



**MINUTES of
Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting as the
CRIME AND DISORDER COMMITTEE
7 OCTOBER 2015**

PRESENT

Chairman	Councillor A S Fluker
Vice-Chairman	Councillor S J Savage
Councillors	E L Bamford, H M Bass, Mrs P A Channer CC, R P F Dewick and M S Heard
In attendance	Councillors B S Beale MBE and R Pratt

466. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chairman welcomed Chief Inspector Alan Cook, District Commander from Essex Police to the meeting.

467. APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor M W Helm.

468. MINUTES

RESOLVED

- (i) that the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 11 March 2015 be received

Minute 951 – Disclosure of Interests

Councillor Mrs P A Channer advised that although she was not present at this meeting she was the Council's representative on the Crime and Police Panel and Councillor S J Savage her substitute.

Minute 952 – Operational Policing for the Maldon District

In response to a question as to whether the Council had written to the Police and Crime Commissioner as per the resolution, the Director of Customers and Community advised that he would check this and advise Members accordingly.

RESOLVED

- (ii) that the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 11 March 2015 be confirmed.

469. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Councillor Mrs P A Channer declared a non-pecuniary interest as an Essex County Councillor and advised that in the interest of openness and transparency she was the Council's representative on the Police and Crime Panel.

Councillor S J Savage declared a non-pecuniary interest as he represented the Council on the Essex Police Crime Commissioners Crime Panel and was sometimes a substitute.

Councillor M S Heard declared a pecuniary but non-prejudicial interest as since April 2014 he was employed by Essex Police.

At this point the Chairman advised that he was going to raise an urgent item of business which would deal with the statements made the previous day by the Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable of Essex Police.

Councillor S J Savage declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 7 – Urgent Business as he had been present at the Commissioner's office when the briefing of these proposals and presentation took place. He advised that at that time the information had been confidential.

Councillor Mrs P A Channer declared the same interest as Councillor Savage, advising however that she had been unable to attend the meeting with the PCC but was aware that the Director of Customers and Community was in attendance.

470. OPERATIONAL POLICING FOR THE MALDON DISTRICT

Councillor B S Beale joined the meeting during this item of business.

The Committee received a presentation from Chief Inspector (CI) Alan Cook, District Commander, Essex Police. CI Cook started by providing background information on his service with Essex Police, and then explained its six high priority themes. 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, although there had been significant increases in some areas of crime. CI Cook outlined the reasons behind some of the increases and advised that analysis of the statistical information received would be carried out to identify specific areas to be targeted.

The presentation provided analytical data in the form of a pie chart relating to burglary, burglary other and violence in the Maldon District. It was felt by some Members that the data shown should detail the actual figures rather than percentages and in response, CI Cook advised that the pie chart information gave a flavour of areas within the District across a wide area and it was not possible to break it down further into sub-areas. It was noted that if a particular area was not detailed this was due to the crimes having been committed being too small to record. CI Cook explained that this was the first time that the data had been received in this format and he was happy to look to see how it could be developed.

The following information was provided:

- Burglary Other: The Maldon District had seen an increase of 31% (151 offences) from 1 September 2014 which accounted for a quarter of all crime in the District. In response to a question regarding a particular rural burglary, CI Cook provided information regarding this case and advised that burglary other proved one of the hardest areas because of the lack of forensic information available, often because of the rural location of incidents.
- Domestic Abuse: This accounted for 18% of all investigations that took place across the District. Members were advised of a new computer system now in place and this recorded all incidents of domestic abuse.
- Violence: It was noted that there had been an increase in violent crime and Members were advised that 50% of this related to domestic offences.
- Ward profiles: The presentation provided details of offences by Ward for the period. CI Cook highlighted some specific Wards and noted that although some Wards ranked low they had seen some increases in crime during this period.

During the discussions Councillor Mrs P A Channer declared an interest as she was Chairman of the Maldon Youth Strategy Group.

CI Cook outlined the difficulty faced in terms of Local Policing Teams and the need to make best use of the resources for the area. He commented that greater partnership working was required to ensure that priorities were recognised. CI Cook confirmed that the Police would consider any crimes reported by third parties such as Neighbourhood Watch Groups.

Councillor M S Heard referred to some statistical information that he had circulated at the meeting and raised a number of questions. In response, CI Cook advised that there were areas of crime where the statistics showed the Maldon District as mirroring what was going on across Essex. There were also areas where there was difference. Essex Police had recently launched a new Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Policy, which highlighted how ASB would be addressed in the future. ASB work also related back to the wider partnerships and Local Authority as this was not just a police issue.

In response to a question regarding drugs, CI Cook advised that although this was not listed as a priority the Police had identified that there tended to be a thread between it and many of the priority groups.

CI Cook advised the Committee of the importance to keep reporting any incidents to the Police because if recorded this can have an influence on the action that the Police take.

The Chairman thanked the Chief Inspector Cook for his presentation.

471. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

At this point the Chairman advised of a Member of Public who wished to speak. There was no provision for public speaking at meetings of this Committee and

therefore the Chairman proposed that the meeting be adjourned to allow the person to speak. This proposal was duly seconded.

RESOLVED that the meeting be adjourned at 8:36pm to allow a Member of the Public to speak.

472. RESUMPTION OF FORMAL SESSION

RESOLVED that the meeting resume in formal session at 8:48pm.

473. MALDON DISTRICT COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Customers and Community and received a presentation from the Community Safety Partnership Manager on the Maldon District Community Safety Partnership (CSP). The Officer highlighted the current membership of the Partnership.

The presentation and report provided an update on a number of areas and the Officer provided the Committee with the following information:

- CSP Priorities for 2015 / 16 were set out in the report and a copy of the most recent Essex Police strategic management performance data was attached as Appendix 1 to the report. Appendix 2 detailed the new Essex Police high priority strategic themes. The Officer outlined the ways the CSP was involved with responding to the Police strategic themes through strategic meetings, actions plans, training etc.
- Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC): Members noted the update provided in the report and that the Council continued to work closely with the Officer of the Police and Crime Commissioner. The Community Safety Partnership Manager outlined the core funding for 2015 / 16 and Appendix 3 detailed an evaluation carried out on funding for CSPs.
- Crucial Crew: Members were informed that all but one Primary School in the District had attended the 2015 event that took place at Stow Maries Aerodrome. Evaluation of the event was currently underway. Members commented on the success of the Crucial Crew event and asked that their thanks be passed onto Officers for this excellent event. In response to a question regarding including a drugs workshop, the Officer outlined the ongoing work including that of Essex County Council and young persons.
- Mill Lane Underpass Project: The Community Safety Partnership Manager provided background information regarding this project and how its aim was to give young people in the community a sense of ownership of the underpass, contribute to offenders rehabilitation and improve the fear of crime from residents. Members noted that this project was now complete.

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.

A number of questions were raised and the following information provided in response:

- Automatic Number Plate Recognition Cameras (ANPR): The Chairman referred to previous discussions of the Committee regarding ANPR on the Dengie and installation of them following funding by the current Bradwell Power Station contractor. In response, Chief Inspector Cook confirmed that the monies had been received and although he did not have a date, they were anxiously awaiting their installation.
- Offenders: In response to a question regarding offenders removed from the offenders list, the Community Safety Partnership Manager advised he was unable to provide further information regarding this but suggested that the Committee may like to invite representatives of probation services: National Probation Service or Essex Community Rehabilitation Services to a scrutiny meeting where they could give an overview. In respect of the Community Rehabilitation Company Members were advised that an update on their work would be provided at the March meeting of the Committee.
- The Bar and Bus: The Community Safety Partnership Manager agreed that this had been successful and with analytical information from the Police could be considered again. He suggested that this be taken to the next Responsible Authorities Group. Members noted that it might be possible to obtain funding from the community development fund through the Office of the PCC.
- Maldon Street Racing: Councillor Mrs P A Channer made reference to concerns regarding this and the congregation of cars in certain places within Maldon and advised that she had spoken to the Police Casualty Reduction Manager regarding this. The benefit of having a combined meeting with interested parties was noted and it was agreed that Councillor Mrs Channer would meet with Director of Customers and Community to move this forward.

In response to questions regarding the crime figures reported, Chief Inspector Cook commented that the Maldon District had very low levels of crime.

The Chairman thanked the Officer for his presentation.

RESOLVED that Members note the progress on the delivery plan for 2015 / 16 and the success of the initiatives undertaken by the Partnership.

474. URGENT BUSINESS

The Chairman announced that in accordance with Section 100B(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 he had agreed to allow an urgent item of business following the recent proposed changes announced to the Essex Police property estate. This was duly seconded and agreed.

475. ESSEX POLICE REVIEW TASK AND FINISH WORKING GROUP

The Director of Customers and Community outlined the briefing with the Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Inspector of Essex Police the previous day. Copies of

the statements and other related documents had been circulated prior to the meeting and copies also made available at the meeting.

The Director of Customers and Community outlined the following key drivers for change highlighted by the Police:

- Renewed and realistic commitment to local policing acting first on highest risk and harm incidents but working in partnership to solve neighbourhood problems (i.e. through ongoing work with the Community Safety Partnerships).
- Modern and efficient police estate, working with Essex Police to help people rather than against them by spending too much on ageing, unsustainable buildings.
- Commitment to move in terms of using technology and contact for the public (from April 2016 it is hoped that the public will be able to report crime through the web).

The main effects on the policing teams at Maldon and Chelmsford were set out on a statement which had been circulated and included:

- closure of the Southminster Police Station
- Maldon Police Station retained on a Monday – Friday opening
- a new Community Policing Team for Chelmsford and Maldon which would include local policing, sergeants and constables.

Members were advised that due to the large amount of information to be reviewed and following discussion with the Chairman it was felt more time was needed to consider this information and for the Council to give a response. It was therefore suggested that a Member Task and Finish Working Group be set up to consider this information prior to the Council responding. It was noted that this was about engagement and not consultation as the only consultation taking place related to the significant reduction of Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs).

The Chairman proposed that the Committee forms a Task and Finish Working Group to consider the implications of these changes and report back to the Committee before the next meeting of the Council on 28 October 2015. This was duly seconded.

Some comments on the information circulated were made by Members. The Chairman advised that it was hoped to arrange a meeting of the Task and Finish Working Group as soon as possible.

Councillor Mrs P A Channer declared a non-pecuniary interest in this item of business as she was at a private briefing with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and as advised earlier could not attend the meeting with the PCC.

Councillor H M Bass proposed that the Committee agrees the suggestion of the Chairman and form a Task and Finish Working Group. The Chairman then called for volunteers for the Working Group and it was agreed that this would be made up of the following seven Members:

- Councillor E L Bamford;
- Councillor H M Bass;
- Councillor Mrs P A Channer;
- Councillor A S Fluker;
- Councillor M S Heard;
- Councillor M W Helm;
- Councillor S J Savage.

Councillor M S Heard clarified that any comments he had made at the meeting he had made as a District Councillor and Mayor of Maldon as he had already declared he was in the employ of Essex Police. Anything he had said or referred to was available to the public.

In response to a question regard the Marine Unit at Burnham-on-Crouch, Chief Inspector Cook advised he did not know if it would be affected. However, he informed Members that Marine Policing came under the operational policing team based at Boreham and a recent review had been undertaken resulting in changes made to the work carried out by the Marine Unit at Burnham-on-Crouch in order to retain the current level of resourcing there.

The Chairman then put the proposal that the Committee form a Task and Finish Working Group to consider the implications following the recent announcement by the PCC and Chief Constable of Essex Police. This was agreed.

RESOLVED

- (i) that a Member Task and Finish Working comprising of the following Members be constituted to consider the implications following the recent announcement by the Police & Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable of Essex Police;
 - Councillor E L Bamford;
 - Councillor H M Bass;
 - Councillor Mrs P A Channer;
 - Councillor A S Fluker;
 - Councillor M S Heard;
 - Councillor M W Helm;
 - Councillor S J Savage.
- (ii) that the constitution and terms of reference of the Essex Police Member Task and Finish Working Groups as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be agreed.

There being no other items of business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9:40pm.

A S FLUKER
CHAIRMAN

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