

**Report to Stronger Communities
Select Committee**

Date of meeting: 2 March 2023

**Portfolio: Community & Partnerships
Cllr. Holly Whitbread**



Subject: Bi-Annual Report on the work of the Council-funded Police Officers

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Recommendations/Decisions Required:

That the Communities Select Committee receives a six-month report on the work and range of operations of the Council's funded Police team.

Report:

The funded police team continue with the following primary functions:

1. Support functionality of Epping Forest District Council departments/teams
2. Provide 'added value' to the district in supporting the Community Policing function
3. Targeted action against criminality in the district

By the end of 2022 the police team had accepted and completed 39 tasking requests during that year. The tasking log is included in the Appendix but some highlights below:

- Directed patrols in and around several beat areas in support of the 'Crimestoppers Zones'. The team also took part in 'Community Safety Days' in Limes Farm, Shelley Estate and Ninefields, which involved community engagement, joint patrols with EFDC and local partners and conducting intelligence-lead weapons sweeps.
- Provide support to Enviro-Crime at site being used for large scale fly-tipping. Threat, harm and risk had previously been presented to EFDC staff. A court order was obtained, and the police team supported EFDC staff and Qualis representatives in order to prevent a breach of the peace. No police powers were used during the deployment.
- Support Operation Raptor with the 'strike' phase of a county lines operation. The main subjects were living in and operating from EFDC properties. Six persons charged, three remain on remand until trial later in 2023.
- Dedicated patrols at Epping Market followed information from partners which suggested an under-reporting of 'pickpocket' type offences against elderly victims. The team have conducted overt and covert patrols as well as working in partnership with EFDC and the Business Crime Team to raise awareness and increase engagement. A suspect was arrested in possession of recently stolen items. She was subsequently convicted. Crime levels have decreased, and the under-reporting appears to have reduced. This operation continues every Monday.
- Out of hours home visit with domestic abuse victim, who being supported by EFDC. She needed to return home to collect belongings, but the perpetrator was still at large and believed in the locality. Officers ensured that no breach of peace occurred and

provided immediate safeguarding for the tenant.

- In relation to the previous case, a welfare check was raised by EFDC for same victim. She was found with the perpetrator who was arrested for bail offences.
- Provide supporting evidence for a closure order against a council property. There was recent intelligence that the tenant was being 'cuckooed' and/or was involved in sex work. EFDC lead on the Closure Order. The police team prepared a statement for the police information held. Following the successful application, support was given to serve the Order. The tenant has recently returned home, and visits are being conducted to ensure compliance and provide safeguarding to the tenant.
- A spike in burglary offences was noted in several clusters around the district. The team provided an additional resource alongside the community policing team for directed patrols on key days and times.
- The police team sergeant, working alongside the police Community Safety & Engagement Officer and EFDC Senior Crime & ASB Officer, attended the Essex Multi-Faith Covenant at the museum. This was a gathering of local and county faith leaders. This was a positive opportunity which provided key connections with hard-to-reach groups.
- Following on from the previous tasking, the team provided support around a Holocaust Memorial Service. This was at a site that has been earmarked for a permanent memorial and the local MP was due to attend. Event attended, no incidents and no police powers utilised. Engagement with members of the local Jewish community.
- Over the last four years the Team have delivered above and beyond expectations and in 2022 the District commander posted an additional officer from his Community Policing Team to be based at EFDC and work alongside our officers to expand further their pro-active policing. This officer does not fall within the remit of our Service Level Agreement and can be abstracted as and when required.

The Essex Police YTD figures key figures below:

Offence Type	District	Diff	Force	Diff
Theft of Motor Vehicle	+30.7%	+153	+29.3%	+1173
Burglary	+8.8%	+41	+4.5%	+285
Theft from a Vehicle	-13.8%	-99	+13.3%	+746
Personal Robbery	+50 %	+50	+11.1	+138
Anti-social behaviour	-35.2%	-806	-34.3%	-12779
All Crime	-362%	-3.4	+1.6%	+2580

*Essex Police: Performance Summary to January 2023 – 12 month rolling data

Reason for decision: N/A

Options considered and rejected: N/A

Consultation undertaken: N/A

Resource implications: None

Legal and Governance Implications: N/A

Safer, Cleaner, Greener Implications: N/A

Consultation Undertaken: N/A

Background Papers: N/A

Impact Assessments: N/A

Risk Management: N/A

Equality: N/A