. He explained that this matter would be considered by the Health and Wellbeing Group.

The Chairman thanked the Officers for their presentation.

895. KING STREET, MALDON – CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISIONS (CCTV) INSTALLATION UPDATE

The Committee received the report of the Head of Community and Leisure Services providing details of progress on the installation of the new CCTV equipment to cover King Street and surrounding environs.

The report provided a background into the installation of a CCTV system by the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and Maldon District Council at King Street, Maldon in 2010. The primary purpose of the CCTV system was to act as a deterrent to criminal activity, which has reduced significantly in the area since 2010.

The Head of Community and Leisure Services advised that he was waiting for confirmation from British Telecom (BT) that they had completed their works to enable the CCTV images to be accessed remotely.

In response to a question raised, the Head of Community and Leisure Services provided further details regarding procurement of the cameras and that the only Officer time involved related to the Council's internal Information Technology (IT) Officers downloading and passing the CCTV images to the Police.

Councillor R Pratt left the Chamber at this point.

The Community Safety Manager confirmed that he was not aware of any prosecutions from criminal activity in the King Street area and in response to a question regarding the quality of pictures provided details of the camera specified and how if necessary enhanced lighting could be installed.

In response to a request from Members, the Community Safety Manager advised that he hoped to relay some live images to the Committee at its next meeting. He further added that he would prepare a final progress report for noting.

RESOLVED

- (i) that the progress on the installation of CCTV at King Street, Maldon be noted.
- (ii) that a final report on the progress of CCTV at King Street, Maldon be brought to the Crime and Disorder Committee at its meeting on 8 October 2014.

There being no other items of business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 10:20pm.

A J CUSSEN
CHAIRMAN