



**MINUTES of  
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (MEETING AS THE CRIME AND DISORDER  
COMMITTEE)  
10 OCTOBER 2024**

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**PRESENT**

Chairperson	Councillor S J N Morgan
Vice-Chairperson	Councillor P L Spenceley
Councillors	V J Bell, L J Haywood, C P Morley, E L Stephens, N J Swindle and M E Thompson

**341. CHAIRPERSON'S NOTICES**

The Chairperson welcomed everyone to the meeting and went through some general housekeeping arrangements for the meeting.

**342. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor M G Neall.

**343. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 29 February 2024 be approved and confirmed.

**344. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST**

There were none.

**345. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No requests were received.

**346. 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 29 February 2024.

The most recent Essex Police performance summary (to September 2024) 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.

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

- Among the young people participating in the "make space for girls" project, netball emerged as the most favored option. It was also intended to encourage the young people participating to share their results in the form of a presentation to their parents and teachers.
- The 33 prisoners released across Essex were being managed by Probation and Integrated Offender Management Team and where appropriate some had been tagged. The CSM confirmed that he wasn't aware if any had reoffended since being released and would find out and feed this back to the Committee at its next meeting in February 2025.

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

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

Please note the following information provided post Committee:

The Essex response to early prison releases is called Operation Drakeful. Officers from the community safety partnership attend these strategic meetings. The first tranche of early releases in Essex was in September where fifty-five prisoners were released after completing 40% of their sentence. This has improved capacity within the prison estates. The second tranche will be in October, and it is estimated that this will be a further thirty-six releases in Essex. All early releases are being robustly managed and tracked for reoffending. In the event of breaches of release conditions, prisoners will be recalled to prison. Essex Probation has been invited to attend the Spring 2025 meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to provide an update to elected members.

### **347. POLICE PERFORMANCE UPDATE**

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

CI Ballard provided Members with a detailed presentation providing information on the initiatives currently being undertaken by Essex Police within the Maldon District and in response to questions from the Committee, provided the following information:

- In relation to a serious issue raised by Councillor P L Spenceley regarding pedestrian access to the North Heybridge Garden Suburb. The CI confirmed that he and the CSM would formulate an approach for this issue to be raised to the Safer Essex Roads Partnership (SERP) for consideration.
- The 12-month figures showed an increase in the percentages of certain offences in Essex and nationally due to societal factors over the past year. However, challenges and issues have been identified and are being actively addressed to reduce them going forward.

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

**348. ACTIVITY UPDATE OF ESSEX COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE IN THE MALDON DISTRICT**

The Chairperson introduced the North East Group Commander from the Essex County Fire and Rescue Service (ECFRS), Mr Scott Meekings.

Mr Meekings provided Members with a detailed presentation providing information on the initiatives currently being undertaken by ECFRS within the Maldon District and in response to questions from the Committee, provided the following information:

- E-scooters placed in communal areas of flats to charge can obstruct fire exits, posing a significant issue for ECFRS.
- The goal of the fire bike scheme is to ensure roadworthiness and encourage safer motorbike riding provided by SERP, who's instructors teach safe riding and bike maintenance.
- Outside of areas where they are part of a scheme people shouldn't be using e-scooters to ride on the road.
- Online Home Fire Safety Check could be found here: <https://www.essex-fire.gov.uk/online-home-safety-check>

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

There being no other items of business the Chairperson closed the meeting at 9.24 pm.

S J N MORGAN  
CHAIRPERSON