



**REPORT of
DIRECTOR OF CUSTOMERS AND COMMUNITY**

to
**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (MEETING AS THE CRIME AND
DISORDER COMMITTEE)**
12 OCTOBER 2016

CONSULTATION ON THE POLICE AND CRIME PLAN 2016 - 2020

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To make Members aware of the consultation exercise for the police and crime plan by the office of the police and crime commissioner (OPCC) and give Members an opportunity to make comment.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That Members note this report and consider the implications of the proposed new Police and Crime Plan for 2016 – 2020, and consider and approve the draft consultation response as set out in paragraph 3.2 of this report.

3. SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

3.1 Background

- 3.1.1 The new Essex Police and Crime Commissioner, Roger Hirst, was elected as commissioner in May 2016 for a four-year term. A draft plan has now been circulated for public comment based on the manifesto of the commissioner and taking into account policing priorities and the local priorities of community safety partnerships. The initial launch of this draft plan was held on 24 August 2016 and was attended by Councillor Miriam Lewis and Spencer Clarke, Community Safety Manager. The plan was also discussed at Community Services Committee on 11 October 2016 where Members considered it appropriate to consider responses to the proposed plan. The OPCC is currently holding more focused workshops on each priority theme which are being attended by members and officers. The public survey for this engagement commenced in early September 2016 and the cut-off date for responses is 7 October 2016. The new plan will then be presented to the Police and Crime Panel, which is attended by Councillor Mrs P A Channer, for approval in late October 2016 with a view to publishing the document in late November 2016.
- 3.1.2 The community safety partnership agrees its strategic priorities on an annual basis following the completion of an annual strategic assessment. The current priorities of the partnership, which also contribute to the Council's corporate goal of "Helping communities to be safe, active and healthy" are:

- Reducing Crime, the Fear of Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour
- Protecting and Supporting Vulnerable People and Victims of Crime
- Reduction in the Harm Caused by Alcohol and Drug Misuse
- Promoting Road Safety and Challenging Irresponsible Driving
- Reducing Reoffending

3.1.3 The vision of the new PCC is “Safe and secure communities are the bedrock on which we build success and wellbeing for all”. This is evidenced in the plan with it having a clear victim centric approach. The initial view of the author of this report is that the proposed policing priorities are to be commended and support the current priorities of the community safety partnership. However, at the initial launch of this draft plan there was some valuable feedback from Leaders and Chief Officers across Essex. The proposed policing priorities are:

- More local, visible and accessible policing
- Crack down on anti-social behaviour
- Be tough on domestic abuse
- Reverse the trend in serious violence
- Tackle gangs and organised crime
- Protect children and vulnerable people from harm
- Improve safety on our roads

3.1.4 A full copy of the plan is attached as **APPENDIX 1** which includes a narrative on each priority area.

3.2 **Suggested Consultation Response**

3.2.1 The following response has been drafted for Members consideration. ‘The Council believes that the proposed plan complements the existing priorities of Maldon Community Safety Partnership and it addresses both emerging threats and the concerns of the public particularly in relation to police visibility. The plan is very ambitious around the recruitment of special constables and whilst this is greatly welcomed to provide more local focus in rural areas progress must be fed back on a regular basis because expectations will be high. Failure to deliver on the police visibility agenda will create a wider void between the public and police on satisfaction and the ability to perform and detect crime in rural areas’.

4. **CONCLUSION**

4.1 The proposed police and crime plan should be welcomed because it has a clearer focus for the district of Maldon particularly in relation to police visibility / accessibility, vulnerability, anti-social behaviour and road safety. Whilst there is little value in setting rigid reporting mechanisms in relation to crime it will be important for the public to have a clear idea of how success will be measured in relation to the delivery of this plan. There will be opportunities for Members to scrutinise the work of the community safety partnership twice yearly through the Overview and Scrutiny

Committee (sitting as Crime and Disorder Committee) and the input of the OPCC should be considered for future committees during the cycle of this plan (2016 – 2020). Whilst the timescale for consultation on this plan is tight the author of this report has informed the OPCC of this meeting and they are prepared to consider comments after the formal cut-off date of 7 October 2016 providing they are provided in a timely fashion.

5. IMPACT ON CORPORATE GOALS

- 5.1 Crime prevention and effective policing contribute to the Council’s Corporate Goal of “Helping communities to be safe, active and healthy” and relevant actions are highlighted as activities in the current business plan for the directorate for 2016 / 17. The proposed new priorities also complement the current priorities for the Community Safety Partnership for 2016 / 17.

6. IMPLICATIONS

- (i) **Impact on Customers** – Helping communities to be safe, active and healthy. The new ethos of the OPCC plan will enable Maldon to build stronger and safer communities.
- (ii) **Impact on Equalities** – The plan has a clear focus on both domestic abuse and protecting children and vulnerable people from harm.
- (iii) **Impact on Risk** – Public expectations of the delivery of this plan will focus on more local, visible and accessible policing.
- (iv) **Impact on Resources (financial)** – None.
- (v) **Impact on Resources (human)** – none identified
- (vi) **Impact on the Environment** – None.

Background Papers: **APPENDIX 1** – Police and Crime Plan 2016 – 2020 (OPCC)

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