

Report to Communities Select Committee

Date of meeting: 8 November 2016

Portfolio: Safer Greener and Transport – Cllr G. Waller

Subject: Presentation and Question & Answer Session – Chief Inspector Denise Morrissey - Essex Police District Commander for Brentwood and Epping Forest



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Recommendations:

- (1) That the Select Committee receives the Presentation from Essex Police’s District Commander for Brentwood and Epping Forest, Chief Inspector Denise Morrissey, on:
*“The policing of the Epping Forest District and current local policing issues and concerns”***
- (2) That members of the Select Committee ask questions of the District Commander, relating to the areas of discussion agreed at the Select Committee’s last meeting (listed in the report below), of which advance notice has been given to the District Commander.**

Report

1. When the Select Committee formulated its Work Programme for 2016/17, it agreed that, at the same meeting as the Committee receives and discusses the Annual Report of the Community Safety Partnership, an invitation be extended to Essex Police’s District Commander for Brentwood and Epping Forest, Chief Inspector Denise Morrissey, to give a brief presentation on current local policing issues and to answer questions from members of the Select Committee.

2. It is estimated that the Presentation will last 20-30 minutes. As agreed at the last meeting, the District Commander has been asked to focus the theme of her presentation on:

“The policing of the Epping Forest District and current local policing issues and concerns”

3. At its last meeting, the Select Committee also considered and agreed the areas and issues that it would like to discuss with the District Commander in a Question and Answer Session. As requested by the Committee, CI Morrissey has been given advanced notice of the areas that it wishes to discuss, in order to give her sufficient time to prepare for her responses and to therefore make the discussion and any possible outcomes useful and meaningful.

4. The areas/issues that the Select Committee agreed to raise are listed below. There is unlikely to be enough time for members to raise all of the issues, so it is suggested that individual members select the issues they most want to raise:

- 1) The effects of the recent closure of police stations and public counters in the district.
- 2) The Police's plans for the future use of closed police stations in the district.
- 3) The effectiveness locally of Essex Police's facility for reporting non-urgent crime online.
- 4) The effects of the reduced numbers of Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) in Brentwood and Epping Forest and how PCSOs were tasked to make the best use of their reduced numbers.
- 5) The benefits and success of the "Virtual Community Safety Hubs" in this policing district.
- 6) The level of co-operation received from the District Council's officers to work in partnership for preventing, combating and reducing crime.
- 7) The Police's approach to dealing with anti-social behaviour at different levels of importance.
- 8) The Police's views on the Council's CCTV Strategy and its management.
- 9) The numbers of police officers working in the district and their shift patterns
- 10) The apparent lack of a visible Police presence in the area
- 11) Comments on apparent communications difficulties with the police
- 12) Increasing the awareness of local Police success stories in the District
- 13) The prevalence of drug dealing in the District and concerns around the use of laughing gas by young people
- 14) Apparent confusion by the public with police areas of responsibility and the most appropriate ways of reporting crimes
- 15) Concerns about Police response times to calls and the apparent lack of the available staffing resources
- 16) The level of cross-county/border co-operation
- 17) The possibility of parish/town councils funding the employment of PCSOs to help police their local area
- 18) How the Police can assist with the problem of obstructive parking on housing estates
- 19) How the Police can assist in dealing with motorbikes being ridden on private land, both with and without the landowner's permission.

5. It should be noted that, under the next item on its Agenda, the Select Committee will be considering and discussing the Epping Forest Community Safety Partnerships' Annual Report, with which there will undoubtedly be some overlap.