

Report to Communities Select Committee

Date of meeting: 6 September 2016

Portfolio: Safer Greener and Transport – Cllr G. Waller

Subject: Attendance by Essex Police District Commander at next meeting - Discussion on issues to raise

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Recommendations:

That the Select Committee considers:

- (a) **The following suggested theme of the presentation to be given by Essex Police's District Commander, Chief Inspector Denise Morrissey, when she attends the Select Committee's next meeting on 8th November 2016;**

"The policing of the Epping Forest District and current local policing issues and concerns"

- (a) **Any specific issues that it would like the District Commander to cover in her presentation; and**
- (c) **The areas on which members would like to question the District Commander.**

Report

1. At its last meeting, the Select Committee considered its Draft Work Programme for 2016/17. When agreeing to receive and discuss the Annual Report of the Community Safety Partnership at the Select Committee's next meeting to be held on 8th November 2016, the Select Committee also agreed to invite Essex Police's District Commander to attend the same meeting to give a brief presentation on current local policing issues and to answer questions from members of the Select Committee.

2. The Director of Communities extended an invitation to the District Commander, Chief Inspector Denise Morrissey, accordingly - which CI Morrissey has accepted.

3. The new Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Group also agreed at its first meeting that, when Select Committees invite representatives of external bodies to attend meetings to explain and discuss their work, members of the Select Committee should give consideration in advance of the meeting of what they would like the guest to cover in their presentation and what areas of activity they would like to scrutinise further through associated questions.

4. It is suggested that the District Commander be asked to focus the theme of her presentation on:

“The policing of the Epping Forest District and current local policing issues and concerns”

5. In accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Coordinating Group’s request, members are asked to consider:

- (a) If there are any specific issues that they would like the District Commander to cover in her presentation;
- (b) The areas on which it would like to question the District Commander;
- (c) The practical arrangements for the question and answer session (e.g. who asks pre-agreed questions, should the District Commander be given advanced notice of questions etc).

6. Areas on which the Select Committee may want to ask questions could include:

- The effects of the recent closure of police stations and public counters in the District
- Plans for the future uses of closed police stations in the District
- The effectiveness locally of Essex Police’s facility enabling the public to report non-urgent crime on-line
- The effects of the reduced numbers of Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) in the Brentwood and Epping Forest Policing District, and how PCSOs are tasked to make the best use of their reduced numbers
- The benefits and success of the introduction of the “Virtual Community Safety Hubs” in the Brentwood and Epping Forest Policing District
- The level of co-operation received from the District Council’s officers to work in partnership to prevent, combat and reduce crime in the District - and if this could be improved further
- The Police’s approach to dealing with anti-social behaviour, at different levels of seriousness
- The Police’s views on the Council’s CCTV provision, strategy and management
- Members’ concerns about any specific policing issues within the District.