

**Public Briefing Note for the Police and Crime Commissioner's  
Maldon Public Meeting 8<sup>th</sup> January 2019**

**Panel Members:**

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**Maldon District Profile**

Maldon local authority forms part of the North Local Policing Area (N-LPA), which is the largest of the three LPAs in Essex. Chelmsford and Maldon share a District Policing Area (DPA) and benefit from a shared manager and structure enabling flexibility to target emerging crime trends.

The principal towns are Maldon, Heybridge and Burnham-on-Crouch. The area has 60 miles of coastline stretching from the Burnham-on-Crouch estuary, round the Dengie peninsula up to Bradwell on the River Blackwater.

Maldon is one of the least densely populated districts in Essex with the current population of 62,700 expected to rise to about 66,100 by 2025. Residents aged 65 and over will also rise, growing from 14,900 to 19,000. Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) communities account for approximately 8.6% of the total.

Located in the district is Bradwell Power Station, which is both in a process of having its original reactor decommissioned and considered as a site for a future reactor.

**Policing Structure and Resources**

The following model currently operates within the Maldon district:

**Local Policing Team (LPT)**

The LPT consists of six teams, based at a Policing Hub location within Maldon District Council offices. They work shifts to cover the district 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Supervised by an Inspector (based at Chelmsford) each team deals with a range of policing duties including incident demand, appointments and missing persons. By implementing this policing model, it means additional resources can be mobilised from Chelmsford during periods of high demand. Each team comprises a Sergeant and five Constables, an increase of one per team post precept rise.

## Special Constabulary

Maldon also enjoys the support of the Special Constabulary, with their resource mobilised to the District regularly – especially to support local events and pre-planned policing operations. The district command has worked with the Special Constabulary command to develop a Special Constabulary footprint across Maldon and the Dengie. It is likely this team will be established within the next few months and will operate alongside the local policing team.

## Community Policing Team (CPT)

The Community Policing Team for Maldon has an Inspector, two Sergeants, twelve Constables and ten Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs). Operating out of Chelmsford Police station, they are responsible for community policing, engagement and problem solving throughout the combined policing district of Chelmsford & Maldon. This team will soon (March 2019) move into a Partnership Hub at Chelmsford City Council where they will work directly alongside partners including Maldon District Council staff.

## Criminal Investigation Department (CID) and Juno Team

Based at Chelmsford, CID has three teams of detectives led by a Detective Inspector. CID investigates the more serious crimes such as robbery, grievous bodily harm and dwelling burglary.

All high and medium risk domestic abuse investigations are led by the Juno team, also based at Chelmsford.

## **Community Concerns and Media**

Maldon has one of the lowest crime rates, when compared to other districts in Essex.

Issues commonly raised at public meetings include:

- A lack of a visible police presence in some areas, especially rural villages and locations such as Burnham.
- Response times.
- Rural crime issues such as hare coursing.
- Theft of and from motor vehicles.
- Burglary Other.
- Speeding, coupled with road safety.

The media have shown an interest in ASB and drug related issues throughout the Maldon District Council area. Subsequently, the District Commander has made personal contact with the Maldon & Burnham Standard in order to enhance lines of communication. Following the closure of Maldon Police station, the same number of officers remain in the area, now based at the Maldon District Council Office complex. Initial concerns over of possible increased traffic in and out of the offices, as well as noise from sirens, have not been reported.

## Response Times

The Force Control Room monitors incidents to ensure they received the correct response. Where appropriate, resources from outside of the district will be allocated to incidents to help deal with demand issues.

## Rural Crime

Dealing with rural crime issues is a challenge that has seen improvements driven by the OPFCC, the Essex Rural Partnership and the establishment of the Gypsy, Traveller and Rural Engagement Team (GTRET). An active Farm Watch scheme remains in place and Neighbourhood Watch schemes continue to promote crime reduction initiatives.

Hare coursing is an issue of great concern for the community. Incidents are reported and dealt with on a case by case basis. GTRET and the Wildlife Liaison Officer are available for advice and monitors offences across the county.

## Vehicle Crime and Burglary Other

While crimes such as vehicle offences and 'Burglary Other' are a concern, there have been no hotspot areas currently identified, which would allow a targeted patrol strategy. Crime data is included further on in this document.

## Road Safety

Volunteer Community Speed Watch schemes run throughout the district. Casualty Reduction Team undertake additional enforcement where issues are identified.

## **(Community Policing Team) Crime / Community Safety Problem Solving Examples**

Concerns reported by parents and teachers in the area suggested gang members were in the area, intending to recruit younger people to deal drugs for the gang, become beholden to the gang and place them at risk of further exploitation, including sexual. Officers from the Community Policing Team spoke with children and parents, obtaining evidence and identifying an additional location in Maldon that the individual was frequenting to prey on youngsters and liaised with a key contact at that location. With no substantive offences evidenced, a Community Protection Warning was drafted and served on the individual, preventing him from attending the location or from associating with anyone under the age of 18. Onward monitoring will now ensure that progress to a Community Protection Notice and Criminal Behaviour Order will be made should the individual persist.

## **(Community Policing Team) ASB Problem Solving Examples**

The Community Policing Team have been aware of ongoing ASB issues at Maldon Promenade Park. Previous high visibility uniformed deployments resulted in displacement. An initial presence in plain clothes with use of the stop and search tactic resulted in positive outcomes including two community resolution processes for possession of cannabis.

These deployments have denied freedom of movement to those who had previously believed they could act and behave with impunity and we will continue to work with

partners, including the local authority, to create and maintain safe environments for the wider community to enjoy.

The Community Policing Team have carried out proactive patrols throughout Maldon, identifying the High Street and Fullbridge retail areas as of concern. Officers both uniformed and plain clothes engaged with young people, gaining intelligence and identifying members of the groups in question. Where those individuals have failed to desist from the risk behaviours identified, six Community Protection Warnings have been issued. Further breaches will result in the issue of Community Protection Notices, the precursor to a Criminal Behaviour Order. Designated officers and PCSOs in the Maldon area with responsibility for public engagement and enforcement will follow up the issues.

### **Serious Crime Directorate - Cyber Crime Unit**

In October 2018 a Cyber Security input was delivered to the charity U3A (The University of the third age) and their associated members by our Cybercrime protect Officer. This was also delivered to Maldon District Council staff. The aim of this talk was to raise awareness of vulnerabilities, and to reach out to those unengaged with the internet.

In the same month the cybercrime protect officer delivered a presentation to The Harbour, Maldon District Volunteers workshop, a social support community charity. This provided safeguarding advice on cyber security and software service fraud to a small audience of vulnerable persons in the community of Maldon.

There is another Cyber Security input planned for 27<sup>th</sup> February 2019, which is aimed solely at the volunteers of Maldon District themselves.

### **CID Outcomes**

In January 2018 two dwelling burglaries occurred in Plains Road, Great Totham, Maldon. The suspects stolen vehicle was seen by officers in Colchester and the car was pursued leading to the arrest of two suspects hiding in fields. Forensic analysis placed them both in the stolen vehicle. Phone data was also used to plot their locations throughout the day and after further work in relation to ANPR one of the suspects was charged and pleaded guilty to three burglaries in the Maldon area and awaits sentencing.

In February 2018 a dwelling burglary occurred in Maldon. Intelligence and analysis of ANPR linked a vehicle to a known burglary. An area search was undertaken which resulted in a pursuit and foot chase, leading to the arrest of the subject. Stolen property belonging to the victims of the burglary was found inside the vehicle and the suspect plead guilty at court to burglary and dangerous driving receiving a three year sentence.

In July 2018 an argument took place in a convenience store on the High Street, Maldon between two people. Both were known to each other and had previous disagreements. During the altercation the victim was struck over the head with a wine bottle and also received serious injuries to the stomach. The suspect was arrested, charged and pleaded guilty at court receiving a 10 year prison sentence for GBH.

## Maldon Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour Data

### Maldon Crime Comparison

The table below sets out the crime figures for Maldon, comparing reports for 1<sup>st</sup> December 2017 to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2018 with 1<sup>st</sup> December 2016 to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2017 for the Maldon district and the Force.

#### Areas of note for Maldon district:

- All Crime has increased by 20.4% (506 more offences).
- Violence without Injury has increased by 27.5% (88 more offences).
- Stalking and Harassment has increased by 87.2% (204 more offences).
- Theft from a Vehicle has increased by 13.8% (13 more offences).
- Sexual Offences have decreased by 15.8% (12 fewer offences).
- Dwelling Burglary (pre-Apr 17 def.) has decreased by 32.9% (55 fewer offences).
- Theft from the person has decreased by 30.0% (9 fewer offences).
- ASB Incidents have decreased by 11.1% (110 fewer incidents).

Crime/Incident Type	# offence		# diff	% diff	District vs Force % pt diff	Per 1000 Pop.*	District vs Force Per Pop* diff	# offences		# diff	% diff	Per 1000 Pop.*
	Maldon 12M							Force				
	2017	2018						2017	2018			
ALL CRIME	2486	2992	506	20.4	6.9	47.2	-35.1	130719	148331	17612	13.5	82.3
Violence with Injury	311	345	34	10.9	6.7	5.4	-2.4	13549	14121	572	4.2	7.8
Violence without Injury	320	408	88	27.5	2.9	6.4	-4.4	15727	19594	3867	24.6	10.9
Stalking and Harassment	234	438	204	87.2	2.8	6.9	-2.7	9364	17264	7900	84.4	9.6
Sexual Offences	76	64	-12	-15.8	-27.4	1.0	-1.2	3558	3970	412	11.6	2.2
Robbery	13	15	2	15.4	4.8	0.2	-0.7	1461	1616	155	10.6	0.9
Residential Burglary	-	172				6.7	-5.7	-	8859			12.3
Business and Community Burglary	-	113				1.8	-0.2	-	3501			1.9
Dwelling Burglary (pre-Apr 17 definition)	167	112	-55	-32.9	-22.7	4.3	-4.5	7053	6332	-721	-10.2	8.8
Other Burglary (pre-Apr 17 definition)	141	173	32	22.7	23.9	2.7	-0.6	6102	6028	-74	-1.2	3.3
Theft from a Vehicle	94	107	13	13.8	15.4	1.7	-2.7	8060	7935	-125	-1.6	4.4
Theft of a Vehicle	74	86	12	16.2	2.0	1.4	-1.4	4342	4959	617	14.2	2.8
Theft from the Person	30	21	-9	-30.0	-36.4	0.3	-0.5	1462	1555	93	6.4	0.9
Theft of Pedal Cycles	24	24	0	0.0	14.9	0.4	-0.9	2630	2238	-392	-14.9	1.2
Shoplifting	60	80	20	33.3	26.4	1.3	-4.6	9836	10516	680	6.9	5.8
Other Theft	296	352	56	18.9	14.2	5.6	-1.9	12827	13436	609	4.7	7.5
Criminal Damage (incl. arson)	346	325	-21	-6.1	-7.3	5.1	-3.6	15624	15812	188	1.2	8.8
Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents	992	882	-110	-11.1	-5.7	13.9	-12.4	50099	47395	-2704	-5.4	26.3

\*Residential and Dwelling Burglary per 1000 Households

#### Other districts – All Crime offences and per 1000 population:

District	ALL CRIME	
	Offences	Per 1000 Pop.
Basildon	17181	93.7
Braintree	9811	65.0
Brentwood	5139	67.3
Castle Point	5584	62.3
Chelmsford	14003	80.4
Colchester	16802	90.0
Epping Forest	10760	82.6
Harlow	8667	100.8
Maldon	2992	47.2
Rochford	4165	48.6
Southend-on-sea	18372	102.2
Stansted	1665	
Tendring	13168	92.3
Thurrock	15782	94.5
Uttlesford	4240	49.2

All crime has risen, in keeping with a trend seen countywide and nationally. Maldon has maintained its position within the county, still enjoying the lowest crime figures for any district in Essex.

### Violence without injury

Within the comparison period, Maldon has experienced an increase in Violence without Injury of 27.5% (88 more offences). This category has seen an increase nationally over the past few years due to changes in the recording process, resulting in previously unrecorded crimes such as harassment and malicious communications being added. Domestic abuse cases also contribute significantly to this offence classification and tackling the issue represents the most effective way of reducing harm within the Maldon District. Dealing with incidents of domestic abuse is a key priority for Essex Police and all medium and high-risk cases are investigated by specialist officers from the Operation Juno teams.

### Stalking/harassment

Changes to the way offences of this category are recorded increased accuracy and increased public confidence in the manner in which they are dealt – which has in turned led to an upsurge in reporting, a trend that's reflected nationally. The population of Maldon District remain less likely to suffer an offence of this type than the wider population of Essex – as is the case for any crime type shown in the data within this document.

### Theft from a vehicle

Expressed as a percentage, this apparent sizeable increase by 13.8% masks low actual offence figures (13 more offences). Recorded crime shows no pattern with offences spread over the entire District through the 12 month reporting period.

### Dwelling Burglary

During the reporting period, there was a 32.9% decrease in dwelling burglary (55 less offences) in Maldon district, when compared with the same period the previous year. Burglary remains a priority crime type and offences are monitored as part of the two-weekly tasking and co-ordination meeting. All residential burglary cases are investigated by CID. This decrease continues a trend of exceptionally low numbers of dwelling burglary offences in the district over recent years.

### Anti-social behaviour

Well publicised appropriate use of anti-social behaviour legislation coupled with sound partnership working throughout the District, has contributed to successes in dealing with ASB.