

# ***Report to the Council***

**Committee:** Cabinet

**Date:** 5 November 2019

**Subject:** Community & Partnerships Services

**Portfolio Holder:** Councillor N Bedford

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## **Recommending:**

**That the report of the Community & Partnerships Portfolio Holder be noted**

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## **Community Resilience**

EFDC Funded Police Officers: I am pleased to report that the district is continuing to perform very well in reducing crime. Our latest figures show that all burglary is down by over 24% compared with the same period last year and vehicle crime is down over 3%. This has been achieved through good professional policing of the district and excellent partnership working.

It also reflects the work of our dedicated police team who have been very busy carrying out pro-active intelligence led policing, concentrating on robbery, burglary and auto-crime offenders. They have become very skilled in interpreting the technical intelligence assets and CCTV we have in the area, which allows them to plan interception routes to stop those active criminals travelling to the district. Examples of other work undertaken is below;

- The team were recently involved in stopping a car linked to Range Rover thefts in the Buckhurst Hill area, which resulted in the driver being later arrested and receiving 3 months imprisonment for assaulting an emergency worker and other offences.
- In work with Metropolitan Police colleagues they tracked a suspect they had identified for a house burglary in Chigwell, to an address in Ilford. The male suspect was arrested and due to the evidence of identification presented by our officers was convicted of burglary at Snaresbrook Crown Court. The male is remanded in custody awaiting sentence.
- They responded to a call for assistance from the public in Buckhurst Hill where a male had brandished a knife and slashed a female victim. They had to climb to a first floor balcony where they located the suspect who was arrested and has since been charged with causing grievous bodily harm and remanded in custody.
- As part of rural crime week in October the team carried out joint patrols with the council's uniformed Environmental Enforcement Officers. They specifically patrolled areas of regular fly-tips. This provided an insight and understanding of the working practice of both teams and an enhanced level of local knowledge of rural locations.
- The team are taser trained and carry the devices with them whilst on duty. Members might be interested to know the team have recently qualified on the upgraded taser unit which they now have for deployment. They are required to respond to threat to life incidents and have recently attended incidents in Ongar, Chigwell, and Loughton.

The team have additionally planned and prepared the operational response for deploying policing resources across the district over Halloween and fireworks night. Our police team will be joining forces with the councils' CCTV officers and local police resources. The CCTV officers will provide live updates of any public disorder in the district helping to ensure swift police attendance, evidence of offences and identification of offenders. Our CCTV office is equipped with police Airwave radio which will allow direct contact with police resources on the ground. Our Community Safety Officer and volunteer Crime Prevention Advisor will also be on hand to carry out any reassurance visits to vulnerable residents that the police refer.

CCTV: In recent weeks the CCTV team has undertaken a range of work with external and internal colleagues, as below;

- Worked closely with Metropolitan Police on serious crime, attempted murder & arson of vehicle.
- Assisted Car Park & Street Furniture Team establish how damage to Car Park Pay Machines is being executed.
- Identified vehicle used to illegally remove Groundworks Machinery from Oakwood Hill Depot.
- Ongoing success working closely with EEO's on Fly Tipping offences within district and Fixed penalty Notices and Rural Crime week operations.
- Installation of 9 CCTV cameras at Burton Road now complete
- Pyrles Lane Shopping parade -Upgrade of existing CCTV system & cameras to an IP platform
- Watchdog Monitoring Software implemented on 3 keys sites with scope to introduce at other sites in the future.
- North Weald Parish Council were supported with provision of a Rapid Deployment Camera to help combat Anti-Social Behaviour at a location within the parish.

A revised CCTV Strategy 2019 – 2025 has been completed, which will be presented to Cabinet at end of October 2019, which includes information about the CCTV service provision across the district, which includes 823 CCTV cameras over 62 sites.

Environmental Enforcement: In the last 7 weeks, our team has received 798 complaints or service requests. Although each one of these incidents has been responded to, particular action of note includes;

- S.80 Abatement notice served for a bonfire in B/Hill
- 5 Community Protection Warnings and S.46 Environmental Protection Act (EPA) notices served against 5 properties in Waltham Abbey due to frequently presenting their rubbish incorrectly and failing to manage their bin areas (Failing to comply with a S.46 notice carries a civil penalty of £60). The Council has also provided locks for the EFDC household waste bins, which officers report has had a noticeable decrease in incidents of fly tipping and poor waste management around the bins.
- A S.47 EPA notice served on a Commercial Property in W/A for failing to manage their waste collection service adequately. (Failing to comply with a s.47 notice carries an FPN of £100 (£60 if paid within 14 days).
- Works in default to ensure compliance with a Community Protection Notice were carried out on a property in Barfields, Loughton, to remove waste and a caravan from the front of the Council property. The resident will be recharged for these works.

Monitoring is continuing to identify effectiveness of the littering campaign run by the Cleaner Essex Group. The campaign is due to finish at the end of October.

Safeguarding: An in-house Enhanced Safeguarding Training has been developed with over 184 frontline staff having been trained. An additional tailored course for Trades/Housing Repairs/Grounds Maintenance/Caretaking staff has also been developed and 103 members of these staff have been trained to date.

We continue to receive a steady stream of safeguarding referrals with an average of 40 cases per month. Referrals from these cases tend to be split equally between Social Care and other support agencies, with the remainder to Essex Police and Mental Health services.

## **Community, Culture & Wellbeing**

### National Lottery Fund success – Aquatic Activity for Health

£9,750 has been secured from the National Lottery's "Awards for All" fund to develop and deliver Aquatic Activity for Health project, which is designed to support individuals with Neuro and Musculoskeletal conditions to improve their health and wellbeing via water-based exercise. Key partners including; St Margaret's Hospital, local physiotherapists, community rehabilitation services, Places for People, Swim England and the Institute of swimming will be involved in the project, which also aims to provide a social platform to prevent social isolation which is common with these conditions. The project will enable partners to ensure a better care pathway for individuals through an improved partnership network to reduce demand on NHS services. This will be a one-year pilot with a view to becoming self-sustainable after year one and will launch in January 2020. The project will reflect the latest industry developments, and referral criteria will work in line with the National Institute of Clinical Excellence (NICE) and Swim England guidance. The aquatic activity sessions will take place at Places for People local community swimming pools in Ongar, Waltham Abbey and Loughton.

October Half Term: A full programme of activities was on offer over October Half Term including a new Master Class option for football, netball and dance. These were run in conjunction with local clubs including Ongar Netball Club and Buckhurst Hill Football Club to encourage longer term participation in physical activity. Once again, the Council's Disability Inclusion Project ran a full programme including; the ever-popular Spooky Slime Workshop, Aqua Splash, Horse Riding, Multi Sports, Trampolining and a visit to the Royal Gunpowder Mills.

Compass Club: After working successfully with the Multi Academy Trust's Family Liaison Officer, funding has been secured for another round of Compass Club sessions for 11 schools across the district. Compass Club is a primary school age intervention project which focuses on emotional wellbeing and helps improve social skills and confidence. During the Autumn term the schools benefiting from the 10-week Compass Club programme will be Leverton Primary, Waltham Abbey, Theydon Bois Primary, Alderton Junior School in Loughton and Ivy Chimney Primary, Epping.

Gym Trail: Following a successful funding bid by the Community, Culture and Wellbeing Team to the Public Health Community Grant, three schools in the district will benefit from a Gym Trail Project, which is an early intervention programme for Key Stage 1 pupils. It involves a circuit of motor co-ordination activities which are carried out on a regular basis providing a structured approach to supporting pupils with movement and co-ordination difficulties. Ten-week programmes will be delivered in Hill House Primary in Waltham Abbey, Chigwell Row Primary in Chigwell and Herewood Primary in Loughton.

Inter-Tri Epping Forest: £2000 has been secured from Active Essex Satellite Club Fund for a triathlon based project with Davenant Foundation School. Staff have worked with the school, local club, Tri-Sport Epping, and British Triathlon to develop and support delivery of the project

which aims to engage more inactive children in sport outside of school hours. The project launched on Tuesday 10th September with a Young Activator training session, certified by British Triathlon and was delivered to 29 students. Sessions started the following week covering running, swimming and cycling.

Work Place Health Champions: 10 Workplace Champions from within the Council have been recruited to help improve the health of colleagues through suggesting and rolling out innovative activities to encourage a positive wellbeing culture. The champions have attended an Essex Lifestyle Service training course which included sessions on behaviour change and "Make Every Contact Count" and are scheduled to undertake Mental Health First Aid Training later this month.

Epping Forest Youth Council: The Youth Council's "We R Safe" films are being shown in a 45-minute assembly to all Year 7, 8 and 9 pupils in the district, with a total of 1300 pupils viewing the films, who will have the opportunity to respond to the key messages - Realise, Run, Report, Resist, Resilience.

Members of the Epping Neighbourhood Action Panel have recently praised the Youth Council for its work to address community safety. Youth Councillors gave a short presentation at the October meeting about the We R Safe project.

Youth Councillors recently took part in debating and democracy training facilitated by Sky Yarlett, Senior Education and Engagement Officer (East of England) at the Houses of Parliament and recently contributed to the Essex Council for Voluntary Youth Services (ECVYS) Micro Youth Voice project about Gangs in West Essex.

The High Sheriff of Essex will attend the November Youth Council meeting on Tuesday 12 November, as an observer.

Community Engagement: The Community Crochet Group at the Monkham's Pub in Buckhurst Hill have made 450 poppies to raise money for the poppy appeal.

A new weekly community writers group has been launched at Mulberry House in Ongar offering inspiring ideas and tips on writing techniques.

The Museum garden has been producing a wealth of organic food over the past few months. Local people in the community visit regularly to speak to the volunteers and to take home some of the freshly grown produce.

In response local need, staff have facilitated the introduction of a new after school cookery club for local primary aged children in North Weald at St Andrews Primary School, and also a new Youth Club at The Loughton Centre, through partnership working with third sector organisation, The Red Balloon Foundation.

Loneliness and Social Isolation: Links have been made with Essex's United in Kind social movement to support its ongoing work focused around loneliness and social isolation in the district. Alongside staff from VAEF, officers ran a stall at St Johns Church in Epping on market day recently to promote the countywide launch of the brand. Further work to promote United in Kind will be undertaken over the winter months.

## **Economic Development**

Economic Strategy: The revised version of the Economic Strategy consultation paper was published on the council's website on 9<sup>th</sup> October. It can be found on this link below. <https://www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/consultation-of-new-economic-plan/>. The strategy has been circulated to about 150 key local stakeholders for views and it is planned to encourage feedback on the strategy at various public events the economic development team is hosting from now until the end of the year. The new deadline for responses to the consultation will be the 16<sup>th</sup> of December 2019.

A special stakeholder conference has been organized for 13<sup>th</sup> November at Theydon Village Hall, to give local partners a further opportunity to influence the strategy. This will be a workshop-based conference focused on the themes contained in the document. The event will be running from 09:30am to 13:00pm and as previously advised, Elected Members are very welcome to attend. Tickets can be obtained via this link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/epping-forest-district-economic-strategy-stakeholder-conference-tickets-76033936551>

Following the event, a report will be produced outlining the key proposals arising from the event and associated funding and resource implications.

Tourism: The Cross-Border Group met on 15<sup>th</sup> October and agreed in principle to put in a bid for the joint area to become one of the Government's new Tourism Zones. Bid details are due to be made available in December and the zones are expected to begin operating in 2020. Much of the expectation and requirement of successful bidders mirrors the aims and work already agreed by the cross-border group.

The date for this year's Tourism Conference is December 5<sup>th</sup>, and once again this is being hosted and sponsored by the Marriott Hotel Waltham Abbey. As with the 2018 conference, this will be very much a collaborative event with participation from cross-border colleagues. In line with the imminent launch of the bidding process, the Tourism Zone development will form a major part of the conference theme and workshops. To this end, ministerial departments have been contacted with a request to provide a speaker to update the conference on the Tourism Sector Deal and launch of Tourism Zones. Tickets can be obtained via this link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/epping-forest-district-conference-2019-tickets-77493165143>

Green Arc: Officers are working on building support for the Green Arc with key organisations who attended an initial Green Arc steering group meeting in July. One to one meetings have been held with the Forestry Commission, Brentwood Borough Council and Thames Chase Trust to understand what key issues this region faces in terms of utilising green assets. Meetings are also being arranged with Essex County Council, the Lea Valley Regional Park Authority, the Greater London Authority and the Woodland Trust to do likewise.

The aim of the Green Arc project is to focus on where London meets the countryside, looking at joint initiatives to increase and protect tree canopy/coverage, explore new ways of developing corridors to allow residents and visitors to enjoy the green and unique areas in this quadrant as well as innovating in community involvement in planting programmes.

Skills: Representatives of the planning and economic development teams met with representatives of the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and New City College to look at the options available to build local training and apprentice provision into the planning requirements for the proposed Next Distribution Centre at Waltham Abbey. Planning officers are contacting the developers to get a clearer idea of the job roles and numbers expected. The first meeting to establish an Advisory Board for the Epping Forest campus of New City College has taken place with a District Council member and officer in attendance.