

Essex Business Crime Strategic Board

MINUTES

10.00 – 12.00 – Tuesday 11 September 2018
DP World London Gateway

Attendees:

BJ Harrington – Chief Constable Designate, Essex Police
Ian Gennery – CI Local Policing Support, Essex Police
Jane Gardner – Dep. Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner for Essex
Denise Rossiter – CEO, Essex Chambers of Commerce
David Burch – Director of Policy, Essex Chambers of Commerce
Donna Gale – Executive Assistant, Essex Chambers of Commerce
Dean Border – MD, Baltic Distribution
Stephen Walls – Head of BRB Project Development Team, Bradwell Power
Colin Hitchcock – Harbourmaster, DP World London Gateway
Peter Scopes – Centre Manager, Lion Walk Shopping Centre, Colchester
John Moran – Operations Director, Minerva Fire & Security Ltd
Andrew Harper-Rowe – Director, MLM Group
Philip Miller – Chair & CEO, Stockvale Group

In attendance:

Mark Johnson – Head of Analysis, Essex Police
Emma Thomas - Comms & Engagement Manager, Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner

1. Apologies for Absence:

Roger Hirst – Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner for Essex
Darren Horsman – Asst Director, Comms & Public Engagement, Essex Police
Samantha Johnson – Head of Security Compliance, London Stansted Airport
Julian Drury – MD, Trenitalia c2c Rail
Perry Woolner – I&C Team Manager, Wave
Stephen Cook – HR Manager, Wilkin & Sons

2. Welcome and introductions – Denise Rossiter.

The purpose of this Board is to develop a strategic partnership with Essex business to reduce business crime in Essex and make the County a better place to live and work.

3. Election of Chairman and appointment of secretariat:

By unanimous show of hands, Denise Rossiter appointed as Chair, assisted by David Burch. Minutes will be shared and published on the Essex Chambers' website. Donna Gale will take minutes of meetings.

4. Terms of reference for the Board:

Document circulated in advance, and adopted at meeting.

5. Updates:

a) Essex Police – BJH – handed over to Mark Johnson, Head of Analysis, Essex Police, who updated business crime statistics for the past 12 months:

- Business crime accounted for 16.7% of crime committed
- 23,776 crimes reported – this figure is expected to increase
- Retail crime - 43.2% related to shoplifting, 57% to theft/criminal damage
- Worst town centre for business crime – West Thurrock
- Major business affected – Tesco. Co-op, Shell, BP
- In financial terms, this represents £23.2m, with Basildon at £6.4m being the highest by area
- Small business crime – no stats available

BJH – sole traders suffer a greater impact when plant / tools stolen – I suspect many incidents go unreported. Shoplifting can be an organised crime with items ‘stolen to order’, to fund drug habits. 150 new officers being recruited taking total to 3000 for Essex. ‘Stop and Search’ encouraged.

b) Essex Police Fire and Crime Commissioner – JG (Deputy PFCC) offered apologies on behalf of Roger Hirst who had been called to a meeting in London. Committed to engage with Essex business to understand the challenging issues they face day to day. Looking at creating a Violence and Vulnerability Unit to address the growing drug problem, and stifle the ‘business element’ of this crime. On-going ‘Employer Supported Specials Scheme’ being promoted countywide. Co-ordinated media approach – create opportunity to work together to challenge the criminal fraternity and stamp out business crime in Essex.

6. Initial focus:

a) Identifying issues:

Going round the table, the following issues were raised:

- CH – concern at increasing illegal drugs entering the country, particularly from the South American shipping route. Secretion methods becoming more and more sophisticated. Container scanning assisting Border Force with inspections.
- Dean B – MD or rural port with regular routes to Baltic states. Good relationship with Border Force. Private Security on-site 24/7. Raised question around on-site trespass enforcement.
- JM – retail sector - lack of financial resources often restricts businesses investing in additional security equipment.
- PS – would like to work with Police to empower local partnerships, and encourage information sharing. Asked if the procedure for reporting crime be revised. *BJH agreed this should be more streamlined*
- IG – successful on-going work with Rural Crime initiative, and already have established working relationship with ‘COLBAC’ (Colchester Business Against Crime)
- David B – media coverage of business crime often not helpful

b) How to achieve quick wins:

Going round the table, the following ‘quick wins’ were suggested:

- DR – need to address relationship with local media; engage with Radio Essex for support; lobby local MP’s and Politicians for support, and Home Office for additional funding; add ‘Members Forum for Crime’ to the Essex Chambers’ electronic member newsletters; run feature in Business time in Essex Magazine (12000 circulation); add section to Chamber website.

- David B – Essex Chambers’ member survey to be prepared to gain insight of how business crime affects them, have they been affected, outcomes, etc.
- CH – re cybercrime – DPW issue credit card size ‘card data blocker’ to all their employees to avoid card ‘cloning’ in busy public areas ie –railways stations.
DR asked CH for details of supplier as this is something the Chamber would like to promote

7. Engaging with business

Summary: BJH – in conjunction with Essex Chambers keen to establish a strategic working relationship with Essex businesses – need to work on how this can be developed, how to open the channels, and best way to build this into the Policing budget. A proposal will be prepared for the next meeting.

ET – suggested formation of sub-group to deal with the negative media issues.

8. Dates of future meetings:

11 January, 12 April, 12 July, 11 October

All Fridays – all 10.00 – 12.00 – All to take place at DP World London Gateway

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1 London Gateway, The Manorway, Stanford-le-Hope, Essex, SS17 9DY**