



**REPORT of ASSISTANT  
DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

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to  
**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (MEETING AS THE CRIME AND DISORDER  
COMMITTEE)**  
**27 FEBRUARY 2025**

**MALDON DISTRICT COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP UPDATE**

**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 Members are asked to note the progress of activities undertaken by the Maldon Community Safety Partnership since the last meeting held on 10 October 2024.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

That Members review and comment on the current progress of the initiatives undertaken by the community safety partnership to date.

**3. SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES**

**3.1 Statutory Duties**

- 3.1.1 Officers are currently completing the Maldon strategic assessment, and it will be considered by the Responsible Authorities Group on 13 March 2025. This process involves a crime data review, crime risk matrix scoring and analysis of public perception data. The crime risk matrix scores for Maldon District were completed on 15 January 2025 and showed the following offences of highest concern: domestic abuse (high and medium risk), death or serious injury caused by unlawful driving, rape, trafficking of drugs and domestic abuse (low risk). Last year, the strategic group agreed the following priorities and narratives which are highlighted on the Maldon District Council website, these priority themes are likely to be kept for the new financial but are still subject to endorsement by the group:

- Tackling crime and reducing reoffending (with an emphasis on serious violence, gangs, drug trafficking and high harm offences)
- Driving down anti-social behaviour in public places (with an emphasis on youth nuisance and improving partnership visibility)
- Identifying and supporting vulnerable people (with an emphasis on domestic abuse, violence against women and girls, social isolation, suicide prevention, poor mental health, hate crime and a proactive approach to those at risk of exploitation)
- Increase confidence in identifying and reducing rural crime (focussing on acquisitive crime)
- Promoting road safety and challenging irresponsible driving

- 3.1.2 These reflect priorities already identified in the current Police and Crime Plan (2024-2028), the Essex Crime Prevention Strategy, Maldon District Council's Corporate Plan (2025-28), One Maldon District priorities and the Essex Police Strategic Assessment. The joint strategic needs assessment that is now a requirement under the Serious Violence Duty has been completed by Essex Violence and Vulnerability Unit (VVU) and officers receive monthly data sets on Power Bi from the data scientist to help identify trends and ward hotspots in the district. The agreed interconnected outcomes for the One Maldon District use the Wider Determinants of Health and Thriving Places approach are:
- Access to Services (including transport)
  - Community and Community Cohesion
  - Community Safety
  - Mental Health
  - Green Spaces
- 3.1.3 The current Essex Police Maldon performance figures for the rolling year to 31 January 2025 (compared to the same period last year) showed a decrease in all crime by **6.2%** (213 less offences) and an increase in anti-social behaviour by **3.9%** (9 more incidents). A summary of the crime profile for Maldon will be presented at the meeting by the police representative. A copy of the Essex Police force performance summary for the county is attached as **APPENDIX 1**. The partnership also receives a monthly data pack for hate crime which is shared with community safety partners and the Independent Advisory Group (IAG). Hate crime is currently down 11.48% in the district compared to the same period last year.
- 3.1.4 Officers continue to work with the Essex Police and partners to ensure that local risks are addressed in relation to the Prevent agenda (preventing violent extremism). The Community Safety Manager chairs the Essex Prevent Delivery Group that reports back to the Essex Local Contest Board and Safer Essex. The partnership receives a regular briefing called the Counter Terrorism Local Profile (CTLP) and regional priorities are extreme right-wing terrorism, self-initiated terrorism, extremism in prison, and the online risk being an enabler. The local benchmarking for Prevent will be completed with the Home Office on 26 February 2025 and Members will note that last year we (Essex) were exceeding or met in all areas with one area for improvement being communications and engagement. However, during the disorder across the country in August 2024 the response to disinformation worked well and was effectively led by the Essex Communications Group. This outstanding action will be mitigated by the forming of the Essex Permissive Environments Group (EPEG). The Prevent Partnership Plan and Situational Risk Assessment have just been refreshed, and officers are briefing senior management on changes arising from the tragic Southport incident which will include a National Learning Review.
- 3.1.5 As mentioned earlier in this report, Essex VVU produced a joint strategic needs assessment for serious violence (statutory duty) and the partnership receives regular data. Serious violence is defined as; homicide, manslaughter, violence with injury, personal robbery, rape, and other sexual offences where offences occurred outside the home, were not domestic in nature, a knife, bladed article, firearm, or other weapon was recorded as being used, or the offence was recorded as linked to county lines or gangs. Maldon has a low rate of serious violence with **0.21** offences per 1,000 population (14 offences per annum). Copies of the Essex Serious Violence Strategy and Essex Serious Violence Needs Assessment can be found here: [VVU Documentation - Essex Violence and Vulnerability Unit \(essexvvu.co.uk\)](https://www.essexvvu.co.uk)

3.1.6 A duty that will impact on the work of the partnership will be the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Bill 2024 commonly known as Martyn's Law. This bill was introduced to parliament on 12 September 2024 and has passed through some Parliamentary stages but may still undergo several changes before becoming a legal requirement. Martyn's Law will impose requirements on premises and events to increase their preparedness for, and protection from, a terrorist attack. The law will require premises to take proportionate steps, depending on the size and nature of the activities that take place. This will be based on qualifying premises and capacity thresholds: standard tier (capacity of 100 or more, enhanced tier (800 or more) and places of worship (standard tier regardless of capacity). The government has produced some useful factsheets on the bill: [Terrorism \(Protection of Premises\) Bill 2024 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/terrorism-protection-of-premises-bill-2024)

### 3.2 Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Update

3.2.1 Members should note Roger Hirst was re-elected to the role of Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (PFCC) for Essex on 2 May 2024. The partnership continues to support the priorities (listed below) identified in the current Police and Crime Plan (2024 – 2028) which was recently published with the refreshed priorities listed below: [Plans - Essex PFCC](#)

- More local, visible and accessible policing
- Drive down anti-social behaviour and crime
- Beat knife crime and drug gangs and protect young people
- Tackle violence against women and girls and domestic abuse
- Ensure vulnerable people are protected
- Improve road safety and reduce road deaths in Essex to zero

3.2.2 Essex County Fire and Rescue Service (ECFRS) are in the process of producing a Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP). This draft plan can be viewed here: [Tell ECFRS | Essex County Fire and Rescue Service](#) The draft plan outlines five strategic priorities and partners are encouraged to provide their views on the draft plan:

- Preventing fires and other emergencies: taking proactive steps to reduce risks
- Reducing the impact of fire in the built environment: enhancing safety in homes, businesses, and public spaces
- Responding effectively to emergencies: ensuring rapid and professional emergency responses
- Inclusive and high-performing culture: fostering equality, diversity, and excellence within the Service
- A resilient and sustainable future: preparing for long-term challenges like climate change

3.2.3 Works continue with several multi-agency groups that support this work locally and across Essex. The Maldon representative for the Police Fire and Crime Panel is Councillor Simon Burwood. The Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (OPFCC) confirmed that core funding for Maldon in 2024 / 25 was **£12,527** and the necessary funding forms were completed and returned as part of the funding agreement. The annual partnership public meeting hosted by the PFCC was held on 7 October 2024 at Southminster Village Hall. Officers had their annual meeting with the PFCC office on 10 January 2025 to review the performance of the partnership and their office were pleased with progress being made.

3.2.4 Maldon District was awarded funding for three projects from the PFCC Safer Streets funding for 2023 / 24 and 2024 / 25, and officers will be updating Members on progress at this meeting. A key piece of work to ensure that the design of our green spaces and associated facilities are more inclusive has been completed. Officers have worked with the charity Make Space for Girls and consultants, Social Place to produce a report working with a group of Year 9 (now 10) students from the Plume Academy. This consultation process together with similar work with two Chelmsford schools has been recognised as a winner for Inspiring Future Generations by the Thornton Education Trust.

- Safety projects to complement the design of the new Maldon promenade skate park - **£132,252**
- A women's safety project for Maldon District - **£16,000**
- A CCTV scheme for Burnham-on-Crouch - **£40,874**

### 3.3 **Community Safety Partnership Hub and Progress Update**

3.3.1 The Community Safety Partnership Hub Tasking for Maldon was launched in August 2024. The new style meetings are held monthly and has a tasking process which links to the priorities of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP). The new process will include a tasking update from the CPT Sergeant, licensing, a monthly forecast, identified hotspots, patrol plans, communications, complex cases, and organised crime groups. Monthly tasking with Essex Police and the Community Safety Team is also held on Tuesdays and weekly Maldon catch ups. There is an individual action plan for Maldon CSP plus a tasking update which is monitored to ensure that partner actions are completed and performance managed. The Essex Police Maldon Town Team now share the community safety hub with the Community Safety and Community Engagement Teams, and a new interview room for shared use was completed in August 2024 with funding from the community safety partnership. The hub will be officially opened by the Essex PFCC on 17 February 2025.

3.3.2 Current concerns for the partnership hub focus on violence and vulnerability, and disruption of organised crime and reducing irresponsible driving on our roads. There has also been a focus on health during the winter months to ensure that our most vulnerable are protected and have access to services. Education sessions have been delivered with secondary schools to provide awareness of risk in the community and vulnerability and hate crime and antisocial behaviour. Monitoring "hot spots" such as Maldon High Street and Promenade Park, and some of the parks across the district where young people are congregating and consuming alcohol and misusing drugs is undertaken by the effective use of CCTV and officer patrols by the partnership. The main area for antisocial behaviour during the summer months has been around Hoe Mill Lock and officers are working with local partners to prepare a funding bid to improve security and raise awareness of safe practices around water. Partnership operations are proving successful and in recent months there have been significant arrests to disrupt both local and County Line drug networks. Meetings to discuss the road safety issues on the Lower Burnham Road are also ongoing between a variety of partners.

3.3.3 Current project works for 2024 / 25 include:

- Community engagement events at Promenade Park, Burnham Riverside Park, Tollesbury, Heybridge, Heybridge Basin and Bradwell
- Hoe Mill enforcement patrols with police, South Essex Parking Partnership, and the Environment Agency

- Safe and Well visits with Essex County Fire and Rescue Service and community partners on 23 and 24 May 2024 in Heybridge and Dengie villages
- Make Space for Girls consultation at the Plume Academy was delivered over a three-day period in July 2024
- Nights of Action were delivered at Maldon High Street in July and December 2024, with another planned for February 2025
- Water safety visits in Burnham, Bradwell, Maldon and Heybridge Basin with ECFRS
- A Community Mindfulness event is being held at Heybridge Parish Council on 10 September 2024 to mark National Suicide Awareness Day
- Operation Lester (drinks spiking awareness) is being delivered on 18 September 2024 around High Street licensed premises
- Crucial Crew was delivered on 3 – 5 July 2024 at Maldon Fire Station (Year 6 education)
- Hate crime training was delivered at Ormiston Rivers Academy for 9 and 10 July 2024
- Trucam is currently being delivered across 18 parishes at 45 different locations – there have been 3,584 captures for Q1, 2 and 3 (1 April 2024 – 31 December 2024)
- Close working relationship with Essex Police Rural Engagement Team (RET) to tackle issues such as fly tipping and unlicensed waste carriers (Op. Fume)
- Partnership working with Essex Police in the form of joint patrols to encourage responsible dog ownership
- Supporting the community policing team addressing dangerous parking around schools
- Administration and attendance at Neighbourhood Watch meetings
- Joint patrols with the community safety partners (police, fire and youth service)
- Case management for the Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) housing forum
- Supporting the 999 Community Safety Event and Bike Marking Initiatives
- Supporting Let's Talk with Essex Police
- Intelligence sharing with secondary schools to safeguard any identified vulnerable persons
- The Maldon Community Hub had a community safety focus and was held in Maldon Town Hall
- Officers supported the December Community in a Cup and SOS Bus health events, and attend the Dementia Café on a regular basis
- Falls Prevention events are being held in Heybridge and Steeple on 19 March 2025

## **4. CONCLUSION**

- 4.1 That Members note the priorities for 2024 / 25 and progress on the community safety partnership. The shared working arrangements between Maldon and Chelmsford

continue to support local priorities, high level policing priorities and the priorities of the revised PFCC plan and has strengthened with the co-location of the community policing team and additional policing resources in town centres and rural areas. The increased footprint for the community policing team at Maldon District Council offices will strengthen this partnership further. Maldon CSP remains efficient and responsive to emerging issues and more importantly positions itself strongly for future funding arrangements with the Essex Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, statutory partners, and local / national initiatives.

## **5. IMPACT ON PRIORITIES AS SET OUT IN THE CORPORATE PLAN 2025 / 2028**

- 5.1 These priorities contribute to the Council's vision of "Through our projects, actions, communication, partnerships and policies we will work to support our communities, the health and well-being of our residents, and to provide safe and clean places to live in and enjoy."

## **6. IMPLICATIONS**

- (i) **Impact on Customers** – Helping communities to be safe, active, and healthy.
- (ii) **Impact on Equalities** – Designing safer and more inclusive green spaces.
- (iii) **Impact on Risk (including fraud implications)** – None.
- (iv) **Impact on Resources (financial)** – Members should note that sustainable funding of posts to cover statutory duties will remain a challenge but remain manageable whilst we receive an annual PFCC grant and other funding opportunities.
- (v) **Impact on Resources (human)** – As above.
- (vi) **Impact on the Environment** – None.

Background Papers: **APPENDIX 1** Essex Police Performance Summary.

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