
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP OVERVIEW AND
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE,
HELD ON MONDAY, 30TH MARCH, 2026 AT 6.30 PM
IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, TOWN HALL, STATION ROAD, CLACTON-ON-SEA,
CO15 1SE**

Present:	Councillors Steady (Chairman), Barrett (Vice-Chairman), Doyle, Ferguson, Griffiths (part item 45, items 46 and 47 only) and Oxley
Also Present:	Councillors Alexander (part item 45, items 46 and 47 only), Kotz (Portfolio Holder for Assets & Community Safety) (items 41-45 only) and M Stephenson (Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Finance & Governance) (items 41-46 only)
In Attendance:	Keith Simmons (Assistant Director (Corporate Policy & Support) and Deputy Monitoring Officer), Nikki Nepean (Elections & Member Support Manager) (items 41-46 only), Katie Koppenaal (Democratic Services Officer) and Bethany Jones (Democratic Services Officer)
Also in Attendance:	Lisa Hastings (Corporate Director for Law & Governance and Monitoring Officer), Stuart Austin (Essex Police) (items 41-45 only), Grant Fryatt (Essex Police) (items 41-45 only), Michelle Harper (Essex Association of Local Councils (EALC) (items 41-46 only), Steph Robinson (EALC) (items 41-46 only)

41. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Davidson and Thompson with no substitutions appointed.

42. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on Tuesday, 10 February 2026, be approved as a correct record and be signed by the Chairman.

43. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made by Councillors in relation to any item on the agenda for this meeting.

44. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 38

No Questions on Notice pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 38 had been submitted by Members for this meeting.

**45. REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR (OPERATIONS & DELIVERY) - A.1 -
ANNUAL PROGRESS REVIEW - CRIME & DISORDER STRATEGY 2025-2028**

The Community Safety and Safeguarding Manager updated the Committee on the progress of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy, which was implemented in April 2025.

Members were reminded that the Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy focused on published data about specific crimes, the strategy's objectives, and offered feedback on achievements within its first year of implementation. The Committee was invited to discuss planned actions for the second year of the strategy.

The Committee received a comprehensive update on the first year of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy 2025–2028, which set out a coordinated, multi-agency approach to reducing crime, disorder, and anti-social behaviour (ASB) across the District.

The strategy was informed by the annual Strategic Assessment, which drew on crime data, public consultation, and emerging trends. Members were advised that the assessment highlighted increasing risks to children and young adults, including the targeting of young people by criminal gangs for drug transportation. The report (A.1) noted that although that was a national issue, partners *“must remain vigilant and able to identify signs of children being targeted.”*

The Committee was reminded that Community Safety Partnerships (CSP – the “Partnership”) had been established under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and remained responsible for:

- Producing annual strategic assessments
- Identifying local crime and ASB priorities
- Consulting communities
- Monitoring progress

The Tending Strategy aligned with those statutory duties and set out three-year priorities, reviewed annually to ensure their relevance.

2025–2026 Priorities

1. Tackling ASB and root causes
2. High Harm Violence (VAWG & Domestic Abuse)
3. Drug and Knife-Enabled Serious Violence
4. Emerging Threats (shoplifting, vehicle crime, arson, criminal damage)

2026–2027 Priorities

The same four themes had been retained, with a refined focus on vehicle crime and arson under the Emerging Threats priority.

The Committee was reminded that the purpose and aims of the Crime & Disorder Strategy set out the Partnership's ambitions for the District and confirmed the strategic priorities. The Strategy detailed the intended outcomes, the approach to delivery, and the resources required. It also outlined the range of responsibilities and priorities, serving as a key tool for directing effort and resources appropriately.

Members were advised that subsequent sections of the report (A.1) presented published data relating to specific crime types, outline the objectives of the Strategy, and provided an assessment of achievements during its first year. Crime statistics would be reviewed using the same reference period as the Strategy, covering October 2024 to September 2025.

Essex Police Reported Crime Data

Crime Type	2023–2024	2024–2025	Difference	% Change
All Crime	12,448	12,574	+126	+1%
Violence Against the Person	1,567	1,459	-108	-6.9%
Residential Burglary	321	285	-36	-11.2%
Personal Robbery	77	70	-7	-9.1%
Theft of a Motor Vehicle	273	255	-18	-6.6%
Shoplifting	783	1,006	+223	+28.5%
Hate Crime	267	262	-5	-1.9%
Possession of Drugs	232	197	-35	-15.1%
Possession of Weapons	160	162	+2	+1.3%
Public Order Offences	1,136	984	-152	-13.4%
Domestic Abuse	2,648	2,505	-143	-5.4%

Reported ASB

ASB Type	2023–2024	2024–2025	Difference	% Change
Total ASB Incidents	1,114	1,157	+43	+3.9%
Environmental ASB	71	45	-26	-36.6%
Nuisance ASB	687	896	+209	+30.4%
Personal ASB	356	216	-140	-39.3%

It was highlighted that the 'What Success Looks Like' section could not be completed until year end. Some data and project evaluations were provided on a quarterly basis; however, the Quarter 4 data was still awaited. Members were advised that this information would be available in mid-May 2026, enabling completion of the end-of-year report.

Priority One

It was reported that Priority One would tackle anti-social issues across the District as well as targeting resources on those areas that had been highlighted as 'hotspots' through the levels of ASB reported, or through noted increases. It was explained that the aim would be to reduce ASB, investigate the root cause of the behaviour and

improve the confidence of residents as well as provide reassurance. Priority One would also tackle Hate Crime across the District, aiming to improve residents' knowledge of what a hate crime was, improve access to reporting centres/ambassadors, provide confidence and reassurance to victims and communities.

It was further reported that a joint problem-solving approach would be taken in respect of those crimes that affect residents and business the most including:

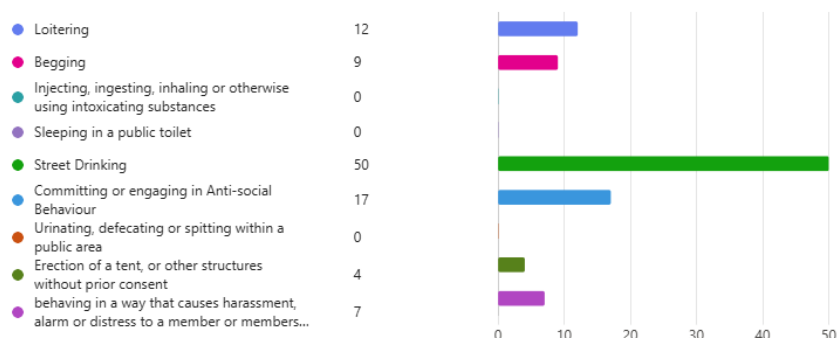
- **Anti-Social Behaviour** – *Managing the volume, problematic areas across the District. Utilising established operational models where appropriate (Op Dial, Op GRIP), investigating the root causes of anti-social behaviour.*
- **Clacton on Sea Public Space Protection Order (PSPO)** – *Enforcing the PSPO in relation to prohibited activities.*
- **Shoplifting** – *Working with Shopsafe and Essex Police Business Crime Team to provide a system to connect retailers and licensed premises with security, local police and CCTV control. Using the latest Smart Radio and CCTV control. Using the latest Smart Radio and secure information sharing app 'alert!' the Council enabled businesses to share incidents instantly as a group to promote safer spaces for customers and staff alike.*
- **Hate Crime** – *To protect residents and visitors from hate crime, ensuring victims and communities were aware of what hate crime is, and where and how it could be reported.*

It was reported that the Community Safety Team (CST – “the Team”) had been working with partner agencies and charities to address homelessness in Clacton Town Centre’s public spaces protection order (PSPO) area. Four rough sleepers had been found, two of those rough sleepers had received Community Protection Warnings after refusing to leave, but all had been offered support to find accommodation. Ultimately, each individual had secured alternative housing thanks to the joint efforts of internal and external partners. Residents had appreciated the Council’s enforcement actions and responsiveness to community concerns.

It was further reported that there had been 75 breaches of PSPOs.

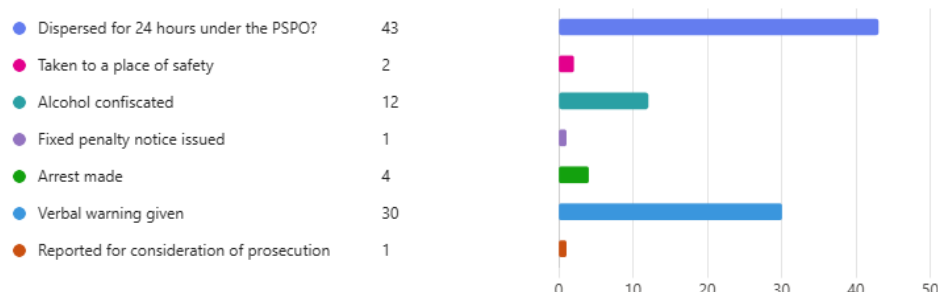
The following graph illustrated the offence types:

3. Offence Type?



The following graph illustrated the enforcement action taken:

5. Enforcement action taken?



Members heard that residents living near the sheltered housing complex had raised concerns regarding persistent noise, disruptive behaviour, and safety issues linked to certain residents of the complex. Those issues had caused significant stress and had affected both visitors and neighbouring households. A coordinated multi-agency response had been established involving the Council's CST, Essex Police, Adult Social Care, landlords, and housing organisations. Meetings had been held to gather residents' feedback, and agencies had implemented a series of actions, including regular patrols, improved boundary measures, enhanced lighting, and the relocation of one resident with complex needs. Over the following months, agencies had reported a substantial reduction in complaints and had noted marked improvement in the overall situation.

A derelict building that was in the process of being sold had experienced ongoing issues involving trespassing, fires, and anti-social behaviour by young people and homeless individuals. The landlord had not secured the property, which had led to intervention from the Council, Essex Police, and Essex County Fire and Rescue.

A multi-agency approach had been established to work with the landlord to board up and secure the site, maintain community safety, and keep residents informed. Agencies had also carried out regular patrols in the surrounding area.

It was reported that Operation Guardian embedded the below principles into ALL activity undertaken:

Be Visible

If you can't be seen, you will not deter or reassure.

Be Observant

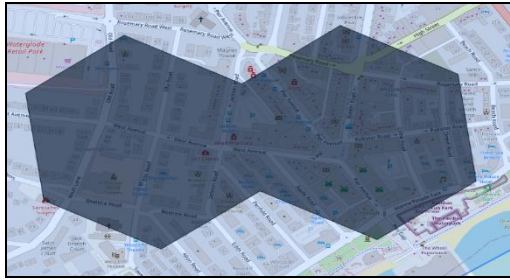
Of suspicious behaviour, of those who may be vulnerable to crime, and of persistent problems.

Be Engaging

Talk to the community, explain why we are there.

#WeValueOurNeighborhoods

Zone Area Summary 12 months Oct 24 - end Sept 25



Key Location 1

Inside and around the night-time economy (NTE) venues - Tom Peppers Sports Bar/The Loft Nightclub and The Moon and Starfish and surrounding areas at the junction of Marine Parade East, Marine Parade West, and Pier Avenue, Clacton-on-Sea.

The Committee was made aware that a total of 134 incidents had occurred in, or around, the aforementioned NTE venues. This had been a combination of ASB, public order, criminal damage, and violent offences.

With 82 offences recorded, violence against the person had been the most common offence type in this location and assaults with and without injury had been the most frequently seen offences.

29 violent offences had suspects linked with 26 unique suspects, 17 males and 9 females. Violence amongst people of the same gender was the most common with men typically targeting men and women typically targeting women.

Due to the nature of the premises that had featured in Location 1, most incidents had occurred between 23:00 and 03:00.

Key Location 2

Inside and immediately outside McDonalds Restaurant, Pier Avenue, Clacton-on-Sea.

It was highlighted that a cluster of 29 common assaults and public order incidents had occurred here, typically suspects had been verbally abusive or had behaved in an aggressive manner towards victims to intimidate and harass them.

Staff working at the location had commonly been the victim of public order offences committed by customers who were unhappy, who had either been asked to leave or not been allowed to use the facilities within the restaurant. Multiple hate crime offences had been reported alongside common assault offences at the location but had seemingly involved the same group of suspects and victims, all of similar ages (11 – 18).

Overall, the offending in this location had been shaped by a combination of public order issues, anti-social behaviour, criminal damage, and occasionally more serious disturbances. The recurring involvement of youths and the targeting of staff/commercial property had indicated a requirement for ongoing vigilance and partnership working between Police, businesses, and the wider community.

Key Location 3

Arcades on Pier Avenue, Clacton-on-Sea (Gameshow, Magic City and Gaiety Amusements).

Members were informed that ASB-Nuisance and ASB-Personal incidents had been recorded at this location. There had been multiple reports of groups of youths causing disturbances at the locations through often refusing to leave when asked to do so by staff but instead reacting with verbal abuse and physically threatening behaviour.

It was reported that the ASB incidents were often perpetrated by groups of youths with reports of groups of 3 – 6 youths offending together regularly.

During the reporting period the CST and Essex Police had conducted joint patrols, and each team had also conducted their own Operation Guardian patrols. The CST had achieved an average of 30 hours' worth of additional patrols (Operation Guardian) per month.

Members were made aware that more than 800 Tendring students had attended the Young Persons Crucial Crew event at Clacton's Princes Theatre in November. Organised by the local authority, the seven-day programme had included interactive youth safety sessions. The main feature had been *It's About Your Son*, a play addressing knife crime, followed by a workshop. The initiative had promoted safety and informed choices for young people.

Older residents in Tendring had been invited to attend a complimentary event designed to provide essential safety information for staying secure both at home and within the community.

A variety of organisations had been present to offer guidance on topics including crime prevention, fire safety, and emergency preparedness. Community Voluntary Services Tendring had distributed Winter Warmer packs to eligible attendees.

This event had presented an excellent opportunity for older individuals in the District to obtain valuable, practical advice aimed at enhancing their safety and well-being. Crucial Crew had brought together expert partners to communicate important messages in a welcoming and supportive environment.

Collaboration with those partners had served to highlight everyday risks and deliver clear, actionable information that had the potential to safeguard lives and improve the quality of life for residents.

Participating organisations had included Essex Police, Essex County Fire and Rescue Service, Community Voluntary Services Tendring, Essex Adult Social Care, Bill Clinic, East Anglian Ambulance Service, Safer Roads Partnerships, Age Well East, Clacton Lions, Tendring Specialist Stroke Services, Tendring Community Transport, and Essex Sight.

Shopsafe was a programme that had partnered with local authorities to reduce Town Centre crime having enabled instant group communication and shared information via apps. Each shop had received a radio to connect with others, share updates and photos, and assist the Town Policing Team. Shopsafe offered a 24-hour help desk and face-to-face training. Radios were proprietary and were supplied as part of the full service for Local Authorities.

It was reported that 44 businesses had signed up to the scheme in Frinton (15), Walton (9) and Clacton-on-Sea (20).

Priority Two

Members heard that Tendring Community Safety Partnership had recognised that a significant number of men and boys had also experienced violent and abusive crimes that had been captured within the cross-government Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy. The CSP was committed to preventing all forms of gender-based violence and addressing it wherever and however it occurred.

A joint problem-solving approach would be taken to better protect those experiencing violent and abusive crimes:

- **Prepare** – *Intelligence between agencies is shared appropriately and effectively.*
- **Prevent** – *Raise awareness through partnership campaigns, provide education to children and young people.*
- **Pursue** – *Use tools and powers (ASB Legislation) to keep women safe in public places. Work with partners to provide perpetrator interventions and work towards effective prosecutions.*
- **Protect** – *For anyone in the District to have access to the right support services, to help them to be safe, feel safe and free from violence and abuse.*

It was reported that the 'Girls Inspired' programme sought to work with partner agencies, young people, families, schools, and community organisations to support the reduction and prevention of youth anti-social behaviour, youth criminality, and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) within local communities. The overall aim was to promote the safety and wellbeing of young girls.

The programme included in-school courses, individual follow-up sessions, and after-school activities, incorporating sports, mentoring, group discussions, awards, and youth volunteering opportunities through SportsPlus.

The programme addressed key risks and challenges faced by young girls in both community and school settings, equipping them with the confidence and skills needed to make positive choices. Topics covered had included knife crime, gangs, drug-related crime, coercive control, and exploitation, explored from both female perpetrator and victim perspectives.

It was noted that the total number of young people reached would not be confirmed until the end of the financial year.

It was further reported that the Centre for Action on Rape & Abuse's (CARA) specialist sexual violence therapy had provided one-to-one support for victims of sexual offences, including rape, Child Sexual Exploitation, grooming, and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG). The therapy had helped individuals to understand abusive behaviours and unhealthy relationships, enabling them to make positive choices in future relationships and to recognise early warning signs of harmful sexual behaviour.

The specialist therapy service had worked in collaboration with the Independent Sexual Violence Adviser (ISVA) service, ensuring that any young person with an open police

investigation received ISVA support from the point of initial report through to case closure.

UTURN – Impact Project X had provided support to vulnerable young females in the community by delivering 14 hours of mentoring each week, with 7 hours allocated per mentor. The programme operated across two separate 18-week sessions and aimed to support girls aged 11–17 who were at risk of criminal behaviour, violence, exploitation, or abuse.

Theatre Inspiring Change (TIC) – Stronger Together had addressed the root causes of violence against women and girls through education and empowerment. The programme aimed to raise awareness of misogyny, sexism, and toxic masculinity, empowered individuals to act as allies, and signposted support services for survivors. It had engaged students from Year 5 to Year 13, as well as young adults up to age 24.

TIC had delivered a range of interactive theatre programmes tailored to school needs, encouraging engagement and critical thinking. The programmes had demonstrated significant improvement in students' understanding of VAWG and misogyny. Prior to participation, 3.1% of students knew what VAWG was and 25.5% understood misogyny. Following participation, 85.8% understood VAWG and 80.2% could explain misogyny. In addition, 92.6% of students had rated the experience positively, and 100% of teachers had rated it as good or very good.

Karen Whybrow Associates – the Women's Safety Charter had been presented as a joint initiative among Councils, recognising the need to address specific male behaviours that contributed to women feeling unsafe. The Charter had emphasised the importance of immediate education on women's safety for both the community and local businesses and had confirmed a commitment to expanding safe spaces for women.

The impact of a safety charter was outlined. Encouraging businesses to join the Women's Safety Charter helped to create safer spaces by engaging the night-time economy and private partners. It was noted that women were more likely to visit venues with anti-harassment and equality policies and felt more secure where there was zero tolerance for misogyny. Prioritising women's safety was reported to support local prosperity and enhance community wellbeing.

Tendring District Council (TDC) had launched the Women's Safety Charter to help women and girls feel safe and respected across the District. Businesses and organisations had been invited to pledge their support, contributing to a safer and more respectful environment. Those signing up had received free training and guidance to help staff recognise and respond to inappropriate behaviour and to ensure their venue was welcoming to all.

The launch had followed TDC's adoption of its Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy 2025–28, developed with theCSP, which had identified tackling violence against women and girls and domestic abuse as a key priority.

It was noted that the total number of people reached in relation to partnerships with Girls Inspired Programme, CARA, UTURN – Impact Project X and Karen Whybrow Associates would not be confirmed until the end of the financial year. However, there

would be a continuation to roll out the project into 2026 – 2027 alongside the development of a Women’s Safety Charter Toolkit for all businesses and organisations.

Priority Three

It was reported that, under Priority Three, the Council aimed to work with CSP partners to establish a Knife Crime Matrix in order to help prevent and deter individuals and groups from committing acts of serious violence and carrying/using knives. Knife crime was defined as an offence where a knife/blade was used or threatened.

It was further reported that a joint problem-solving approach would be taken in respect of tackling knife crime and serious violence across the District:

- ***Provide Support and Opportunities*** – *work with partners / voluntary sector organisations to ensure people are supported and safeguarded through provision of education, training and diversionary activities.*
- ***Stakeholder Engagement and Collaboration*** – *Build upon current relationships with stakeholders and communities to ensure a co-ordinated response to knife crime and drug related violence (such as Gangs & County Lines).*
- ***Public Spaces*** – *Create the feeling of safety within outdoor public spaces by improving the local environment.*

The Committee was informed that Priority 4, Emerging Threats and Trends (Vehicle Crime and Arson) had been included in the report, along with Priority 3, to ensure the Committee had oversight of both areas and received assurance that they continued to be monitored. It was acknowledged that both priorities relied heavily on partnership work through the CSP and the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Due to the methodology used for data collection, it had not been possible to provide an accurate assessment of progress at this stage, as full data would not be collated until the end of the fiscal year and would not be available until mid-May 2026.

Those priorities remained standing agenda items at the monthly Problem-Solving Forum and the fortnightly Essex Police Tasking Meeting, where they continued to be monitored on a regular basis.

Confirmation had been received for the Community Safety core grant for 2026–2027. The CSP would receive £18,900 from the Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner in April 2026, enabling the partnership to fund programmes aligned to the 2026–2027 priorities. It was noted that funding would continue to support the Young and Older Person’s Crucial Crew and the ongoing rollout of the Women’s Safety Charter.

The CSP would continue to work with partner agencies to identify and develop initiatives to address the agreed priorities and any emerging threats or trends.

All Essex Community Safety Partnerships continued to work under the umbrella of Safer Essex while awaiting the Government’s “minded to” local government reorganisation decision. It was acknowledged that joint working with other District, Borough, and City Councils took place where shared objectives existed.

Safer Essex had held the strategic lead for coordinating the partnership response to community safety issues and initiatives across Essex, Southend, and Thurrock, acting as the county-wide strategy group for community safety. The partnership brought together key organisations and stakeholders to support a collaborative approach in delivering the following outcomes: preventing crime and anti-social behaviour; preventing fires; understanding and tackling hate crime; understanding and tackling violence, including violence against women and girls; improving community confidence in the multi-agency response to community safety issues; and continuing to deliver effective Community Safety Hubs across Greater Essex.

Safer Essex did not set specific priorities within its Community Safety Agreement but aligned its work with the Crime Prevention Strategy. To ensure that Safer Essex also reflected the priorities of Community Safety Partnerships, the Community Safety Plan assessed the priorities set by each CSP. The Community Safety Agreement 2025/26 had identified several prevalent areas of focus, including gaining a better understanding of issues surrounding shoplifting and exploring how Safer Essex and CSPs could contribute to tackling the problem; supporting the rollout of the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and ASB Minerva projects and identifying other areas that could benefit from the Minerva approach; bringing together findings from community engagement and perception exercises to identify common themes and gaps; working with CSPs to navigate changes arising from devolution, Local Government Reorganisation, and ICB restructures; reviewing information-sharing arrangements, particularly within Community Safety Hubs; supporting CSPs and Essex Police with the coordination and delivery of Operation Guardian; and, through the VAWG Strategic Partnership, developing a strategy to coordinate work on the safety of women and girls in public spaces.

It was also acknowledged that Safer Essex continued to work with the Southend, Essex and Thurrock Domestic Abuse Board to support CSPs in meeting any new requirements arising from the inquiry into Domestic Homicide Reviews.

At an informal meeting of the Committee held on 24 March 2026, the Committee had assembled a series of questions, which had been subsequently shared with Essex Police representatives and Tendring District Council Officers. Written responses had been prepared by those agencies in advance of the meeting. Although the questions and responses were not read out during the meeting, they were referred to on several occasions. The Chairman had therefore agreed that they be placed in the public domain for reference.

<u>Questions</u> by <u>Members:</u>	<u>Answers:</u>
Are there identifiable causes that explain the recent increase in shoplifting incidents?	Essex Police - The increase in shoplifting recorded during the reporting period can be attributed primarily to an identifiable reporting issue linked to a large national retailer operating within the district. During this period, Essex Police identified that the retailer was reporting a high volume of incidents that did not meet the threshold for theft. This included situations where items failed to scan correctly at self service checkouts, customers were subsequently required to pay, but the incident was still recorded by the retailer as a theft.

	<i>This practice resulted in an artificial inflation of recorded shoplifting offences and does not reflect a genuine increase in criminal behaviour across the district. The Essex Police Business Crime Team has escalated this issue at a senior level with the retailer to address reporting practices and to provide appropriate guidance and education to ensure crimes are reported accurately and proportionately.</i> <i>As the year has progressed, these incorrectly reported offences have reduced and fallen out of the year to date figures. As a result, shoplifting across the district has decreased. As at the end of February 2026, shoplifting offences are down by 8.9 percent, equating to 88 fewer offences compared to the same period last year.</i> <i>Alongside this corrective work, Essex Police continues to take a proactive approach to preventing and responding to shoplifting in Tendring. We actively promote the Shop Safe scheme and work closely with retail partners to improve prevention, reporting standards and offender management. Our Neighbourhood Policing Teams focus on the most prolific shoplifters, using intelligence led patrols and enforcement activity, and where appropriate utilising post conviction tools such as Criminal Behaviour Orders to disrupt repeat offending and protect local businesses</i>
<i>The report indicates that 40% of our residents are dissatisfied with how crime and ASB are being dealt with in the district. It also notes that there were 29 common assaults in key locations last year. Could you provide the number of incidents recorded this year, along with their outcomes? Additionally, should we consider increasing enforcement activity, including making more arrests where appropriate, as a means of reassuring the</i>	Essex Police – <i>The reference within the report to resident satisfaction levels relates to the Essex Police’s Public Perception Survey. It is important to clarify that this data presents a broadly positive picture of public confidence in policing within Tendring. The most recent survey results for Quarter 1 of 2025 to 2026 show that 61 percent of residents agree that Essex Police are dealing effectively with crime and anti social behaviour, and 80 percent of respondents state that policing in their local area is doing a good or excellent job. Tendring continues to record the highest confidence levels of any policing district in Essex.</i> <i>While perceptions of crime and anti social behaviour can be influenced by a range of factors, including local incidents, visibility and wider national commentary, Essex Police remains focused on maintaining public confidence through effective enforcement, prevention and engagement.</i> <i>In relation to the reference to common assaults in key locations, I am unable to provide a specific breakdown of recorded incidents for the current year at short notice. However, I can provide assurance regarding enforcement activity across the district. During the last 12 months, Neighbourhood and Local Policing Teams have made a total of 1,840 arrests. Of these, 841 arrests relate to offences against the person, with 747 arrests, equating to 47.4 percent, linked to domestic abuse</i>

public and improving overall perceptions of safety?	offences. This demonstrates sustained and proactive enforcement activity, particularly in relation to safeguarding victims and addressing violent offending. <i>In response to the question regarding increased enforcement and arrests as a means of reassurance, Essex Police already apply a robust and proportionate approach. Where offences are committed and arrest is necessary, officers take decisive enforcement action. However, public reassurance is not achieved through enforcement alone. Visibility, problem solving, partnership working and early intervention play a critical role in improving perceptions of safety.</i> <i>Neighbourhood Policing Teams continue to focus on hotspot locations, repeat offenders and community concerns, using intelligence led patrols alongside preventative and enforcement powers. This balanced approach ensures that enforcement activity is targeted and effective, while also addressing the underlying causes of crime and anti-social behaviour to support longer term improvements in community confidence.</i>
Could you outline the targeted actions being taken to address these identified hotspots? Furthermore, what operational or strategic options have been considered to strengthen our approach, and are there additional measures that could be evaluated?	Essex Police – A range of targeted operational and partnership actions are being taken to address identified hotspot locations and the behaviours contributing to crime and anti-social behaviour. <i>Operationally, Essex Police is delivering focused activity through Operation Guardian and Operation Vigilant. Operation Guardian is a neighbourhood focused initiative aimed at tackling persistent crime and anti-social behaviour in identified hotspot areas. It brings together targeted patrols, problem solving and offender management to address the specific drivers of harm within local communities. The operation prioritises repeat locations and individuals, using crime data, intelligence and community feedback to ensure resources are directed where they will have the greatest impact. A strong emphasis is placed on visibility, engagement and early intervention, alongside proportionate enforcement where required.</i> <i>Operation Vigilant complements this approach by focusing on higher risk offending, particularly violence and disorder in busy or vulnerable locations. It uses intelligence led deployment, enhanced uniformed and plain clothes patrols, and proactive engagement to identify risk early, disrupt offending and safeguard potential victims. Together, these operations provide a balanced preventative and enforcement-based response to hotspot areas.</i> <i>These policing activities are supported by ongoing Neighbourhood Policing Team patrols to ensure a consistent presence and sustained focus beyond specific operations.</i>

	<i>In parallel, work continues with partners to address environmental and situational factors that contribute to crime and anti-social behaviour. This includes enhanced CCTV coverage through Safer Streets funding, which strengthens preventative capability and supports evidential opportunities where offences occur.</i> <i>The use of the Council Enforcement Team is proposed at this time, with an expansion of this capability also proposed as part of a strengthened partnership approach. This would be welcomed. Improving visibility and public reassurance should not rest with policing alone. An expanded council enforcement presence would enable a broader and more visible response to issues such as environmental disorder, street drinking and breaches of Public Space Protection Orders, using a wider range of powers alongside police activity and reinforcing a joined-up approach to community safety.</i> <i>Strategically, this activity is delivered through a targeted hotspot policing model. Resources are deployed based on crime data and intelligence, with a clear focus on high visibility patrols, coordinated enforcement and sustained presence in priority locations. The objective is to disrupt repeat offending, deter criminal behaviour and provide immediate public reassurance, while maintaining consistent pressure on locations and individuals that generate the highest demand</i>
How are we assessing the true extent of crime, not just the incidents that make it into official records?	Essex Police – When we talk about understanding crime in Tendring, we are careful not to rely solely on recorded crime figures. We recognise that not all harm is reported to the police or captured as a crime, particularly in a district with a large seasonal population, vulnerable communities and repeat low-level issues that can escalate over time. While Essex Police is independently assessed by HMICFRS as having good levels of crime data accuracy and compliance with national recording standards, we also recognise that accurate recording only reflects what is reported to us. To understand the true extent of crime and harm, we therefore look at a wider range of information including incident data, repeat locations and callers, victim feedback, and partnership intelligence from the council and other agencies, alongside patterns identified through local tasking meetings. This broader approach helps us identify hidden demand, intervene earlier and ensure resources are directed to the areas and communities experiencing the greatest harm, even where that harm is not always visible in official crime statistics.
What are the key reasons behind the decline in public confidence when it	Essex Police - Public confidence in reporting incidents to the police is influenced by both local experience and wider national factors. Within Tendring, confidence remains strong. The district continues to record the highest levels of public confidence in

<i>comes to reporting incidents to the police, and how can this be improved?</i>	<i>Essex, with residents reporting that the police are doing a good or excellent job locally.</i> <i>While Essex Police as a whole has seen a slight reduction in confidence, this is not reflected in Tendring. The county wide change appears to be driven largely by national and high-profile issues rather than local policing performance. This includes events elsewhere in the county, such as those linked to the Bell Hotel in Epping, alongside the wider national debate around immigration and policing. These issues can affect perception at a county level even where there is no direct local impact.</i> <i>In Tendring, confidence in reporting remains supported by visible neighbourhood policing, proactive enforcement and regular community engagement. Neighbourhood Policing Teams continue to focus on accessibility, visibility and responsiveness, ensuring residents feel confident to report incidents and raise concerns.</i> <i>Maintaining and improving confidence relies on clear communication, visible action and consistent engagement. By continuing to demonstrate effective local policing and addressing community concerns promptly and proportionately, Essex Police aims to sustain high levels of trust and confidence in reporting across the district.</i>
<i>How is the redeployment of Police Officers from this area to London, Wethersfield, and other locations affecting local policing?</i>	Essex Police - <i>The redeployment of police officers from Tendring to support major incidents or events elsewhere, including London, Wethersfield and other locations, has had minimal impact on local policing delivery. While officers are at times required to support large scale or high-profile operations, sufficient resources are always retained within Tendring to continue policing the district effectively.</i> <i>Many of these deployments are staffed through overtime, rest day working or officers volunteering additional hours, rather than through the abstraction of core neighbourhood or response capability. This ensures that local demand, emergency response and neighbourhood policing activity within Tendring are maintained.</i> <i>Tendring also benefits from reciprocal support from across the wider force when required. For example, large scale local events such as the Clacton Airshow are supported by officers from other areas, ensuring a robust policing presence without detracting from routine local policing.</i> <i>Overall, resource deployment is managed carefully at force level to balance operational requirements while protecting frontline policing capability within Tendring</i>

Please could you provide updated figures from page 22 for crime and reported ASB for 2025–26, covering as much of the year as is currently available, and at minimum the first nine months to December 2025. In addition, please provide part-year updates for the following programmes: Girls Inspired, CARA Specialist Counselling, UTURN Project X, TIC Stronger Together, and the Women's Safety Charter.	TDC - Updates for the Following Programmes: <u>Girls Inspired Programme</u> 80 young girls have attended the programme. We have started two Girls Inspired programmes in LIFT academy schools- Thorpe and Frinton sites. We have 24 females referred to the course. We have planned in first aid, mental health and wellbeing along with VAWG topics and youth crime prevention. <u>The project teaches:</u> Sports and activities. Mentoring Guided support First aid awareness planned Group well- being sessions held Various topics covered around key subjects Team work Social skills Communication skills Mental health sessions All the young females were engaged and participated throughout the project. The course is linked to ASDAN so all females attending will achieve a qualification on completion Both projects started mid-September and run to December. <u>CARA Specialist Counselling</u> Between 1st July and 30th September, we provided 122 specialist sexual violence counselling sessions for 18 young people from Tendring. Based on 12 before and after questionnaires completed by young people from Tendring who completed counselling during this period: • 100% told us that they had felt heard and believed. • 100% told us they had a better understanding of what happened to them and how it had affected them. • 100% told us they felt more able to recognise abusive relationships and behaviour. • 100% told us they were using new ways to look after their mental health. • 100% told us they felt better able to manage their self-harm (e.g. cutting, eating issues, risky behaviour or misuse of illegal substances). • 89% described the service as excellent and 11% described it as good. We were also able to recruit a new, very experienced young
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	<i>person's counsellor to work with young people in Tendring. She has been appointed on a free-lance basis and will start to offer sessions in early October, providing 4 sessions a week in Harwich, and providing an additional 4 sessions a week in Clacton, increasing our capacity and reducing waiting times for young people in Clacton.</i> <u><i>UTURN Impact Project X</i></u> <i>This project has seen 30 young people to date over 24 hours of mentoring on various days and times.</i> <i>The project has achieved significant successes in supporting young females aged 11–17 who are at risk of exploitation, violence, and criminal involvement. One of the main outcomes met has been increased awareness and understanding of safeguarding issues, including county lines, domestic and peer violence, sexual exploitation, and financial crime. Through one-to-one mentoring and group workshops, participants have demonstrated improved confidence in recognising risks, making safer choices, and seeking help when needed.</i> <i>A further success has been the positive impact of the weekly physical activity sessions. Dance fit, conditioning, and self-defence classes have not only improved participants' physical fitness but also enhanced their mental well-being, resilience, and self-esteem. Several young females have reported feeling stronger, more confident, and better able to manage stress and anxiety as a result of these activities.</i> <i>The programme has also successfully fostered trusted relationships between young people and mentors, creating safe spaces for open discussion and guidance. This has led to improved engagement in education, more positive peer relationships, and a noticeable reduction in risky behaviours among participants.</i> <u><i>TIC Stronger Together</i></u> <i>A mixed response has been received by the schools as some were very engaging and supportive of this project however unfortunately some schools were difficult to get responses from or declined to be part of the project.</i> <u><i>Sixth Form Lift Clacton</i></u> – <i>2 productions were delivered on the 26th and 27th February 2026. The feedback received from the teachers and students was extremely positive and they have requested two more dates for June and July 2026 after exam time has finished.</i> <u><i>Manningtree</i></u> – <i>We are working with the teacher to finalise dates as unfortunately the school cancelled the previous date, but they are still keen to work with delivering this project within the school.</i> <u><i>Colne</i></u> – <i>We are working with the school to finalise dates in the near future.</i> <i>Clacton Costal Academy – 3 productions were delivered on the</i>
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	14th November 26th and 27th November. The feedback was again extremely positive. Tendring Technical - We are working with the school to finalise dates in the near future. <u>Clacton County High</u> – Declined the offer of this project <u>Women’s Safety Charter</u> This project was only launched on the 24th February and the initial training to local businesses and organisations was held on the 13th March so we are unable to provide a comprehensive update at this stage, however this will be provided later in the year as the project progresses. ----- Essex Police - Please find Rolling 12 months to February 2026 <table><tr><th>Top Level</th><th></th><th colspan="4">Offences</th></tr><tr><th>Crime Type</th><th>% DA 2026</th><th>2025</th><th>2026</th><th># diff.</th><th>% diff.</th></tr><tr><td>Anti-Social Behaviour (incidents)</td><td>-</td><td>1061</td><td>1166</td><td>105</td><td>9.9</td></tr><tr><td>All Crime (excl. Action (NFIB) Fraud)</td><td>21.1</td><td>12842</td><td>12408</td><td>-434</td><td>-3.4</td></tr><tr><td>- State Based Crime</td><td>8.4</td><td>1914</td><td>1713</td><td>-201</td><td>-10.5</td></tr><tr><td>- Victim Based Crime</td><td>23.1</td><td>10928</td><td>10695</td><td>-233</td><td>-2.1</td></tr></table>	Top Level		Offences				Crime Type	% DA 2026	2025	2026	# diff.	% diff.	Anti-Social Behaviour (incidents)	-	1061	1166	105	9.9	All Crime (excl. Action (NFIB) Fraud)	21.1	12842	12408	-434	-3.4	- State Based Crime	8.4	1914	1713	-201	-10.5	- Victim Based Crime	23.1	10928	10695	-233	-2.1
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Can you confirm that Appendix A (Tendring Strategic Assessment) covers the period from 1 October 2024 to 30 September 2025.	TDC - This is correct. This information is on page 4 under 1.2 Data Parameters.																																				
Please could the Committee be given access to the training resources provided by Karen Whybrow, with the opportunity to consider inviting her to present at a future meeting to support the Committee in forming relevant recommendations.	TDC - Karen Whybrow contact details are karenwhybro@gmail.com Karen will be able to provide her full range of training resources and her availability to attend any future meetings.																																				
What stance has the Cabinet adopted in relation to the Women’s Safety Charter?	TDC - Cllr Peter Kotz attended the launch of the Women’s Safety Charter at the Town Hall on Tuesday 24 th February and the first training for local businesses and organisations took place Friday 13 th March. Further training sessions are to be planned throughout the year in which Counsellors are welcome to attend. A wider public launch of the charter will follow later in 2026.																																				
The report notes that £18,900 has been allocated by the Office of the Police, Fire and	TDC - The amount allocated to the Community Safety Partnership is decided by the Office Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner. To date the Community Safety Partnership has been able to support many local organisations with their funding request however, in the last year due to the volume of																																				

<i>Crime Commissioner. In your view, is this funding adequate for the Community Safety Partnership to support programmes addressing the 2026/27 priority areas?</i>	<i>applications we have not always been able to support the applicants with their full funding request but have supported with a smaller amount to help them, but we have signposted them to other funding streams which maybe able to support their project as well.</i>
<i>In relation to the Health Profile Statistics in report A (pages 44-46), is there a risk in relying on data that is 7-8 years old when developing the strategy, particularly given how much the world has changed post-Covid? Is more up-to-date data available?</i>	TDC - This data was provided by Essex County Council.

Members of the Committee then proceeded to ask the following supplementary questions at the meeting:

<u>Questions by Members:</u>	<u>Answers:</u>
Do you think the data suggests a link between the recent closure of the front desk at Clacton Police Station and residents' reduced ability to report crime in person?	(Chief Inspector Stuart Austin) No, I don't believe so. While there are reductions in some areas, there are also increases in others. If the ability to report in person at the station were a significant factor, we would expect to see reductions across the board. Whilst I would prefer to see the Front Desk open to the public, Essex Police had a decision to make and upon review of what was being reported at the Clacton Front Office, the majority of interactions were enquiries rather than crime reports. I'm confident that the decrease in reporting is not linked to the closure of the front desk.
I am interested in the Stronger Together initiative and concerned that CCHS has declined to take part. Could you explain	(Leanne Thornton) I don't yet have the full details on which schools have completed the course. Once the

the reasons behind this decision, especially given that other schools have embraced the initiative?	end-of-year statistics are available, we should be able to identify the reasons for any lack of engagement. I'll need to provide that information at a later date. (Councillor Kotz) We will explore ways to encourage greater engagement from schools.
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The Committee noted that the Stronger Together initiative provided a valuable opportunity for children and young people to receive education on Violence Against Women and Girls and expressed disappointment that some schools had declined to participate.

<u>Questions by Members:</u>	<u>Answers:</u>
Is ShopSafe helping prevent shoplifting?	(CI Stuart Austin) Yes, it is. It's especially beneficial when businesses collaborate and share information, although some prefer not to participate or choose alternative solutions instead.
Domestic abuse-related death reviews show ongoing concern that suicide rates remain high. How can we better prevent these tragedies?	(CI Stuart Austin) We need a whole-system approach where every partner plays an active role — policing, health, wellbeing services, and others. It would be helpful to understand whether there are any local hotspots, either in public spaces where targeted initiatives could be effective, or within private households or facilities where closer collaboration with health services may be needed to provide appropriate leadership. (Leanne Thornton) Domestic Homicide Reviews are increasingly identifying cases linked to suicide. We are working with the Samaritans and other partners to strengthen suicide-prevention efforts. The Domestic Review Board at ECC is also examining domestic-related suicides, which remain a high priority on their agenda. (Councillor Kotz) One of the things we're focusing on within the Community Safety Partnership is the outcomes, and we may need look more deeply into working closely with our health colleagues to examine the outcomes of

	underlying processes in greater depth.
Could you clarify the earlier point about shoplifting — specifically, that the rise in reported incidents was due to one store recording unscanned items as shoplifting offences? Has that now been corrected in the system.	(CI Stuart Austin) Yes, it has. We're now seeing a reduction in shoplifting, although part of that decrease reflects the fact that the retailer responsible for those mis-logged incidents dropped out of the data over a year ago. While the statistics show a downward trend, we may need another six months to understand whether this represents a genuine reduction or simply the impact of that retailer no longer appearing in the 12-month figures.
Could this be due to some businesses choosing not to participate in the ShopSafe scheme?	(CI Stuart Austin) That is a possibility. In this case, the issue involved a multinational retailer that my team, together with the Essex Police Business Crime Team, engaged with directly. There had been significant over-reporting, but their data is now aligned with what we would expect. Once we are able to assess the figures without the distortion caused by that retailer's previous reporting, we will be in a better position to determine whether shoplifting has genuinely decreased in Tendring.
How does Operation Vigilant work in practice? If officers are patrolling in public spaces, do they proactively approach women, or how is engagement managed? We need to ensure people feel supported rather than uncomfortable.	(CI Stuart Austin) Operation Vigilant is Home Office funded. The Minister for Safeguarding, Jess Phillips MP, visited Colchester around three months ago to see the work firsthand. The operation uses a mix of uniformed and plain-clothes officers. The plain-clothes teams focus on identified hotspots, looking for individuals displaying concerning behaviours who may need to be spoken to. Even if no offence has been committed, early engagement is important, and uniformed officers will then step in to carry that out. The approach is adapted from counter-terrorism tactics, where initiating a conversation with a potential offender can be enough to disrupt or deter harmful behaviour. The aim is to have a visible and proactive presence in the places where people feel most

	vulnerable.
With resources being directed to areas of highest need, are you satisfied that other areas are still receiving adequate coverage?	(CI Stuart Austin) I'd always welcome more resources, but yes — I'm content with the current level of coverage. Last summer we rebranded Neighbourhood Policing and saw an uplift in neighbourhood officers, with further increases expected over the next six months once final numbers are confirmed. Tendring is a particularly challenging district to resource because of its seasonality: we have sufficient capacity in winter, but demand rises sharply in summer, which is common across seaside areas. To support this, Operation Sunbeam provides additional officers in the District between June and September, working on a response model focused on getting to 999 calls as quickly as possible, alongside the strengthened neighbourhood teams. Historically, neighbourhood officers have had to backfill response during the summer, but with these changes we should see far greater visibility and presence throughout the peak season.
Regarding the hotspots — particularly McDonald's in the town centre, where the same individuals are repeatedly involved — has there been any consideration of reducing licensing hours or increasing police presence in these locations?	(CI Stuart Austin) Two of those locations are already designated Operation Guardian hotspots, so we have additional officers deployed there. McDonald's tends to attract youth-related ASB, and we make use of the PSPO powers to seize alcohol and disperse groups when necessary. However, the perception of safety is influenced by more than police presence alone. It requires a whole-system, partnership approach, as well as consideration of the wider community factors. I'm confident that, through the CSP, we're making strong progress in addressing these issues.
Can you give an example of a community group that receives greater protection?	(CI Stuart Austin) Yes — there are several examples where we provide enhanced engagement. For instance,

	we work closely with the Jaywick community, supported by our Fraud Prevention Officer, Tammy, who delivers targeted fraud-prevention workshops to make sure we're reaching residents effectively. We also use channels like <i>Your Local Update</i> and the <i>Dispatch</i> newsletter to keep people informed in ways that suit the district's communication habits. We tailor our engagement to the needs and circumstances of different groups, including African families with established links in the district and other communities who may benefit from more focused support.
To what extent does the redeployment of officers, including those volunteering to work on rest days, place additional pressure on the overall budget?	(CI Stuart Austin) When there is significant disorder — such as the incidents in Epping last summer or the Just Stop Oil protests on the M25 — the associated costs can be reclaimed by the force through a Home Office grant. Regardless of these deployments, we always ensure that officers are backfilled within the district so that Tendring continues to have the appropriate level of policing.
In the context of the programme updates, what assurances do we have regarding the individuals delivering these programmes, and are volunteers and social workers fully covered under our current arrangements?	(Leanne Thornton) As the Community Safety Partnership, we commission partner organisations to deliver these programmes on our behalf. It's the responsibility of those organisations to ensure they have the appropriately trained and equipped people in place to run and implement the programmes effectively. I'm as confident as I can be that they are meeting the standards and assurances they've committed to. (Councillor Kotz) The voluntary sector is well represented within the Community Safety Partnership.
Have you seen any changes in drinking patterns that have influenced local crime rates?	(CI Stuart Austin) I haven't seen any noticeable changes or impact on crime. The biggest shift in drinking behaviour actually came during COVID, which transformed town centres quite

	significantly. Tendring doesn't have a traditional nightlife economy, but we do experience an increase in crime during the summer months linked to tourism and higher levels of drinking in caravan parks and similar locations. This makes demand more sporadic and can complicate resourcing.
Considering Local Government Reorganisation (LGR), what assurances do we have that Tendring's heightened needs during the summer period will continue to be prioritised?	(CI Stuart Austin) I am confident. It's very likely that Essex Police will adjust policing areas to reflect the move to LGR, although no final decision has been made yet because the full picture wasn't known earlier. There is still some uncertainty about what the final operating model will look like. What we <i>have</i> seen, however, is a continued emphasis on neighbourhood policing and maintaining a strong presence at the heart of communities. That priority isn't going to change — it's just the structure around it that may look different.
What is the current level of hate crime in the District, and to what extent do residents understand what constitutes a hate crime?	(CI Stuart Austin) Generally, people don't always recognise when something constitutes a hate crime, and as a result it often goes unreported. We don't have a significant hotspot in the District overall. Pier Ward shows slightly higher levels, but that simply reflects the broader crime picture in that area rather than a specific pattern of hate crime. All reports are investigated by the neighbourhood policing team, with a focus on understanding the community impact. At present, there's no consistent pattern and no single group or type of incident that stands out as being highest.
Do you extract and monitor particular crime categories, and what processes are in place to respond to spikes in low-level crime, including issues like dog theft and hare coursing?	(CI Stuart Austin) We receive regular statistical updates — monthly, quarterly, and annually — through our analytic system. However, the numbers only tell part of the story. For example, robbery of business property is currently showing a 108% increase, but in real terms that equates to only around eight

	additional crimes over the year. This is why we place greater emphasis on volume rather than percentage change, as it provides a more accurate picture of who is actually being affected In terms of specific issues like hare coursing, we've worked with the Rural Engagement Team to raise awareness and improve understanding of what it involves. Even during periods where overall crime is reducing, we're still seeing an increase in solved crime, which is encouraging. We review the data month by month to understand what's happening across the District and to respond appropriately to any emerging trends.
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The Committee **NOTED** Councillor Kotz's suggestion that future work programmes scheduled the Annual Progress Review of the Crime & Disorder Strategy agenda item for June, to ensure the full year's figures — including fourth-quarter data — were available and provided a clearer representation of trends.

46. REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (CORPORATE POLICY & SUPPORT) - A.2 - COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW FOR CLACTON-ON-SEA, HOLLAND-ON-SEA, AND JAYWICK SANDS - PHASE II CONSULTATION AND FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL

The Committee was reminded of the approved terms of reference for the Community Governance Review (CGR) of Clacton-on-Sea, Holland-on-Sea and Jaywick Sands, together with the progress made in its implementation to date. Members were also advised of the outcome of the Phase II consultation exercise (Stage 4 of the Terms of Reference Timeline), including the expenditure incurred.

The report (A.2) built on that presented to the Committee on 17 November 2025, which had outlined the results of the Phase I consultation. That earlier consultation had shown that 74% of elector respondents across the review area considered it wrong that the whole area remained unparished. The response rate from electors had exceeded 7%. Stakeholder respondents had similarly expressed the view that the area should not remain unparished. The option receiving the highest level of support (44% of elector responses) was the creation of three separate parish councils for the three distinct communities. In both Jaywick Sands and Holland-on-Sea, over 50% of elector responses had supported separate parish councils.

The report (A.2), through its appendices, set out respondents' views on the principle of establishing parish councils and on the potential arrangements for those councils.

Having considered the findings from both consultation phases, the Committee was invited to approve its final recommendations to Council for the creation of separate parishes for the three communities, to take effect from 1 April 2027. A series of further final recommendations was presented to meet the requirements of Part 4 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. Proposed steps leading up to the potential elections for the three parish councils in May 2027 were also provided for the Committee's consideration.

The Committee was informed that the CGR for Clacton-on-Sea, Holland-on-Sea and Jaywick Sands had commenced on 1 July 2025 following the publication of the Terms of Reference.

For context, the chronology of the governance process for the CGR was reported as follows:

- **21 October 2024** – A motion was submitted to Full Council requesting a report outlining the process for undertaking a CGR in the review area.
- **15 November 2024** – Full Council received and approved a report proposing that a CGR be undertaken based on draft Terms of Reference. The Community Leadership Overview and Scrutiny Committee was designated as the oversight body for the Review, and the Chief Executive was authorised to update and publish the Terms of Reference on 1 July 2025.
- **20 December 2024** – Cabinet approved funding of £48,000 to meet anticipated CGR costs, subject to a review of sufficiency.
- **17 June 2025** – The Community Leadership Overview & Scrutiny Committee received a report on the proposed commencement of the CGR and agreed to refer a request to Cabinet for an increased budget of £68,000. The Committee also approved a date for reviewing the outcome of the first consultation stage and preparing for the next phase. This meeting was initially scheduled for 20 October but was later rearranged to 17 November 2025.
- **27 June 2025** – Cabinet accepted the revised CGR budget and authorised expenditure up to £68,000.
- **1 July 2025** – The Chief Executive formally published the Terms of Reference, thereby initiating the Review.
- **1 July – 30 September 2025** – Phase I consultation was undertaken to gather views on whether parishing was appropriate and whether any new governance arrangements should involve one, two or three parishes.
- **17 November 2025** – The Committee received the outcome of the Phase I consultation and approved draft recommendations proposing separate parishes for the three communities. The Committee also agreed to commence consultation on those recommendations.

It was reported that the purpose of the Review was to determine whether new parish or town councils should be created for the three areas, which remained the only unparished parts of the District. Collectively, the review area comprised approximately 30,000 properties, 44,000 registered voters and a wide range of stakeholders, including voluntary and community organisations.

Phase II Consultation – Basis Approved by the Community Leadership Overview and Scrutiny Committee

(1) Parishing of the Review Area

The Committee noted that, as the Phase I consultation had demonstrated support for parishing the area covered by the Community Governance Review, the Phase II consultation had proceeded on the basis of a draft recommendation that parishing should be implemented. Phase II therefore had sought views on the available options for parishing arrangements.

(2) Areas/Boundaries – Identities and Interests of Communities

It was reported that the option receiving the highest level of support during Phase I had been the creation of three separate local councils for Clacton-on-Sea, Holland-on-Sea and Jaywick Sands. This option had been therefore adopted as a draft recommendation for Phase II. As a result, the consultation had been structured to include separate elements for each of the three areas, enabling the Review to address statutory requirements relating to community identity, interests and effective governance.

The Committee was advised that the consultation materials had been set out appropriately for each of the three communities. To support this process, discussions had taken place with the Ward Councillors for the West Clacton & Jaywick Sands, St Bartholomew's and Eastcliff Wards. Those discussions had been intended to ensure that any proposed parish arrangements accurately reflected the communities understood to constitute 'Jaywick Sands' and 'Holland-on-Sea'. The meetings had included consideration of proposed boundaries that would have resulted in more narrowly defined parish areas for Jaywick Sands and Holland-on-Sea. The proposals presented in the report (A.2) for those potential parishes (and, by consequence, for a potential Clacton-on-Sea Parish) reflected the direction sought by the Ward Councillors involved.

The Committee was reminded that Section 93 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 required the Council, when conducting a Community Governance Review, to secure future arrangements that reflected the identities and interests of local communities. The legislation also required that such arrangements be convenient, effective, supportive of community cohesion and mindful of existing representational structures. Those considerations had been central to the discussions held with Ward Councillors.

Arising from this work, the draft recommendations for parishing in the three areas utilised the boundaries as set out in Appendices F–H of the A.2 report.

(3) Naming of Possible New Parishes and Parish Councils (and Council Style)

The Committee was advised that the draft recommendations had included proposed names for the possible new parishes as follows:

- West Clacton and Jaywick Sands
- Clacton-on-Sea
- Holland-on-Sea

Those names corresponded with the maps presented at Appendices F–H to the A.2 report.

It was reported that, in each of the three cases, the electorate of the proposed parish would exceed 1,000. In accordance with Section 94 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, the Council was therefore required to recommend the establishment of a parish council for each area, with no discretion available due to the electorate size.

The Committee acknowledged that the Review was also able to consider the style of any parish councils to be constituted. Following the discussions with Ward Councillors referred to earlier, draft recommendations had been approved on the basis of the following styles:

- West Clacton and Jaywick Sands Town Council
- Clacton-on-Sea Town Council
- Holland-on-Sea Village Council

It was confirmed that the use of the terms “Town Council” and “Village Council” did not alter the legal status of those bodies, which would remain parish councils in terms of their powers and responsibilities. Electors and stakeholders in all three areas had been presented during Phase II consultation with the full range of available parish council style options.

(4) Electoral Arrangements

The Committee was informed that the legal minimum number of parish councillors for any parish council was five, as set out in Section 16 of the Local Government Act 1972, and that there was no statutory maximum. It was noted that the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) had issued guidance in 1988 suggesting that five councillors were too few for effective administration, recommending instead a practical minimum of seven and a maximum of twenty-five.

In addition to the NALC guidance, the Committee had received specific advice from the Essex Association of Local Councils (EALC) regarding the appropriate number of parish councillors for each of the possible new parish councils. The following information was presented:

<i>Possible Parish Council for</i>	<i>Electorate 2025-26</i>	<i>Electorate Projection 2029-30</i>	<i>NALC guidance on Parish Councillor Numbers</i>	<i>EALC guidance on Parish Councillor Numbers</i>
<i>West Clacton & Jaywick Sands</i>	<i>4,227</i>	<i>4,417</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>12-14</i>
<i>Clacton-on-Sea</i>	<i>32,906¹</i>	<i>33,943</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>21-24</i>
<i>Holland-on-Sea</i>	<i>6,855¹</i>	<i>7,098</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>12-14</i>

Earlier assessments had suggested an electorate of 6,713 for the proposed Holland-on-Sea Parish and 33,048 for Clacton-on-Sea. A further reassessment had

produced the updated figures shown, with suitable adjustments applied to the electorate projections based on the District Ward-level data included in the Terms of Reference.

The Committee noted that the Phase II draft recommendations had utilised the NALC guidance, while electors and stakeholders had also been directed to the EALC guidance. The consultation had sought views on the ranges presented.

It was reported that the five-year electorate projections from 2025 had been included in the Terms of Reference published on 1 July 2025.

A further draft recommendation in Phase II had proposed that elections to the parish councils for the possible West Clacton and Jaywick Sands Parish and the possible Holland-on-Sea Parish should be whole-council elections, with both parishes being unwarded. However, for the possible Clacton-on-Sea Town Council, the size and distribution of the electorate made a single unwarded election impracticable. It was also considered desirable that distinct parts of the area should have specific representation. Accordingly, the draft recommendations had sought views on warding arrangements for Clacton-on-Sea.

The Committee noted that Appendix H to the report (A.2) had contained a map of the draft parish ward proposals for a possible Clacton-on-Sea Parish. As the proposed parish wards were based on existing District Ward boundaries and names, the areas were considered easily identifiable and unlikely to disrupt local ties. It was acknowledged that the proposed boundary between the Clacton-on-Sea and Holland-on-Sea Parishes would run through the Eastcliff Ward, requiring an adjustment to the warding arrangements. It was therefore proposed that the St Paul's District Ward be combined with the part of Eastcliff District Ward falling within the proposed Clacton-on-Sea Parish to form a new St Paul's and Eastcliff Parish Ward. The five-year electorate forecasts for those wards, as set out in the Terms of Reference, had been taken into account in preparing the proposals.

It was confirmed that none of the above proposals sought to make any changes to the District Ward boundaries for Tendring District Council.

The Committee acknowledged the numbers of parish councillors proposed in the draft recommendations for each of the Clacton-on-Sea Parish Wards. Those numbers were based on the NALC guidance indicating a total of 25 parish councillors for the possible Clacton-on-Sea Parish:

	Electorate 2025-26	Electorate 2029-30 (forecast)	Proposed number of Parish Councillors	Electorate Ratio (2025- 26)
Bluehouse Ward	4,059	4,105	3	1:1,353
Burrsville Ward	4,803	5,199	4	1:1,200
Cann Hall Ward	4,634	4,989	3	1:1,545
Coppins Ward	5,156	5,245	4	1:1,282
Pier Ward	1,928	2,065	1	1:1,928
St James' Ward	4,872	4,886	4	1:1,218
St John's Ward	4,965	4,965	4	1:1,241
St Paul's & Eastcliff	2,568	2,568	2	1:1,284

Ward				
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The Committee was advised that the reference to Eastcliff related to the part of the current District Ward of Eastcliff that would not form part of the possible Holland-on-Sea Parish, comprising 339 electors. Earlier apportionment had suggested that 442 electors would fall within this part of Eastcliff Ward, resulting in a previously identified higher total of 2,671 electors for the proposed Parish Ward and an electoral ratio of 1:1,336.

The Committee noted that the overall electoral ratio in the table was 1 parish councillor to 1,306 electors (2025–26).

It was further reported that, in view of Local Government Reorganisation in Greater Essex, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England was expected to undertake an electoral review of the relevant Unitary Area, which would include the current District of Tendring. Any adjustments to parish wards arising from that review would follow the determination of the new Unitary Authority electoral boundaries. Such changes would apply electoral proportionality rules to parish wards as required.

(5) Precepts and Base Costs

The Committee was reminded that the public meetings held during Phase I of the consultation had included reference to Special Expenses. In 2025/26, the Council had allocated £682,999 as Special Expenses, of which £423,446 had been charged to Council Taxpayers in Clacton-on-Sea, Holland-on-Sea and Jaywick Sands. It was noted that, should parishing proceed, a reassessment of the total charge and its allocation would be required following the conclusion of the CGR. Those Special Expenses related to open space, playground and recreation costs incurred within the review area.

The Committee was informed that, should the Council adopt the final recommendations, it would be responsible for determining the initial precepts for the new parish councils. It was also noted that any allotments owned by the District Council within the review area would automatically transfer to the relevant new parish council. The only allotments affected by the Review were those at Rush Green, Clacton-on-Sea.

To support the Phase II consultation, the EALC had provided professional advice on the likely base costs of the possible parish councils. Those cost estimates were set out at Appendix E to the report (A.2) and had been referenced throughout the Phase II consultation materials.

As part of the Phase II consultation, consultees had also been invited to indicate any services, activities, events or arrangements that they wished a possible new parish council to be responsible for. This information was intended to inform any future consideration of responsibilities beyond the base operating costs of a parish council, should the establishment of such councils be approved.

Outcome from the Phase II Consultation

The Committee noted that the findings from the Phase II consultation were set out in Appendices A (A1 and A2) and C to the report (A.2). Those findings informed the proposed final recommendations to be submitted to Full Council on 2 June 2026.

It was reported that the response rate from electors across the review area had been marginally under 5% of all electors, although rounding to the nearest whole figure presented this as 5%. The response rate during Phase I had been somewhat higher.

The analysis of responses to the draft recommendations on which views had been sought was presented in Appendix A to the report (A.2), with annex A1 containing elector responses and annex A2 containing responses from others with an interest in the Review. Appendix C set out additional views gathered by CVST through their supplementary consultation work with 'seldom heard' groups in the review area.

The Final Recommendations

The Committee was advised that the final recommendations had been prepared on the basis of the consultation outcomes. Where differences of opinion existed between electors and other interested parties, the overall number of responses had been used to support the proposed recommendation. Appendix D to the report (A.2) provided a summary of the relevant provisions of Part 4 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, confirming that all statutory requirements had been addressed in formulating the final recommendations.

The Committee noted that one of the proposed final recommendations concerned the term of office for the first cohort of councillors elected to any new parish councils. Civil servants had indicated, as part of preparations for local government reorganisation, that councillors for the new Unitary Authority would serve a five-year term, including one year on the initial shadow authority. As this Council had traditionally aligned parish council elections with those of Tendring District Council, the relevant recommendation had been drafted to ensure that the proposed new parish councils would, going forward, align their elections with those of the new Unitary Authority.

With the Chairman's permission, the Leader of the Council addressed the Committee on the Community Governance Review. He noted that the process had progressed smoothly to date and reminded Members that the review had originally been proposed in anticipation of forthcoming LGR changes, intended as a means of giving residents greater influence over local matters.

<u>Questions by Members:</u>	<u>Answers:</u>
What similar processes have you had involvement with?	(Steph Robinson) The EALC have been engaged in several comparable processes. We were involved in the creation of Wickford Town Council that shares some similarities, and we're currently working closely with Brentwood on Parishing following the LGR announcement. Now that the Unitary announcement has been made, it's likely other authorities will move quickly to position themselves, but Tendring District Council remain several months ahead and are in a good position.

Councillor Griffiths recorded the Committee's thanks to Councillor Mark Stephenson and the administration for proposing the parishing of Clacton-on-Sea, Holland-on-Sea and Jaywick Sands. He also expressed appreciation to the Officers for their continued support and efforts, noting the seamless process and effective communication.

Councillor Doyle extended thanks to Steph Robinson and Michelle Harper, noting that their previous involvement in Holland-on-Sea had made a positive difference to residents.

It was moved by Councillor Griffiths, seconded by Councillor Ferguson and **RESOLVED** that:

- (a) the contents of the report be noted in so much as it reminds the Committee of the approved terms of reference for the Community Governance Review of Clacton-on-Sea, Holland-on-Sea and Jaywick Sands and its implementation to this point;
- (b) the outcome of the Phase II consultation exercise (Stage 4 in the Terms of Reference Timeline) as part of that Review (including the expenditure incurred) and comparator information around the base costs of Local Councils for the three separate areas be noted;
- (c) this Committee formally recommends to Full Council the acknowledgement of the implementation of the Community Governance Review which commenced on 1 July 2025 with the Terms of Reference for that review, the outcome of the Phase I consultation (set out at Appendix I to the A.2 report) and the content of this report (including the outcome of the Phase II consultation);
- (d) the following be submitted to Full Council on 2 June 2026 as the Committee's final recommendations arising from the Community Governance Review and it is noted that, formally, determination by Council of those final recommendations will conclude the review commenced on 1 July 2025:
 - a. That the current unparished area of the District of Tendring be parished with effect from 1 April 2027 and that this parishing shall consist of three new parishes as identified in the maps set out at Appendices F, G and H to the A.2 report which, together, cover the entirety of that unparished area;
 - b. That the names of the three new parishes referenced in a. above shall be Holland-on-Sea (for the area edged black in Appendix F to the report (A.2)), West Clacton & Jaywick Sands (for the area edged black in Appendix G to the A.2 report) and Clacton-on-Sea (for the area edged black in Appendix H);
 - c. That, in accordance with Section 94 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, all three new parishes shall have their own parish councils;
 - d. That the alternative styles of the three parishes shall be as immediately below:
 - a. Village – for the parish council of Holland-on-Sea;
 - b. Town – for the parish of Clacton-on-Sea;
 - c. Community – for the parish of West Clacton & Jaywick Sands;
 - e. That the total number of parish councillors to serve on the three separate parish councils shall be as follows:
 - a. 15 - on Holland-on-Sea Village Council;
 - b. 25 - on Clacton-on-Sea Town Council;
 - c. 12 - on West Clacton & Jaywick Sands Community Council;

[Note: References to style do not negate the basic position that all three areas will become civil parishes.]

- f. That no parish wards be created in the new parishes of Holland-on-Sea and West Clacton & Jaywick Sands;
- g. That, in the new parish of Clacton-on-Sea, the following parish wards be created and the number of parish councillors to represent the parish ward concerned be as set out:

Parish Ward Name	Area of the Parish Ward by reference to the existing District Council Ward	Number of Parish Councillors to represent the Parish Ward on the Parish Council
Bluehouse Ward	Bluehouse Ward	3
Burrsville Ward	Burrsville Ward	4
Cann Hall Ward	Cann Hall Ward	3
Coppins Ward	Coppins Ward	4
Pier Ward	Pier Ward	1
St James' Ward	St James' Ward	4
St John's Ward	St John's Ward	4
St Paul's & Eastcliff Ward	St Paul's Ward and that part of Eastcliff Ward within the Clacton-on-Sea Parish	2

- h. That the term of office of the first parish councillors elected in May 2027 shall be five years to the normal retirement day in May 2032 and all subsequent terms of office shall be four years. This would bring the term of office of the parish councillors in line with the second and subsequent elections to any unitary authority established for the area as part of local government reorganisation;
- i. To provide for interim parish councillors, for the period 1 April-10 May 2027 (when newly elected parish councillors for the three parishes would take up office) for the councils of the three new parishes as follows:
 - a. Holland-on-Sea Parish – the District Councillors for St Bartholomews and Eastcliff District Wards and the Essex County Councillor for Clacton South Electoral Division;
 - b. Clacton-on-Sea Parish – the District Councillors for Burrsville, Coppins, Pier, St James', St John's, St Paul's and Eastcliff District Wards and the Essex County Councillors for Clacton North, Clacton South and Clacton West and St Osyth Electoral Divisions;
 - c. West Clacton & Jaywick Sands Parish – the District Councillors for West Clacton & Jaywick Sands District Ward and the Essex County Councillor for Clacton West and St Osyth Electoral Division;
- j. That the Corporate Director (Planning and Community) and the Corporate Director (Law and Governance) be requested to make the necessary arrangements to secure the transfer of title for the allotment land at Rush Green, which will be within the new parish of Clacton-on-Sea, to be transferred from the District Council to the council for that new parish with effect from 1 April 2027;

- k. To authorise the Chief Executive to prepare the necessary Community Governance Order to bring the recommendations 4a.-i. above into being (and possibly 4j. too) and provide for the matters set out, for the Council's seal to be applied to that Order and the legal obligations in respect of the making of such Orders complied with;
- (5) Officers be requested to publish the final recommendations to be submitted to Council on 2 June 2026 and to take appropriate steps to secure that persons who may be interested in the review are informed of those recommendations; and
- (6) Cabinet be invited, once Council has determined the recommendations made in this community governance review, to consider the next steps to be undertaken and allocation of resources and, as part of this, to determine the steps the Council considers sufficient to secure that persons who may be interested in the review are informed of the outcome and the reasons.

47. REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (CORPORATE POLICY & SUPPORT) - A.3 - REVIEW OF THE WORK PROGRAMME (INCLUDING MONITORING OF PREVIOUS RECOMMENDATIONS AND SUMMARY OF FORTHCOMING DECISIONS)

The Committee was reminded of its approved Work Programme for 2025/26, feedback on decisions made in response to previous recommendations arising from completed enquiries, and a list of forthcoming decisions for which public notice had been issued.

It was reported that a review of the Committee's Work Programme, in the light of the recent Ministerial announcement on the next steps toward Local Government Reorganisation, had been deferred to the next meeting of the Committee, scheduled for 16 June 2026. In the meantime, the Chairmen of both of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees were to meet with the Leader of the Council, the Deputy Leader, and Senior Officers to consider priorities for the forthcoming municipal year's Work Programmes. Members were therefore invited to submit any proposals or lines of enquiry for consideration at the June 2026 meeting.

It was highlighted to Members that preparatory work on the aforementioned Work Programme for 2026/27 had commenced, with the intention of submitting a report to Council on 11 August 2026. This report would be accompanied by the annual report on the Council's overview and scrutiny function for 2025/26. Both documents were to be considered at a future meeting of the Committee, prior to their submission to Council. Members of the Committee were encouraged to put forward proposals for the Work Programme and for the content of the annual report.

The Chairman, Councillor Steady, formally recorded his thanks to fellow Committee Members for the three recommendations submitted to Cabinet on three separate items.

The meeting was declared closed at 8.09 pm

Chairman

