



**REPORT of
DIRECTOR OF CUSTOMERS AND COMMUNITY**

to
**COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE
16 JANUARY 2018**

**ESSEX POLICE AUTOMATIC NUMBERPLATE RECOGNITION (ANPR)
CAMERA CONSULTATION**

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To make Members aware of the local consultation which is currently being undertaken by Essex Police in relation to the use of Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras in Maldon District and an update on current performance and consider a response from Maldon District Council.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That Members note this report and give feedback to Essex Police on the performance and future development of Automatic Number Plate Recognition cameras within the District.

3. SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

3.1 Background

- 3.1.1 Maldon District Community Safety Partnership sets priorities each year based on recorded crime and perceptions of crime. Current priorities for this year include:
- Promoting road safety and challenging irresponsible driving;
 - Tackling rural crime and strengthening communities.
- 3.1.2 Therefore, a number of projects delivered by the partnership have a direct impact on the use of the roads. Effective partnership working is key to achieving this and a close working relationship with partners such as the Safer Essex Roads Partnership (SERP), Essex County Council Road Safety Team, South Essex Parking Partnership (SEPP) and volunteer Community Speed Watch plays an important role in keeping the District safe. The introduction of the Essex Police Rural Crime Strategy 2017, which was launched in the District at Stow Maries Aerodrome on 16 November 2017, is an excellent example of joint working between Essex Police, the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex and the Essex Rural Partnership. A copy of this strategy is attached as **APPENDIX 1**. The delivery of this strategy locally will fall heavily on community safety partnerships. Current projects such as Crucial Crew, TRU CAM and the Schools Parking Initiative (3PR) focus on safety, education and enforcement. More recent challenges have included the effective partnership work to

tackle street racing. The use of ANPR is another useful and effective tool for both intelligence and enforcement.

- 3.1.3 Essex Police has used ANPR within Maldon District for over five years at locations in and around Maldon town centre. These cameras were initially funded by Maldon Community Safety Partnership. More recently, privately funded ANPR cameras were introduced to cover the Dengie Peninsular. Performance statistics for the use of these new cameras was recently reported to Overview and Scrutiny Committee (meeting as Crime and Disorder Committee) on 8 November 2017. ANPR is a very effective tool in combatting a variety of criminal offences where perpetrators use vehicles as a means of transport. Almost every crime type can be linked to highway use and a useful infographic is attached as **APPENDIX 2**. Key crimes for Maldon District can be crimes such as hare coursing, burglary of a dwelling or business, exploitation, fly tipping or simply illegal use of motor vehicles. Essex Police, in partnership with local communities, are keen to discuss the impact and consult on the current use and expansion of ANPR.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 The effective use of and expansion of ANPR within the District can be seen as a positive step in reducing crime in Maldon District and support both the corporate priorities of the Council and the strategic priorities of Maldon District Community Safety Partnership.

5. IMPACT ON CORPORATE GOALS

- 5.1 Essex Police is a statutory partner of the Maldon Community Safety Partnership and therefore any improvement to technology to reduce crime will ultimately improve the service provision to the District of Maldon. Partners are already collaborating on education, prevention, intelligence, enforcement and reassurance and current arrangements are working very well so improved technology will be seen as a positive step. To conclude, any service improvement will contribute to the Council's Corporate Goal of "Helping communities to be safe, active and healthy" and actions are highlighted as activities in the business plan for the directorate for 2017 / 18 and all areas identified in the plan will also support key priorities for the Community Safety Partnership for 2017 / 18.

6. IMPLICATIONS

- (i) **Impact on Customers** – Potential for improved service delivery which will benefit the district as a whole in terms of community safety.
- (ii) **Impact on Equalities** – None.
- (iii) **Impact on Risk** – None.
- (iv) **Impact on Resources (financial)** – None.
- (v) **Impact on Resources (human)** – None.

(vi) **Impact on the Environment** – None.

Background Papers: None.

Enquiries to: Spencer Clarke, Community Safety Manager, (Tel: 01621 875814).