



**MINUTES of
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (MEETING AS THE CRIME AND DISORDER
COMMITTEE)
12 OCTOBER 2023**

PRESENT

Vice-Chairperson Councillor P L Spenceley
(In the Chair)

Councillors L J Haywood, C P Morley, M G Neall, U C G Siddall-Norman,
E L Stephens and N J Swindle

288. CHAIRPERSON'S NOTICES

The Chairperson welcomed everyone present and went over some general housekeeping arrangements for the meeting.

289. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor S J N Morgan.

290. MINUTES - 20 OCTOBER 2022

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 20 October 2022 be approved and confirmed.

291. MINUTES - 2 MARCH 2023

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 2 March 2023 be approved and confirmed.

292. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

There were none.

293. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No requests were received.

294. MALDON DISTRICT COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

The Committee received the report of the Director of Service Delivery reporting the progress of activities undertaken by the Maldon Community Safety Partnership (CSP) since the last meeting held on 2 March 2023.

The most recent Essex Police performance summary (to July 2023) was attached as **Appendix 1** to the report.

The Community Safety Manager (CSM) took Members through the report and provided additional information and further detail by way of a presentation.

The Chairperson then moved the recommendation as set out in the report and this was duly seconded.

A lengthy discussion ensued during which a number of points were raised and in response the following information was provided:

- It was confirmed that domestic violence cases since the COVID 19 Pandemic have been on a steady decline and there had also been a significant reduction in high and medium risk offences taking place. This reduction was aided by the ongoing efforts of Essex Police to not only help the victims of domestic violence but also educate the perpetrators. The CSM also wanted Members to note that the #Reflect programme that was launched last year had received an award for its work in challenging people's perception/behaviour around domestic abuse.
- The continued presence of Essex Police and partner agencies on the roads along with the use of number plate recognition and the spot checking of waste carrier licenses should drive down any potential fly tipping risk in the area.
- The youth project run by the Community Voluntary Services (CVS) and funded by the Essex Violence and Vulnerability Unit has been in Maldon for the past 18 months and is scheduled to be rolled out in Southminster next. Hot spots will then be identified and Subject to funding the availability of volunteers will be pushed out into those areas. The CSM made Members aware that post pandemic there has been a reduction in the volunteers available to aide these initiatives.
- Due to the costs involved in creating a CCTV network there aren't currently any plans for extending this into rural hot spot areas. There have been trials in other parts of Essex using mobile data connection to stream CCTV and this could potentially be rolled out in these hot spot areas.
- The Minerva Mapping tool is currently for profession use only, however; Essex County Council (ECC) released a mapping tool running from July 2023 to January 2024 that encourages women to pin point locations where they feel unsafe and how these areas could be made to feel safer.

The Chairperson requested that the following link to the aforementioned mapping tool be included in the minutes for the meeting:

- [Commonplace](#).

There being no further discussion the Chairperson put the recommendation to the Committee and it was agreed by assent.

RESOLVED that the current progress of the initiatives undertaken by the Community Safety Partnership be noted.

295. POLICE PERFORMANCE UPDATE

The Chairperson introduced Chief Inspector Paul Ballard (CI) from Essex Police.

CI Ballard provided Members with a detailed presentation and highlighted the following areas:

- **Maldon Performance Summary** - In the past rolling month to September 2023, all crime was down by 14.4% meaning 557 less offences. Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) was down by 49.4%, which fell from 478 in 2022 to 242 in 2023 which is a difference of 236 incidents. Residential Burglary was down by 11.9% which equated to 13 less offences. These statistics were against an increase force wide of 5.1%. Other areas of note were violence with injury which was down 7.4%, robbery was down by 20% and theft offences were up by 41.8%
- **How we are enforcing the priorities in Maldon** – The following was outlined:
 - More officers are being recruited on a rolling basis which means more visibility on the street.
 - Risk assessing all ASB incidents and grading them with emphasis on personal, nuisance and environmental ASB.
 - Police cars marked with Rural Patrol badges concentrating on our rural areas.
 - Tri Service Officer - Providing a visible presence and making early interventions, focusing on protection, prevention and response to the Maldon and Dengie peninsular area.
 - Community Safety Engagement Officer (CSEO) for Maldon.
 - Maldon has a dedicated Town Centre team.
 - Closer liaison with our Neighbourhood Watch teams.
 - Regular operations in and around Maldon targeting ASB vehicle use and speeding.
 - Community engagement with local children clubs such as Cubs and Scouts to offer help and support.
- **Foot patrols in the Maldon District** - Maldon Town Team, The Community Policing Team and the CSEO's provide a visible presence in the local community, resolving issues by adopting a partnership and problem-solving approach. Essex Police carry out regular foot patrols in the district, so we can speak to members of the public and businesses to discuss any concerns they have. Foot patrol facilitates relationship-building between officers and the community and allows us to identify crime trends and hotspots. We ensure our patrols cover the 138 square miles of district to keep the public and local businesses safe.
- **Community Engagement** - The Maldon Community Policing Team and CSEOs work closely with our community safety partners, which include local councils, fire service, probation and health services to ensure we support our rural and urban communities. Engagement Officers work with partners to reduce crime, anti-social behaviour, and to protect vulnerable people, helping to provide long term solutions to problems. We attend events for older generations to tackle isolation and loneliness, work with children and young adults to discuss issues such as anti-social behaviour, drug use, exploitation, online safety and much more. We hold community events where we discuss crime prevention and personal safety. Our aim within Essex Police is to build better relationships with the communities we work and live in.
- **School and nursery visits** - The CSEOs attend many schools and nurseries within the District to talk about emergency services, how we support communities and much more. We join in with break time activities, support the staff during lunches and let the children try on police uniforms. Our work with the Safer Essex Roads Partnership sees us taking lessons with Year 5 pupils and educating them about road safety. The children even get the opportunity to stand alongside a uniformed police officer and stop drivers that travel over the speed limit. Together we educate

offenders about the dangers and consequences of speeding near to the schools.

- **Enforcement** - The Maldon Community Policing Team have had big successes with removing drugs from our streets. The Town Team with the support of specialist roles have seized Vehicles being used for drug supply from our roads, and drivers prosecuted for driving without insurance. The use of stop and search powers are regularly used to protect people and take weapons and drugs from our streets. High Visibility patrols have reduced the number of anti-social behaviour incidents within the district, helping to keep the public safe and stop those that cause annoyance and distress to others.
- **Speed Checks** - We have continued with our fight against speeding drivers. We have carried our numerous speed checks across the District in Purleigh, Wickham Bishops, Maldon and Cock Clarks. We listen to the public and local Parish Councils regarding speeding concerns and act on this. We have worked closely with the Safer Essex Roads Partnership and volunteers who keep our roads safe with Community Speed Watch.
- **Rural Engagement Team Patrols** - The Rural Engagement Team are working hard in the Maldon District, to tackle unauthorised encampments, Hare coursing, rural road safety, wildlife and heritage crime, Industrial fly tipping, theft of agricultural equipment and machinery, damage to historical and scheduled monuments, vehicle thefts, and more. The Rural Engagement Team provide high visibility patrols in rural locations on foot, bike and off-road vehicles.
- **Hare Coursing** - Incidents of Hare coursing in Essex have dropped by half in the past year as word gets out that Hare coursers are not welcome in our county. In the 12 months to 31 March 2023, 180 incidents were recorded, compared with 363 for the previous 12 months – a drop of 183 or 50.4%. Our Rural Engagement Team make sure they focus on Hare coursing and poaching as they understand the damage, the cost of that damage and the fear this cruel crime can cause in our more isolated communities.

Following the presentation and in response to questions from the Committee, CI Ballard provided the following information:

- As part of a larger Essex Police initiative, the Rural Engagement Team has increased their visual presence in villages. It is the initiative to prevent crime before it starts; to be proactive as opposed to reactive.
- There isn't currently an interview room that the Police could use within the Community Hub area at the Maldon District Council Offices, however, there are plans for an additional area to be set out for Police and partners to use which would satisfy the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984.
- The social economic effects that the Country faces will always have an impact on crime, so the cost-of-living crisis may be contributing to the current increase in theft.

The Chairperson thanked CI Ballard for attending the meeting and his presentation.

296. PERFORMANCE REPORT ON THE FUNCTION OF THE SOUTH ESSEX PARKING PARTNERSHIP IN THE MALDON DISTRICT

The Chairperson introduced the South Essex Parking Partnership (SEPP) Manager Mr Nick Binder.

Mr Binder provided Members with a detailed presentation and highlighted the following areas:

- SEPP's responsibilities regarding the public highway were explained and clarity was provided regarding on street and off-street parking (public car parks).
- Figures were provided regarding the number of Penalty Charge Notices (PCN) issued between 2022-23 for Maldon and all partnership areas.
- A detailed overview of SEPP's financial figures and governance was provided and Mr Binder outlined the areas within the partnership where monies would be reinvested back into.
- Members were also given examples of the operational challenges that SEPP face on a day-to-day basis in particular around school parking.
- Mr Binder made Members aware of the Park and Stride parking initiative that is currently being adopted by some primary schools in Essex and the success this is having at reducing parking issues around school areas. He went on to add that the three parking rules (3PR) are teaching children at a grass roots level the importance of care, consideration and caution when parking.

Following the presentation and in response to questions from the Committee, Mr Binder provided the following information:

- Smaller villages will get less coverage than that of a town due to the need to ensure that the main routes are clear of obstruction, however, statistics can be provided to show how often SEPP visits, which roads and the PCN's issued to Members on request.
- Double yellow lines are something that SEPP can issue PCN's for however if there is an ongoing issue with placement of pedestrian crossings, signage and speed limits then that would be an ECC Highways issue.

The following links were requested by the Chairperson to be included in the minutes of the meeting:

- To request a new or amended parking restriction on-street - [Request a new parking restriction](#).
- To report a parking issue to the South Essex Parking Partnership - [Report a parking issue](#).

The Chairperson thanked Mr Binder for attending the meeting and for his detailed presentation.

There being no other items of business the Chairperson closed the meeting at 9.19 pm.

P L SPENCELEY
CHAIRPERSON