

Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee – 12th April 2017
Public Questions

Question from Mr Webb to Portfolio Holder for Housing, Planning & Public Protection Services: Cllr Mark Flewitt

Question 1

“Through the proposal of Essex police and Fire possible merging.

What do you think is the advantages and disadvantages to the proposals?”

Answer

The Council’s Report: Consultation – Police and Fire & Rescue Collaboration Local Business Case contains the Council’s consideration of the collaborative models proposed.

The development of the proposal for a collaborative model will itself have been based on the detailed discussions and considerations of the advantages and disadvantages of that model, so it would not be possible for the Council to provide an exhaustive list of those details. The following would be a non-exhaustive summary of those for consideration:

Advantages of a collaborative model include:

- The development of a single Vision across Police and Fire services, with potential improved collaboration with partners.
- Integrated commissioning and investment in the services, including reinvestment of savings back into the services.
- Potential operational benefits, such as joint crime and fire prevention advice, improved opportunities for joint attendance at incidents and improved ability to respond to the public both by phone and on-line.
- Sharing of facilities and support services such as buildings / accommodation, HR, ICT.

These advantages will seek to provide short, medium and long-term opportunities for deeper collaboration between the services and improved public safety and performance benefits for the people of Essex.

The anticipated disadvantages with a collaborative model, many of which would be attributable to the implementation of a joint model, include:

- The potential requirement for legislation to enable a collaborative approach to be implemented.
- The risk of impact on existing change programmes within the services, however transitional arrangements would seek to minimise any impact.
- The political uncertainties around the development and implementation of any joint model.
- Public confidence in a changed process for delivering key emergency services to the community.

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Question 2

“What is the top five crimes in Southend and how should Southend Council and the Police help resident combat these?”

Answer

There were 120627 (one hundred and twenty thousand, six hundred and twenty seven) crimes recorded across Essex last year – Southend accumulated 15012 (fifteen thousand and twelve) of these which equates to approx. 12.5% of crimes recorded.

Top 5 crimes per in Southend volume was:

Offence Classification	Number of Recorded Offences	Approx % of Southend Crime
Theft	3523 (Three thousand, five hundred and twenty three)	24%
Violence without Injury	2757 (Two thousand, seven hundred and fifty seven)	18%
Criminal Damage	1835 (One thousand, eight hundred and thirty five)	12%
Violent with Injury	1623 (One thousand, six hundred and twenty three)	11%
Vehicle Crime	1459 (One thousand, four hundred and fifty nine)	10%

Each crime classification is made up of a myriad crime types: Theft for example, will include shoplifting, theft from the person, theft from automated machines – Violence will include murder and sending malicious communications as the extremes of reporting.

In general terms our concentrated efforts are currently on violent crime. The Police and partners conduct daily community safety tasking briefings to look at what immediate plans can be implemented to suppress people getting hurt and to develop the medium and longer

term intervention plans to stop the same people continuing to be victims of crime. We look at how we can prevent and intervene with Domestic Abuse offences (about 30% of violent crime overall), Mental Health concerns and other health related instigators.

The Police Force fortnightly tasking meetings looks at crime classifications, Local Community Meetings (LCM's), and Community Safety Hub meetings so that all partner agencies can engage with the process. The Community Safety Partnership and Health & Well-being Boards complement our prevention plans.

In addition to physical responses, we rely on social media messages, messages through the LCM process and responding to emerging patterns and trends as they spike with additional policing and partnership activity.