



**MINUTES of
Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting as the
CRIME AND DISORDER COMMITTEE
31 MARCH 2015**

PRESENT

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

948. CHAIRMAN'S NOTICES

The Chairman drew attention to the list of notices published on the back of the agenda.

949. APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor M S Heard.

950. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 8 October 2014 be approved and confirmed.

951. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

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

Councillor A S Fluker declared in the interest of openness and transparency that he rented property to the Essex Police Authority.

952. OPERATIONAL POLICING FOR THE MALDON DISTRICT

The Chairman confirmed to the Committee that he was allowing a member of public, Mrs Staines to address the Committee following Chief Inspector (CI) Alan Cook's presentation.

The Committee received a presentation from Chief Inspector (CI) Alan Cook, District Commander, Essex Police. CI Cook started by providing background information to his service with Essex Police. The current position on crime for the Maldon District was outlined and Members were advised that the Maldon District had one of the lowest crime rates in Essex.

The following information was provided:

- Crime offence: Maldon had seen an all crime offence increase of 12.25% from 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015 when compared to the same period for the previous year. In response to questions CI Cook provided Members with information regarding the increase, highlighting how the recorded increase in robbery actually related to an incredibly small number of incidents.
- Crime Solved: It was noted that with an all crime solved rate of 22.77%, Maldon was 0.5% worse than the same period for the previous year.
- Anti-Social Behaviour: The Maldon District had a 7.0% reduction in Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) compared to the same period for the previous year.
- Dengie peninsular: CI Cook reported that the installation of Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras on the Dengie with funding from Magnox (Bradwell Power Station) was imminent.
- Resourcing: A new five shift system of a sergeant and three officers was being implemented to provide 24/7 policing. This was an increase in officers to the previous arrangements.

Following CI Cook's presentation Mrs Staines addressed the Committee. Mrs Staines outlined concerns regarding the lack of Police Stations open in her local area following an incident whereby it was necessary for her to report the details.

Councillor A S Fluker added that there seemed to be inconsistencies with the information regarding opening hours of Police Stations on the Essex Police website. In response, CI Cook acknowledged that he was aware of these issues and would address these.

Concern was raised regarding speeding vehicles through rural areas and how it was felt that a police presence at parish council meetings may help to instil public confidence. In response, CI Cook commented that whilst the ruling was introduced last year whereby officers were told not to routinely attend parish council meetings he encouraged officers to go if they had the capacity to do so.

In response to a point raised, CI Cook confirmed that he would look into why there was a shortage of officers to train volunteers on Community Speed Watch.

CI Cook confirmed that he would be tasking Police Community Support Officer's (PCSO's) with specific tasks in an attempt to make them more visible to local areas.

The Chairman proposed that the Committee write to the Police and Crime Commissioner regarding the policing levels in the Maldon District. This was duly seconded.

The Chairman thanked Chief Inspector Cook for his presentation.

RESOLVED that the Committee write to the Police and Crime Commissioner outlining concerns in respect of the policing levels in the District.

953. THE ROTHERHAM REPORT AND CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

The Committee received a presentation from the Community Safety Partnership Manager on Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE). The report outlined the signs of CSE and how this related to child vulnerability.

The presentation provided information regarding an Independent Enquiry commissioned by Rotherham Borough Council and gave details of the findings. The Community Safety Partnership Manager drew Members' attention to the lessons learnt and requirements as part of Local Authority Licensing.

It was noted that across Essex work against CSE had been strengthened through introduction of a PAN Essex database, better information sharing, a reporting process for drivers. In addition a Taxi and Community Safety Booklet sought to provide a guide in respect of community safety in the District.

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

954. MALDON DISTRICT COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

The Committee received a presentation from the Community Safety Partnership Manager on the Maldon District Community Safety Partnership (CSP).

The presentation and report highlighted the following information:

- CSP Priorities for 2015 / 16 were to maintain / reduce existing low levels of crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB); tackle alcohol and drug misuse, protect vulnerable people and reduce serious acquisitive crime. A copy of the strategic assessment was attached as Appendix 1 to the report and focussed on the CSP priorities. Members were advised that Maldon remained one of the safest Districts in the county and a copy of the most recent Essex Police strategic management performance data was attached as Appendix 2.
- Victim-Offender-Location – The report provided an update in respect of each of Partnership Sub-Groups and it was noted that Sub-Groups continued to meet on a regular basis.

It was noted that good progress was being made on the 2014 / 15 delivery plan and the shared working arrangements between Maldon and Chelmsford continued to drive forward efficiency changes. The Maldon CSP continued to remain efficient and responsive to emerging issues.

The report and presentation provided details of the Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), Crime and Policing Act 2014 which became effective on 20 October 2014 and introduced simpler, more effective powers to tackle anti-social behaviour that provided better protection for victims and communities.

Members noted a number of areas where the Partnership had responded to public concern and the work undertaken in respect of these.

It was noted that the CSP had developed a good working relationship with the office of the Essex Police and Crime Commissioner and details of the ongoing work and recent public meetings were set out in the report.

The Community Safety Partnership Manager advised the Committee that the date of the PCC public meeting referred to under paragraph 2.1.4 of the report had changed to 24 June 2015. He added that the format of the meetings had changed and there was an opportunity for a one to one meeting with the Police Crime Commissioner before commencement of the meeting itself.

Councillor A S Fluker declared an interest in Crucial Crew in the interest of openness and transparency as he was a trustee of Stow Maries Aerodrome.

In response to a point raised, the Community Safety Partnership Manager confirmed that work was underway in respect of the use of 'legal highs'. The Director of Customers and Community further added that following a recent meeting of the locality board, the matter has been taken on board and at the next meeting it will be discussed with education providers.

The Chairman thanked the Officer for his presentation.

RESOLVED the progress on the delivery plan for 2014 / 15 and the success of the initiatives undertaken by the partnership, be noted.

955. A414 UNDERPASS SAFETY MEASURES

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Customers and Community advising Members of a petition received relating to improved safety measures near the Mill Lane A414 underpass.

The report provided background information regarding the Mill Lane A414 underpass, including details of serious sexual incidents which occurred in June 2014 and January 2015. In response, a multi-agency group assessment of the site had been undertaken and recommendations made based on environmental design and crime prevention measures. A copy of the assessment was attached as Appendix 1 to the report. The Community Safety Partnership Manager had also met the lead person leading the public call for action to ensure that local views were taken into action.

Members noted that the Director of Customers and Community had written to Essex County Council requesting that they take action to make the land safe in accordance with their duty under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The report provided details of the response received. This matter was discussed by the Maldon Highways Panel and in response it had agreed to endorse £5,000 expenditure on a lighting scheme to make the area safer, although the on-going maintenance of the lighting had not been agreed.

Positive comments were provided by Members in respect of the way this matter had been dealt with by the authorities and public involved.

It was felt that the lessons learnt from this incident be communicated to the Planning Department for them to take into consideration when assessing strategic developments as good urban design could contribute towards the alleviation and reduction of crime.

Councillor A S Fluker asked for a special mention of thanks go to Miss Kelly Sanger who led the public call on this matter and worked with the Council to address concerns.

RESOLVED

- (i) that the contents of this report be noted;
- (ii) that this matter be communicated to the Planning Department in order for it to be taken into consideration during the consideration of major strategic developments.

Prior to closing the meeting, the Chairman gave thanks to the Director of Customers and Community and the Community Safety Partnership Manager on their work and support over the last municipal year. He also thanked Chief Inspector Cook and his colleagues who had attend the Committee over the past year, and also the Community Safety Development Officer and Committee Clerks for their assistance.

There being no other items of business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9:46pm.

A J CUSSEN
CHAIRMAN

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