

## Essex Business Crime Strategic Board

### MINUTES Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2021, 10.00am – 11.30pm Teams Meeting

#### **Attendees**

CI Terry Balding – Essex Police  
Darren Horsman – Strategic Head of Policy and Public Engagement, Essex PFCC  
Denise Rossiter – CEO, Essex Chambers of Commerce  
Sonia Peirson – Estates Manager, DP World London Gateway  
Perry Woolner – I&C Team Manager, Wave  
Lee Hammond – Head of Security, East of England Co-op  
John Moran – Minerva Fire & Security  
Paul Saward – Group Crime Response Manager, Sainsburys  
Dr. Raymond Davies – Director, Dr Jean Raymond Ltd  
Stephen Cook – Head of Human Resources, Wilkin & Sons  
Robin Punt – Head of Communications, Essex Police

#### In attendance:

Lucy Childs – Events Coordinator, Essex Chambers of Commerce  
Terry Jacobs – Business Crime Sergeant, Essex Police  
Jenny Brouard – Citizens in Policing Commander, Essex Police  
Shaun Kane – Superintendent, Essex Police

#### **1. Welcome & Apologies**

B-J Harrington – Chief Constable, Essex Police  
Dean Border – Chair, Essex Chambers of Commerce  
David Burch – Director of Policy, Essex Chambers of Commerce  
Roger Hirst - Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner for Essex  
Darren Hyde, Managing Director, VIP Security  
Simona Daniel – Development Manager, FSB  
Iain Palmer – Head of Revenue Protection & Security, Trenitalia c2c  
Samantha Johnson – Head of Security Compliance, London Stansted Airport  
Jane Gardner – Dep. Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner for Essex

- 2. Minutes of Last Meeting:** Minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2021 were circulated in advance, reviewed and approved. These will also be available to view on the Essex Chambers' website.

**Matters arising** – none

#### **3. Business Crime Team Update**

- TB updated the Board on the key findings September 2021, including the lowest 7 day rolling average of daily offenses as a result of Covid restrictions. The lowest since the recording of crime statistics started, although starting to increase as restrictions ease.
- 17,009 offences recorded in 12 months from July 2021. A 22.9% reduction year-on-year.
- BTU has identified a spike in theft from motor vehicles, particularly trade/work vans parked overnight in hotels and created a strategy to help combat this.
- PS asked as there is a reduction in reporting on certain crime types has there been an increase in different areas? TB confirmed there has been an increase in antisocial behaviour and drug offenses.

- DH asked if the violence to shop workers has decreased at the same rate as shop lifting. TB will come back to DH on statistics but prevention of violence against staff is a driving force of the BCT.
- The BCT have expanded their 'Open for Business. Closed for Crime' campaign and launched in Grays and Harlow. Extensive marketing campaign to promote the scheme.
- Spike in violent crimes over the summer months, particularly in Southend. Concerns raised by local businesses with support from ECC saw an elevated police presence on the seafront.
- The BCT will identify and share best practice and circulated in monthly newsletters.
- BCT have a new PC Glen Foote joining the team, start date TBC, and Sergeant Christian Denning, start date 16<sup>th</sup> October.
- Businesses need to be aware of potential climate protests targeted at their businesses, fraud and cybercrime and leasing out business premises to criminals involved in human trafficking or other criminality.
- COP26, one of the biggest events taking place in Scotland. Essex Police will be sending up resources, including TB for a three-week period.
- DR signposted to the separate Strategic Cyber Crime Board and suggested to utilise the fraud officers in the work of that Board.
- DR asked what the reporting traffic to the new BCT website has been. TB will find out and report back. DR happy to work with DH & RP to create communication to promote the website to Chamber Members.
- SK introduced himself to the Board, 25 years in Essex Police, is now the Head of the Police Support Unit.
- SK aims to reset the priorities and to increase visibility within the community to help prevent and protect businesses. Suggested creating a working group with businesses outside of the Board to help identify the needs of businesses. Increasing reach, intelligence and enforcement.
- DR asked the Board how best to spread the messaging to the wider business community.
- SC is receiving the BCT newsletters that they share across the Tearoom group and display on notice boards. SC also tried to set up a local group but with little engagement from business.
- PS discussed the difficulties of spreading local messaging in a national corporate organisation. Reluctance from comms teams to publish anything crime related, even positive, for fear of what it infers.
- SK wants to establish better links locally with businesses.
- LH explained the process of comms teams. If messaging is trying to target other retailers and competitors it won't get the traction. Use organisation, such as the Association of Convivence Stores, as a conduit to support smaller businesses.
- DH suggested identifying who in a business is responsible for reporting crime and establishing a good relationship, strengthening local links with local police units. BCT could facilitate introductions.
- DR invited BCT and Essex Police to attend as many ECC networking events as they like in order to establish better relationships with businesses.
- RP asked the Board what Essex Police can do to maintain the confidence in the county and encourage more business in to Essex and investment, particularly around the Free Ports. DR will talk to RP on the Free Ports.
- JM suggested to engage with local authorities, they already have an established marketing reach with information for businesses.
- LH suggested the messaging should be focussed around the celebration of the uniqueness of the BCT to Essex. DH confirmed that the Essex BCU is the largest in the country and held as a best practice example.
- DH suggested the need to get more businesses engaged. Used the example of one touch reporting trial.
- As the Citizens in Policing Commander JB has many ideas on how to utilize her teams of volunteers, Police Specials and Police Cadets to be Ambassadors and help support Essex Police and the business community.

#### **4. Prevention Strategy Presentation**

- On the 29<sup>th</sup> November 2021, PFCC Roger Hirst and Chief Inspector BJ Harrington will be virtually launching the Essex Crime Prevention Strategy.
- The strategy will look to adopting a whole system approach to understand causes in order to prevent crime before it occurs collaboratively working across agencies.

- 5 strategic aims, including; safer communities, cutting crime, evolve workforce culture, support Safer Essex and support Essex Community Volunteer Sector.
- The strategy focuses on 14 specific areas, split into four categories, including; serious violence (e.g., rape), organised crime (e.g., county lines), complex needs (e.g., child abuse) and vulnerabilities (e.g., hate crime).
- A force lead is assigned to each thematic area, and objectives for each area are outlined in the strategy.
- SK and TB to send DR copy of the presentations.

#### **5. AOB**

- DR updated the Board on the return of physical events for ECC. 17<sup>th</sup> November 2021, first physical networking event since the pandemic will take place at the Innovation Centre in Colchester. This event will be used to launch the events programme for 2022.
- The Chamber is involved with the Thames Freeport, DR attended launch event at Savoy Hotel.
- Fiserv are now Patrons. The Chamber will help them launch and promote their Helping Ethnically Diverse Owned Small Businesses Back to Business grant.
- 27<sup>th</sup> April 2022 will be the Festival of Business at Hylands House, Chelmsford. The festival will focus on diversity, inclusion and celebrating Essex business and aims to bring the Essex business community together. Speakers include, Chief Inspector, Levi Roots and many more plus a panel discussion around diversity.

#### **6. Date and location of next meeting: Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2021, location/platform TBC.**

Signed



Date 10.12.21