



Agenda item 13c

Essex Police Authority

Report of meeting held on 3 September 2012

(For information)

1. Chief Constable's Report

A full copy of the Chief Constable's Quarterly Report for the period 1st April to 30th June 2012 is contained in our meeting's agenda and further copies are available on our website at www.essex.police.uk/authority

Notable Activities

Caravan Theft / Road Safety Operation

There has been an increase in caravan thefts and attempted thefts across the county this year and this was one area of focus in a road check operation conducted on 1st June 2012, at Boreham services on the A12.

The Casualty Reduction Unit, which led the operation, was assisted by officers from the Serious Crime Directorate Stolen Vehicle Unit. Members of the Essex County Council Road Safety team were on site to offer road safety advice whilst staff from the UK Caravan Club provided guidance to officers in the identification of stolen caravans.

Operation Tornado

Operation Tornado is a scheme inviting scrap metal dealers within the county to sign up voluntarily to a code of conduct designed to deter the receipt of illegally obtained scrap metal thus reducing the commercial sustainability of the theft itself. It is part of a national strategy which commenced on 11th June 2012 and will initially run for a period of six months within Essex.

In Essex, 27 out of 47 scrap yards have signed up to the scheme so far. Each scrap yard will be visited weekly at random times during business hours to ensure compliance.

Farm Watch

Following a request from the Chelmsford Farmers Neighbourhood Action Panel (NAP), Essex Police held a Crime Awareness day for farmers on 19th June 2012. This was the culmination of a series of meetings and work undertaken by Essex Police to support Farm Watch across the county.

The event was attended by around 100 people who had the opportunity to meet with Essex Police officers and staff to receive advice and find out more about the policing of rural communities.

Community Messaging

Community Messaging will offer a new medium through which the police can engage with the public. As well as offering regularly updated community information, crime reduction messages and appeals for information from the public will also be disseminated.

This new development by Essex and Kent shared IT Services will replace the existing Ringmaster system and will offer a standard format for the dissemination of messages from a number of information sources, such as Crime Reduction Officers and the Force Control Room.

Community messaging is a targeted messaging service that will allow Essex Police to contact subscribers with a message to help prevent or solve a crime in a local area.

Community messaging also allow the public to find out what local police are doing about issues in their local area.

The public can choose to receive messages by faxed letter, phone, mobile or email.

Following successful trials in Kent, Essex Police will be rolling out Community Messaging in email form later this year.

Actions to Reduce Casualties

Operation NASH

Operation NASH continues as part of a Surround a Town initiative funded by Essex Highways and promotes the No Excuse road safety campaign (run by the Essex Casualty Reduction Board). This multi-agency operation focuses upon main arterial routes leading into identified towns and makes maximum use of partnership working both for enforcement and to educate road users on a range of safety issues.

The operation also highlights the significant links between those people who use vehicles to commit crime and also regularly commit road traffic offences.

Three operations have been conducted during the last quarter, one each in Chelmsford, Canvey Island and Colchester.

Operation results were as follows:

- 877 vehicles were stopped
- 5 arrests were made
- 584 fixed penalty tickets were issued for seat belt and mobile phone offences
- 14 vehicles were seized for no insurance
- 98 fixed penalty tickets were issued for no MOT

National ACPO Summer 2012 Drink Drive Campaign

Essex Police supported the National ACPO 2012 Summer Drink Drive Campaign between 1st and 30th June 2012.

In addition to information passed via Crimestoppers from the public to the police, roadside operations were conducted over the four weekends – one each at Basildon, Brentwood, Chelmsford and Colchester.

A total of 2,250 drivers were asked to provide a roadside breath test of which 110 (4.88%) failed or refused (83 male and 27 female). This compares to a 4.27% failure rate in 2011. Of those stopped, 492 were aged between 17 and 25, with 11 failures and 481 passes.

Fatal and Serious Road Traffic Collisions

Between 1st April and 30th June 2012, seven people were killed and 151 seriously injured on the county's roads. This compares to 13 people killed and 168 seriously injured over the same period in 2011.

In Essex, however, there is a downward trend with 54 fatalities in the year 2010/2011 reducing to 36 in 2011/2012.

Notable Court Results

On 26th April five men were arrested and charged with a series of thefts from cash machines. They were arrested during the attempted theft of a machine in Baddow Road, Chelmsford in the early hours of 25th April. The men were each was charged with conspiracy to steal cash machines between April 1 and April 26 and with conspiracy to commit burglary with intent to steal vehicles. Between 10th and 11th September 2012, six defendants were all charged with conspiracy to steal. In total, eleven defendants are currently going through the court process in relation to this matter. Approximately £170k was stolen from cash machines, causing £120k worth of damage, with approximately £99k being recovered.

On 11th May five men aged between 27 and 53 were jailed for a total of 38 years for drug trafficking offences in north-east and west Essex. The men were arrested during intelligence-led raids in Clacton and Waltham Abbey in June last year.

At Chelmsford Crown Court on 11th May a 50-year-old man was sentenced to two terms of life imprisonment for the murder of Christine Chambers, 38, and her daughter Shania. They died from gunshot wounds after being attacked at their home in Braintree.

Following the death of Oliver Smith-Daye in a car park in Trimley Close, Clacton, on New Year's Day. A jury at Chelmsford Crown Court found Elisha Francois, 21, of Harold Hill, guilty of manslaughter and was sentenced to 6 years imprisonment and Charlie Jacobs, 23, of Beach Road in Clacton, guilty of murder, who was sentenced to life imprisonment with a minimum term of 15 and half years to be served.

Sentences ranging from one year to 11 years were handed down to five defendants at Chelmsford Crown Court on 20th June for conspiracy to supply Class A drugs and money laundering.

At Chelmsford Crown Court on 11th June a 34-year-old airport worker was found guilty of the rape of a schoolgirl more than 14 years ago in Harlow. He was sentenced to eight-and-a-half years' imprisonment.

Transition to The Police and Crime Commissioner for Essex

On Thursday 15th November 2012 elections will be held to vote for a Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for every police area. At the same time, Police Authorities will be abolished. The PCC's role will involve working with the public, police and local partners to ensure effective policing as well as contributing to national requirements.

Essex Police Authority is working hard through its Transition Board to ensure that there is a smooth transition from Police Authority to the Police and Crime Commissioner. The new staff structure for the PCC has been agreed internally and a number of policies and procedures have been developed.

Construction of a constitution and scheme of delegation to reflect the provisions of the Act with regard to the PCC is currently being developed through the Authority's legal team. In addition drafts of Protocol between the PCC and Chief Constable and the PCC and Police and Crime Panel are also reaching agreement.

The Authority has developed its consultation with partners as it prepares to develop a skeleton Police and Crime Plan that will be adapted to reflect the PCC's objectives.

Candidate and partner briefings have taken place and a further briefing for candidates will take place at the end of October.

The Police Authority A/Chief Executive is confident that the Police Authority is on target to deliver effective transition.

*Cllr Anthony Jackson
Chairman of the Authority and the person
appointed by the Police Authority to answer questions at
meetings of the County Council relating to the discharge of
the Authority's functions.*

Note:

The Essex Police Authority is an independent governing body whose job it is to support, oversee and constructively challenge the work of Essex Police. It is our responsibility to set strategy, provide funds for policing and oversee performance. We act as a link between the public and the police service, ensuring that anyone who may visit, live or work in Essex receives an efficient and effective police service.

We are a group of 15 local people who hold the police to account, making sure the chief constable delivers a police service which balances both national strategic priorities and the concerns of local people. We appoint the chief constable and other senior officers and check on complaints against the police.

We set the strategic direction of local policing and hold the police budget. We consult with local communities to find out what they want from local policing and set the police council tax to ensure they obtain value for money. We publish an annual plan based on public consultation, setting out services the force should deliver and targets it should achieve.