



**MINUTES of
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (MEETING AS THE CRIME AND DISORDER
COMMITTEE)
2 MARCH 2023**

PRESENT

Chairman	Councillor M W Helm
Vice-Chairman	Councillor P L Spenceley
Councillors	Miss A M Beale, M S Heard, B B Heubner, C Mayes, S J N Morgan and C P Morley

610. CHAIRMAN'S NOTICES

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

611. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors B S Beale MBE and V J Bell.

612. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 24 January 2023 be approved and confirmed.

613. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Councillor M S Heard disclosed that his son is a serving Police Officer and also a member of the Police and Crime Panel.

614. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was none.

615. MALDON DISTRICT COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

The Committee received the report of the Director of Service Delivery reporting the progress of activities undertaken by Maldon Community Safety Partnership (CSP) since the last meeting held on 20 October 2022.

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

Members noted the continued good work of the CSP and the liaison it had with Essex Police and other statutory partners.

The Community Safety Manager took Members through the report and provided additional information and further detail. A lengthy discussion ensued during which a number of points were raised and in response the following information was provided:

- Priority four related to promoting road safety and challenging irresponsible driving. The Community Safety Manager (CSM) suggested that Mr Pipe from Essex Police attend the next Committee Meeting to give greater detail on the work being carried out.
- Priority Two related driving down anti-social behaviour in public places with an emphasis on youth nuisance and improving partnership visibility. The CSM made members aware that from a District point of view, the reduction of 42% wasn't highly visible due to previous stats being high due to COVID breaches and hoped that by this time next year there should be a true representation of statistics.
- In response to questions regarding greater clarity around statistics the CSM suggested it would be a good idea for more analysis to be completed as this would highlight areas that need attention going forward.
- It was acknowledged that fly tipping had seen an increase in the District and that the environmental agency is still trying to tackle this.
- In response to questions around point 3.3.5 a new knife amnesty bin was installed at Promenade Park on 16 January 2023. The CSM ensured Members that he would obtain local figures from the Police Commissioners Office regarding how much weapon waste was collected from the bin when it was collected and moved from outside the Council Offices.
- Members were made aware of the work being carried out in schools in the District. The CSM wanted Members to know of his intentions to bring forward a strategy around violence towards women and girls to Maldon schools in the future.
- The Director of Service Delivery responded Members regarding potential fly tipping as a result of the new Essex County Council recycling center scheme and reassured Members that CCTV is used near frequented fly tipping sites to catch offenders.
- The Director of Service Delivery and CSM reassured Members that the Community Engagement team and this service is offered out to Parishes and whether a Parish is using those services the CSP will still operate within those areas.
- Members Commended the work of Community Engagement Officer Police Constable Rosie Smith.

The Chairman thanked the Community Safety Manager for his presentation.

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

616. POLICE PERFORMANCE UPDATE

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

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

- **Foot patrols in the Maldon District** – The Community Policing Team and the Community Safety Engagement Officers are regularly patrolling the District on foot enabling them to engage with members of the public and showing a greater visible presence.
- **Community Engagement** – Essex Police have been working closely with partner agencies at Community Engagement events in the District offering crime prevention advice and materials in various locations around the District. They have also work in partnership with Maldon District Council to run bike marking events and ‘999 days’ to engage with the public.
- **School and nursery visits to engage with the younger members of the community** – Essex Police have been attending many schools and nurseries in the District to engage with young people to explain the role of a Police Officer and to provide safety advice, making special efforts with those children that are about to enter year seven in school.
- **Enforcement** – Officers have used their Stop and Search Powers to tackle violent crime and have seized multiple weapons that were being carried on the street. Multiple drink, drug and uninsured drivers have also been arrested in the District.
- **Speed Checks** – These are being increased in various locations across the District and have engaged with the public and local Parish Councils regarding speeding concerns and act on this.
- **Rural Engagement Team Patrols** – The Rural Engagement Team has been loaned a New Holland tractor by New Holland Agriculture and Ernest Doe - Agriculture. They have been engaging with rural issues such as hare coursing, rural road safety, unauthorised encampments and wildlife and heritage crime.

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

- **Hare Coursing** – Essex Police take this Crime very seriously and are working hard to reduce this further. This has been completed in part thanks to the use of drones, having a better working relationship with neighbouring forces, and showing the hare coursing community that we take a hard stance against this Crime in Essex
- **Drug Offences** – The CI clarified that the statistics shown in Appendix 1 run from January to January in their respective years. He then went on to confirm that the increase seen in respect to around this crime was a direct result of proactive policing (stop and search).
- **Manning Levels – Development** – The CI was not aware of any reductions in Community Support Officers (CSO) and the last reduction was in 2015/2016 and Essex Police are currently recruiting to maintain numbers not to increase. In

relation to resourcing numbers there is an algorithm that is used based around the Census information to allocate Police to a certain area. CI went on to say that he wasn't aware of an immediate increase in resource to support the increase of population due to the new housing development in Heybridge, but when the next Census is taken this should reflect in the algorithm.

- **Stop and search** – The CI responded to the question of individual statistics being shared with the Committee, stating that he would be more than happy to provide this information once he could obtain it.
- **Modern Slavery** – The CI made Members aware that Police and other agencies may not publicise their activity overtly as they may alert perpetrators, however, there is work ongoing and Essex Police make sure to respond to information given to them.
- **Residential Burglary** – CI Ballard ensured Members that this is one of the priorities on Essex Polices Force Plan, and Officers attend every burglary, however if the homeowner isn't present then they will attend when they are.
- **Parking on pavements** – The CI informed Members that Essex Police don't currently police parking as they don't have the legislation to do this, however for persistent offenders this may be able to be addressed under the ASB act. The CI went on to explain that SEPP are the primary agency that respond to this issue and Essex Police will ensure that they are utilising this partnership to its fullest potential to address this. The Director of Service Delivery suggested he send an invitation to SEPP to attend the next Meeting in October, Members agreed.

CI Ballard responded to Councillor C Mayes question around the Herbert Protocol, confirming that it is a set of procedures and processes used by Police in order to improve response and better support vulnerable people in the Community. Further explanation was given around the protocol regarding the processes involved and ways of locating missing persons.

The Chairman thanked Chief Inspector Ballard for attending the meeting and his presentation.

The meeting closed at 9.14 pm.

M W HELM
CHAIRMAN