

POLICY & RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

3 SEPTEMBER 2020

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

(1) Questions from David Webb to the Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Customer Contact

(a) During the coronavirus lockdown between March to May what was the top 3 crimes and how did the police tackle these?

Thank you for your questions Mr. Webb. During the period from March to May 2020 the top three offences occurring across the Borough were (in rank order):

- Violence without Injury.
- Public Order Offences.
- Criminal Damage.

Essex Police working alongside key partners such as the Council's Community Safety Unit, undertook a range of targeted patrols, community engagement work (advice and reassurance) and maintained communications with other key stakeholders such as the local business community. Through the collation of intelligence and information, police teams also conducted a number of successful proactive operations to tackle criminal activity and active perpetrators during the lockdown period.

(b) What strategies are the police carrying out to enforce social distancing over the past 6 months?

Essex Police, alongside colleagues from Southend Borough Council's Community Safety Unit, implemented a '4 E' approach to the social distancing rules. This was to 'Engage' with people, to 'Explain' to people the rules and why they were necessary, to 'Encourage' people to adhere to those rules and, finally, as a very last option, to 'Enforce' where necessary.