

Southend Public Meeting

15th July 2013
Council Chambers
18:00 to 20:00

Speakers

Nick Alston (PCC) – Police and Crime Commissioner for Essex
Chief Inspector Matt Bennett - Local District Commander
Chief Executive - Rob Tinlin

Agenda items

1. Crime Trends
2. House burglary
3. Policing of night life
4. Topics for discussion raised by the audience

Highlights of Presentation

All Crime

- Southend has shown that ‘all crime’ has reduced by 3.1% (403 fewer offences) when comparing reports for 1st May 2012 to 30th April 2013 against with those from 1st May 2011 to 30th April 2012.

Community Safety Partnership

- Priorities for Southend
- CSP supporting the work of the police

Crime Trends

- Theft from vehicles has increased by 5.0% (53 more offences) for 1st June 2012 to 31st May 2013. (Many offences of theft from motor vehicles could be avoided by simply securing vehicles and removing valuable items or items of temptation).
- There has been a 15.4% rise in recorded offences of shoplifting during the period June 2012 and May 2013 when compared to June 2011 to May 2012.

House Burglary

- 1st April to 30th June 2013 there was an increase of 2.1% of House burglary
- Operation Bisley which brings together crime reduction officers, Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators and PCSOs who deploy the mobile police station to burglary ‘hot spots’.
- Operation Penrith, whereby officers work with Integrated Offender Management team (a multi-agency team including probation, the local authority and the police).

Robbery

- Robbery offences have increased by 16.2% (40 more offences) comparing figures for 1st June 2012 to 31st May 2013 against the same period for the previous year.
- A known local gang were linked to drug dealing.
- Police action in response to these offences and other drug dealing activities in and around the town centre resulted in 27 arrests and a number of persons being imprisoned.

1. Crime trends in Southend

Incidents of house burglary and shoplifting have increased this year, against the previous year.

Q.1 How are Essex Police performing in keeping victims of burglary up to date?

A.1 CID investigate burglaries which is measured and scrutinised monthly by the Chief Constable and PCC.

Action: Chief Superintendent Luke Collison to provide the PCC with burglary victim satisfaction figures

2. Robbery

Q.1. What are the plans to reduce the fear of crime?

A.1. Essex Police and PCC are focusing on improving public perception via partnership working. A closer dialogue with media to get a balanced debate on the facts, promote success and improve communication via social media and networks.

Q.2 Are detection rates going up?

A.2 The PCC is committed to get the facts published and circulated to the public via a wide range of communication tools such as community messaging, social media and other networks. Information is also shared with Neighbourhood Watch and Parish Councils on their noticeboards and via their local leaflets/newsletters.

Q.3 Why does Essex Police use incident boards at crime scenes?

A.3 Essex Police have not adopted this approach but it is something that can be explored.

2. Policing Southend's busy night life

Crime and ASB figures for in the town centre fell down during June 2012 to May 2013, against the same period for the previous year.

There has been effective work between the police and partners to reduce night time economy related disorder issues.

Q.1. Are the Force being too lenient on criminals?

A.1. PCC is determined to tackle issue around offenders and re-offender via early intervention routes. By working closely with other agencies such as Probation – longer term this will provide better value for money taking a joined up approach.

3. Open Questions Raised By Audience

Q.1 How does the PCC monitor Essex Police's spending?

A.1 The PCC undertakes monthly financial review meetings between the Chief Constable and PCC to look at where and how money is spent as well as looking at outcomes and results.

Q.2 Is Essex Police looking at collaboration?

A.2 Essex Police is looking at a range of services where they can collaborate with other local forces, for example taking a joined up approach to IT. Over the next two years the PCC and Chief Constable will be looking at further savings of approximately £10 million.

Q.3. Has restorative justice been considered?

A.3 Essex police have not used restorative justice far enough. All agencies need to work together to make savings on cost and time. However, there may be times where restorative justice cannot be used due to sensitive and serious crimes.

Q.4. What is the PCC doing about commissioning?

A.4. From 1st April 2013, the PCC became the budget holder to oversee funds spent across the county as well as mapping out emerging themes. From next year the PCC will also be responsible for commissioning victims.

Q.5. How will the PCC know whether a good service is being delivered by Essex Police?

A.5. PCC is talking to police officers, staff and partners to get a view about performance delivery. This also helps to establish emerging themes and issues. This will guide the performance indicators and allow the PCC to dip sample complaints about the Force.

Actions

- PCC and Chief Superintendent Luke Collison to review victim satisfaction figures
- OPCC to continue to consider new approaches to balance the perception of crime
- District Commander to continue to remind patrolling officers to challenge inappropriate cycling on the footpath, following the lead from the Chief Constable
- PCC to gather further information from Essex Police on restorative justice and the wider implications
- Collaboration will continue to be under strategic discussions