



**REPORT of
ESSEX POLICE REVIEW TASK AND FINISH WORKING GROUP**

**to
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING AS THE CRIME AND
DISORDER COMMITTEE (SPECIAL MEETING)
18 NOVEMBER 2015**

ESSEX POLICE REVIEW

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To update Members on work undertaken by the Essex Police Review Task and Finish Group (EPRTFWG).

2. AREA FOR DECISION / ACTION

2.1 Background

2.1.1 At the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny meeting acting as the Crime and Disorder Committee on the 7 October 2015 it was decided to form a working group to consider the implications of the recently announced Essex Police Review (Minute No. 475 refers).

2.1.2 The EPRTFWG has met on two occasions (13 October and 2 November) and notes of these meetings can be found at **APPENDIX 1**.

2.1.3 The EPRTFWG reviewed the documentation provided by the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and Chief Constable relating to the review of Policing in Essex announced on 6 October 2015. Copies of the documentation can be found at **APPENDIX 2**.

2.1.4 The background to the review is the need to change the way Policing is provided within Essex. Changes are needed to address emerging priorities, work more efficiently and reduce spending significantly.

2.2 Implications for the Maldon District

2.2.1 The implications for the Maldon District as a result of the proposed changes to Policing include the closure of the Southminster Police Station, revisions to opening hours of the Maldon Police Station and a reduction from 31 Police Community Support Officer (PCSOs) posts within the Chelmsford and Maldon Policing division to 7.

2.2.2 Other changes proposed include a new community Policing team for Maldon and Chelmsford would be made up of a local policing and partnerships inspector, two

sergeants, ten constables, one dedicated youth officer who will join the remaining seven PCSOs.

- 2.2.3 The EPRTFWG also inspected the Maldon and Essex Performance Summary to September 2015. The documentation details recorded crime and includes details of detection rates for the Maldon District to set the context against which to consider the impact of the proposed changes. Copies of the Performance Summaries are attached at **APPENDIX 3**.

2.3 Scrutiny of Decisions taken by the PCC and Chief Constable

- 2.3.1 To allow thorough scrutiny of the decisions announced by the PCC and the Chief Constable the Chairman of the EPRTFWG (Councillor A S Fluker) has written to the Home Office, the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable inviting senior representative attendance at the special meeting of the Crime and Disorder Committee (18 November). A former Member of the Police Authority has also been invited to the meeting.
- 2.3.2 The EPRTFWG has considered a number of themes to explore with the attending representatives and these can be found at **APPENDIX 4**. The questions are designed to understand the thinking behind the decision to make changes to policing within the district as outlined within this report.

3. IMPACT ON CORPORATE GOALS

- 3.1 These priorities contribute to the Council's Corporate Goal of "Helping communities to be safe, active and healthy"

4. IMPLICATIONS

- (i) **Impact on Customers** – The Maldon District is rural in nature and consists of a number of isolated communities especially within the Dengie peninsular. The reduction of visible policing remains a concern locally and the impact of the proposed changes are yet to be understood.
- (ii) **Impact on Equalities** – None.
- (iii) **Impact on Risk** – None.
- (iv) **Impact on Resources (financial)** – Members should note that the Council makes a significant financial contribution to the Community Safety Partnership. The impact of the proposed changes in the workload of the Council is yet to be understood.
- (v) **Impact on Resources (human)** – As above.
- (vi) **Impact on the Environment** – None.

5. CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1** The EPRTFWG has carefully considered the proposed changes to Policing within Essex and recommends the Crime and Disorder Committee scrutinises the decisions made by the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable to understand the impact upon residents and business within the Maldon District.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- (i)** that Members note the background work undertaken by the EPRTFWG in preparation for the scrutiny scheduled for 18 November;
- (ii)** that Members undertake a scrutiny of decisions taken by the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable based upon the themes identified by the working group and report resulting conclusions and make recommendations to the Council.

Background Papers: None.

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