

**MINUTES OF THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
HELD ON**

10 October 2017

7.30 - 8.45 pm

**PRESENT**

**Committee Members**

Councillor Bob Davis (Chair)  
Councillor David Carter (Vice-Chair)  
Councillor Simon Carter  
Councillor Joel Charles  
Councillor Maggie Hulcoop  
Councillor Mark Ingall  
Councillor Stefan Mullard  
Councillor Lanie Shears

**Also Present**

Matt Cornish, Chief Inspector – Essex Police  
Councillor Tony Edwards  
Adam Pipe, Casualty Reduction Manager – Essex Police

**Officers**

Simon Freeman, Head of Finance  
Adam Rees, Governance Support Officer

22. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Nick Churchill.

23. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

24. **MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 5 September 2017 are agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

25. **MATTERS ARISING**

None.

26. **WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

None.

27. **WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS**

None.

28. **RESPONSES OF THE CABINET TO REPORTS OF THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

None.

29. **REVIEW OF ROAD SAFETY AND IMPROVING THE SAFETY OF YOUNG DRIVERS - QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION WITH ESSEX POLICE**

The Chair welcomed both Matt Cornish, Chief Inspector – Essex Police, and Adam Pipe, Casualty Reduction Manager – Essex Police to the meeting and invited them to speak about road traffic policing in Harlow and throughout the whole of Essex. They began by speaking about some of the challenges which were faced by the Police.

Adam Pipe said that the road network allowed for the transit of criminal activity from one area to another and that often fairly routine traffic offences such as not wearing a seatbelt were committed by people also looking to carry out non-traffic related criminal activity.

Road policing was intelligence led and this included the use of social media to understand where car meet-ups were due to take place. The Police had also adapted how it dealt with speed enforcement and other dangerous road activity by training communities to use speed guns and by using dash cam and CCTV footage to aid with prosecutions. He also highlighted the increasing issue of drink and drug related driving incidents, and the role of the Road Safety Partnership in helping enforce traffic laws.

In Harlow the number of traffic incidents was relatively low and had decreased from 2016. There were some safety issues surrounding young drivers but this was part of a national issue.

Matt Cornish drew attention to the work being done towards obtaining a Public Space Protection Order for the town centre which would give enforcement powers.

In responding to questions by the Committee, Adam Pipe outlined the work being done surrounding drink and drug driving, as well as the safety of elderly pedestrians and drivers. He explained that traffic calming measures were long term solutions and work was being done in relation to large developments in other parts of Essex to ensure they were incorporated in initial design works. Community intelligence was important and any information should be reported in the first instance through Crimestoppers. Bikeability was a continuous programme aimed at Year 6 pupils which helped children be safe whilst cycling on the road. Crucial Crew also provided more general road safety information for young people.

The Committee thanked Matt Cornish and Adam Pipe for attending.

30. **WORK PLAN**

The Committee received a report summarising its work plan for 2017/18.

In response to a question by Councillor Simon Carter, Simon Freeman, Head of Finance explained that the Review of the Church Langley Fund was intended to be conducted alongside the Review of Landscaping Services Provided by HTS. A scoping report would be brought to the meeting in March.

Councillor Ingall spoke about concerns which had been raised about the introduction of Universal Credit and possible adverse effects surrounding rent arrears and homelessness.

*Councillor Simon Carter declared a non-pecuniary interest as Chair of Streets 2 Homes.*

The Committee agreed that it wanted to look at the implementation of the Universal Credit scheme and how it's impacting on claimants in Harlow. A scoping report would be considered at the meeting in November.

**RESOLVED** that:

- A** The work plan be noted.
- B** A scoping report for the Review of the Church Langley Fund be considered by the Committee at the meeting on 13 March 2018.
- C** A review looking at the implementation of the Universal Credit scheme and how it's impacting on claimants in Harlow be added to the Work Plan with a scoping report to be considered by the Committee at the meeting on 28 November 2017.

31. **REFERENCES FROM OTHER COMMITTEES**

None.

32. **MATTERS OF URGENT BUSINESS**

None.

CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE