

Summary Report to Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee 15th October 2015

At the Council meeting in May 2015, Council agreed to make it a requirement that the Council nominee(s) to four specific outside bodies shall submit summary reports to the Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee. The specific bodies identified were: -

- [Essex Fire Authority](#)
- [Southend University Hospital - NHS Foundation Trust](#)
- [Essex Police and Crime Panel](#)
- [Kent & Essex Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authority](#)

In your response, please indicate which Group / Body this report relates to.

Notes:-

- *Where there is more than one nominee, a joint report shall be submitted.*
- *Council has agreed that updates shall be submitted to every other ordinary meeting of the Scrutiny Committee.*

Name of Group / Body:- [Essex Police and Crime Panel](#)

Update on Key Issues

- Essex Police are expecting to be hit with around £60mn cuts in the next financial year, coming on top of previous budget reductions.

- Main item of discussion has been the Estates Strategy. We are fortunate in that a decision has been made to invest in Southend Police Station, and so it is not under threat in the way that many police stations around the county are. As members will be aware, the result of the review is that, 50 out of 80 police buildings are to be sold off, and the number of front counters open to the public will reduce from 98 to 36. Members were generally supportive of the decision to move from the current Police HQ to a more modern, efficient building. There was considerable discussion of what was meant by 'engagement' with the public and stakeholders.

- Panel members, including myself, have expressed dissatisfaction on the way the force's letter regarding the Police response to anti-social behaviour had been handled, in terms of lack of clarity and lack of prior consultation with Local Authorities and other partner agencies.

- Additional operational pressures regarding Operation Maple - the force's review of historic cases of child abuse and exploitation

- Very general discussion about devolution and 'blue light integration' in terms of what it might mean in the long term for the panel and for the Fire Authority.

- Agendas for the next meeting were altered in order to give more time to quiz the Chief Constable and PCC on their recent announcements.

In addition to the Police & Crime Panel meeting I attended local Community Safety Partnership meetings and have had a number of discussions with Chief Inspector Anslow regarding what the changes in policing will mean for Southend.

Person / Persons Making Response:

Councillor Ian Gilbert

.....