
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AND PARTNERSHIPS
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
HELD ON MONDAY 26 OCTOBER 2015 AT 7.30PM IN THE COUNCIL OFFICES, WEELEY**

Present: Councillors Miles (Chairman), Baker (Vice-Chairman), Bennison, Calver, Land, Newton and Yallop.

Also Present: Councillors G V Guglielmi (Portfolio Holder for Asset Management and Corporate Services), McWilliams (Portfolio Holder for Well-being and Partnerships), Broderick, Bucke, Coley, Fairley, V E Guglielmi, Pemberton and Stephenson

In Attendance: Chief Executive (Ian Davidson), Democratic Services Manager (Colin Sweeney), Members and Management Support Manager (Karen Neath), Community Safety Manager (Leanne Thornton), Executive Projects Manager (Keri Lawrence) and Democratic Services Officer (Janey Nice)

Also in Attendance: Police and Crime Commissioner for Essex (Nick Alston), Chief Inspector (Russ Cole), Local Police and Partnership Inspector (Julia Finch) and Mistley Parish Council Chairman (Martin Rayner)

WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed all in attendance to the meeting.

7. ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Chairman altered the order of business as recorded in these minutes.

8. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS

An apology for absence had been received from Councillor I J Henderson (with Councillor G Calver substituting).

9. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting of the Committee, held on 20 July 2015, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

10. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

(i) Councillor Lynda McWilliams, Portfolio Holder for Well-being and Partnerships, declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to Agenda Item No.5 (Annual Review of the Work of the Community Safety Partnership), by virtue of the fact she was Chairman of the Community Voluntary Services Tending; and

(ii) During consideration of Agenda Item No.4 (review of the New Policing Structure and its Impact on the Community), Councillor Coley (also present) declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to this matter, by virtue of the fact he was an employee of Essex Police.

11. ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE WORK OF THE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

The Council's Chief Executive and its Community Safety Manager delivered a presentation, which provided Members with an overview of the work of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and how it engaged with its statutory partners, Essex Community Rehabilitation Company (Probation); Essex County Council; Essex Police; Tending District Council; Essex

County Fire and Rescue; Community Voluntary Services Tending; North East Essex NHS and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Essex.

The presentation also addressed the following key areas:

- (a) The Community Safety Structure
- (b) The Police and Crime Plan 2015 – Priorities
- (c) The Essex Control Strategy: High-Priority Strategic Themes
- (d) The CSP's Priorities for 2015-2016
- (e) Projects to Tackle Antisocial Behaviour, including "Borderline Project", "Crucial Crew", "Keep Safe" and "Firebreak"
- (f) The recognition of the work of the "Fire Cadets" and the High Sheriff's Awards Scheme
- (g) Crime and the Fear of Crime
- (h) Projects to Tackle Crime and the Fear of Crime, including "Bannockburn" and "Dog Watch"
- (i) Projects to Tackle Drug and Alcohol Misuse, including "Reducing the Strength" Campaign and the use of the Drop-in Centre at Jaywick
- (j) Domestic Homicide Review
- (k) Community Safety Hub
- (l) Gangs – Violence and Vulnerability
- (m) PREVENT – Preventing Violent Extremism

In addressing matters such as violence (with or without injury), domestic violence, relocation of communities (gangs etc.), Chief Inspector Cole (Essex Police) advised Members that despite these, and other problems within the District (e.g. 32% of victims of domestic violence do not report this to the Police), the following statistics (real successes) as these related to Tending and in comparison to the previous year, were worthy of note:

- Level of robberies, down by 20%
- Level of dwelling burglaries, down by 12%
- Level of vehicle-related crime, down by 3.7%
- Level of theft of vehicles, down by 7.5%

In conclusion, the Chairman expressed her thanks and congratulations to the CSP Team for all its continued hard work.

12. REVIEW OF THE NEW POLICING STRUCTURE AND ITS IMPACT ON THE COMMUNITY

The Chairman welcomed to the meeting, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Essex, Mr Nick Alston, on what was his third visit before the Committee since taking up the role.

Mr Alston praised the work of the CSP and the support it continued to receive from the Council's Chief Executive and the Portfolio Holder for Well-being and Partnerships, Councillor Lynda McWilliams.

Mr Alston advised Members that the previous policing-structure within Essex was "nowhere near match-fit" to deal with the challenges posed within the County and that both he and the comparatively, recently-appointed Chief Constable for Essex would continue to do their best to tackle such challenges.

Mr Alston highlighted and spoke upon the following key areas affecting effective policing within Essex:

- (a) Cyber crime was dominating the globe – Essex significantly under-resourced to deal with this growing problem;

- (b) An urgent need within Essex to address domestic violence (currently, 32% of cases not reported to the Police);
- (c) The necessity to invest in new policing skills and training;
- (d) A need to look at ways in which to present a “match-fit” police force within Essex;
- (e) A waste of financial resources (public money) (approximately £5m) being spent on maintaining 80 Police buildings within Essex when, following a review in September 2015, 30 were deemed sufficient;
- (f) An urgent need to consider funding since Government-funding was being cut year-on-year until 2020 by up to 25%;

a. Reserves

It was reported that the Police, nationally, had reserves in the region of £2.7bn and that the allocation for Essex had been spent.

b. Council Tax

It was reported that an increase of 50p per week in Council Tax tariffs across the County would provide for 300 Police Officers within Essex.

- (g) The 250 Police Community Support Officers (PCSO) currently employed within the County would be cut back to 60;
- (h) Given that many people now chose to conduct their business by electronic means, there was a need to market and maximise the potential of the internet to allow crimes to be reported online;
- (i) A need to construct a new Police Headquarters following the sale of the existing facility, since these were nowhere near fit-for-purpose;
- (j) A need to keep an operational presence in each of the District’s towns but some stations would, inevitably, close;
- (k) A crime-reporting kiosk style system was being trialled, however Mr Alston said he was unclear as to where the differences (if any) lay between this and reporting crimes online (see (h) above);
- (l) A recognition that a combination of mitigating factors (e.g. reduction in level of PCSOs; levels of sponsorship received; top slicing of money to fund community initiatives, fewer officers and civilian staff etc.) would make the work of the Police force in Essex extremely tough.

The Chairman then permitted questions from Members seated in the public gallery and from the Chairman of Mistley Parish Council.

The Chairman thanked Mr Alston, Chief Inspector Cole and Local Police and Partnership Inspector Finch for attending and answering questions put to them by the Committee.

Report of the Well-being and Partnerships Portfolio Holder

13. REVIEW OF TENDRING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE STRATEGY 2011-2016

Given the lateness of the hour and to allow Members to properly consider the Strategy, this matter stood deferred to a future meeting of the Committee to be held in December 2015.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled meeting of the Committee was to be held at 7.30pm on Monday 18 January 2016 in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Weeley.

The meeting was declared closed at 9.50pm

Chairman