

NHW – OPCC Update year to date May 2017

The Local Case for Change - Police and Crime Commissioners 12 week consultation

More than 1,700 people responded to the Police and Crime Commissioner, Mr Hirst's consultation into the local case for joint governance of Essex Police and Essex County Fire & Rescue Service.

The results show that over 800 questionnaires completed by the public scored Mr Hirst's preferred option of joint governance as one that will offer benefits to the running of both emergency services.

The Local Case for Change talks about how it will enable further collaboration between the services, the sharing of premises and back office functions such as IT and HR. Projected savings of up to £23 million will be reinvested back into front line services over the next 10 years.

NHW – Funding

Roger Hirst, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Essex, has agreed a £10,500 funding grant for Neighbourhood Watch in Essex. The funding is provided from the Community Safety Fund which offers grants to help build community cohesion and community safety throughout the county.

Mr Hirst, said: "Neighbourhood Watch do a great job in communities throughout Essex. Working with the police they help provide intelligence to officers, support the elderly and vulnerable and go out of their way to make their local area safer.

Chief Constable Steven Kavanagh – contract extended

Police and Crime Commissioner for Essex, Roger Hirst was pleased to announce that he has extended the contract of the current Chief Constable of Essex, Stephen Kavanagh, for a further four years from June 2017.

Mr Hirst said "The Chief Constable has shown strong, positive leadership over the last four years and has led the service through a number of significant changes to help modernize and improve how they operate.

Police Specials Campaign

As part of his commitment in the Police and Crime Plan for Essex, Roger Hirst is aiming to double the number of Special Constables, currently 358 in Essex. To achieve the overall growth in headcount and to mitigate the overall turnover within the Special constabulary an additional 600 Special Constables will need to be recruited by March 2019. Our recruitment strategy seeks to target the following types of people:

- Those looking for a route into policing
- The community spirited
- People with time to give
- Those looking for more action in their lives
- People who want to be 'career Specials'

We are particularly looking to recruit:

- People from diverse communities
- Women
- People who are 'tech savvy'
- People in rural communities
- Those from West Essex and other geographically under-represented areas

Unlawful Encampment Protocol

Representatives from all District, County and Unitary Councils across Essex met with Essex Police and the Police and Crime Commissioner held discussions around a proposed joint protocol for managing unlawful encampments. This has resulted in a shared process and shared protocol that the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, Jane Gardner, Essex Police, representatives from district councils and Essex County Traveller Unit have been working on since the first round table meeting in September 2016. The final protocol was distributed to councils and unitary authorities ahead of the May Bank Holiday and recipients reported the process was clear and easy to follow.

Stop Hate UK – Funding

Stop Hate UK recently launched a 24-hour Stop Hate Line helpline service across the Essex council area which was funded by The Police and Crime Commissioner for Essex. Essex Council area has a population of just under 1.4m million people, including in major conurbations of Harlow, Brentwood, Basildon, Chelmsford, Colchester, Braintree, Uttlesford and Epping Forest.

Rose Simkins, Chief Executive of Stop Hate UK, said: "All forms of Hate Crime are significantly under-reported and some individuals and even whole communities are reluctant or unwilling to talk to the police or their council.

Pilot Programme funded by PCC for Gangsline

The PCC has funded a pilot programme that will train over 1000 people to identify young people at risk of being exploited by gangs. Mr Hirst, said: "Gangs exploit some of the most vulnerable young people in our community, bringing them into a culture of crime, drugs and abuse. Tackling gangs is a priority in my Police and Crime Plan. This pathway into exploitation can be stopped by early identification and effective intervention. Once identified, those at risk of being exploited will be supported by a network of highly skilled specialists, including some ex-gang members,, who work with young people at risk to tackle the issues affecting them and help them turn their lives around."