

**AFM/11/09**

**Forum** Mid Area Forum

**Date** 23 July 2009

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**RESPONSE TO POLICING NEIGHBOURHOODS**

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**1. Purpose of the Item**

To receive the following response, from the Safer Stronger Communities Committee, to the Mid Area Forum.

The response presented to the Safer Stronger Communities Committee on 12 January 2009 seeks to answer questions raised at the Mid Area Forum on 3 June 2008 in which we committed to report back on the history of the set up of Police Neighbourhood Naming.

The Committee received an oral presentation from Steve Kettle Extended Policing Family Manager and Martin Gormley Head of Performance Information, giving details of how Police neighbourhoods are determined and named.

In answer to Members questions the Committee was advised as follows:

Neighbourhood policing was a Home Office initiative. Essex was the 2<sup>nd</sup> police force to introduce neighbourhood policing. The neighbourhoods were co-terminus with district council areas, each had a Chief Inspector. Inspectors looked after smaller areas which are determined by the Indices of Multiple Deprivation. Police Officers are responsible for wards within the areas. There were plans to ensure that each ward would have an assigned police officer in future.

The names of the neighbourhood were usually determined by the size of the neighbourhood and the priority of policing required. For instance Chelmsford Town was considered a priority 1 policing area, its neighbourhood policing name was therefore Chelmsford Town. Names for priority 2 policing areas would normally take the name from the largest ward in the area being covered. Names had to already be in existence. Of late more generic terms have been used, such as Colchester North. It was accepted there were some anomalies.

Each district considered current arrangements or suggested any potential changes every three years. It was not possible to change

these review arrangements as it was too costly to change all the police information systems more frequently. Members could raise any issues with the District Commander this year in time for changes to be made to the system in 2010.

Members noted that 100 extra Police Officers had now been recruited. This was as part of Operation Apex which was to put 600 additional Police Officers on the beat over the next 3 years.

**Resolved**

- The impact of Operation Apex would be reviewed by the Committee in due course.
- That comments be passed back to the Mid Essex Forum (Which had raised the issue in the first instance)>