



**Colchester City Council
Preferred Options Local Plan Regulation 18 Consultation
November 2025**

**Proposed Housing & Population Growth
(21,106 Dwellings – 49,599 Persons)**

**Police Facilities Provision
&
Developer Funding Requirements**

**Essex Police Evidence Base Summary
January 2026**

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Introduction

Essex Police – Essential Social Infrastructure Provider

1. The **Crime and Disorder Act 1998** places a duty on local authorities to reduce crime and disorder within the community.
2. The **National Planning Policy Framework 2024** requires the planning system to be planned, with plans contributing to the achievement of sustainable development - being shaped by early, proportionate and effective engagement between plan makers and infrastructure providers, to set out the infrastructure contributions expected from development.
3. Essex Police is an essential social infrastructure provider in this respect, who works closely with neighbourhoods to provide community safety, cohesion and policing in line with the objectives and priorities set out in the **Police & Crime Plan 2024-2028** to support the creation of safe, strong, healthy, resilient and sustainable new communities.
4. With this in mind, Essex Police submitted evidence to inform the infrastructure scoping process at the earlier (stakeholder) stages of the local plan review, linked to preparation of the **Colchester Infrastructure Audit & Delivery Plan (IADP)** in December 2024 and June 2025, which is retained by the City Council as background documentation.
5. The **IADP Stage 3 Report dated 24 October 2025** therefore outlines the Essex Police infrastructure requirements to mitigate and manage the planned housing/ population growth over the plan period to 2041.
6. The Essex Policing Model is outlined in the **IADP** and reproduced below for information.

Essex Policing Model

7. To use resources efficiently to address the incidence of crime and engage effectively with the local community, Essex Police operates a 'Local Policing Area' (LPA) policing model.
8. Each Local Policing Area is resourced by a dedicated **Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT)**, consisting of Police Officers, Police Community Support Officers (PCSO's), Community Safety Engagement Officers, Children & Young Persons Officers and integrated local partners and partnerships within co-located Community Safety Hubs.
9. This resourcing structure ensures that an appropriate level of response is coordinated at the outset, ranging from a routine community safety/ cohesion deployment to a serious crime response, to meet the community's needs.
10. Both the construction and occupation phases of residential development lead to an increase in the incidence of criminal activity.

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11. At the construction phase this includes property-based theft and vandalism, as acknowledged by the Chartered Institute of Building in its publications concerning Crime in the Construction Industry. Such incidents lead to an increased impact on police facilities and a greater draw on Essex Police NPT resources.
12. At the occupation phase increased populations give rise to an increase in crime and incidents against the person (e.g. violence, sexual, burglary, vehicle theft and criminal damage). New residents would be the victims of such crime, leading to an increased impact on police facilities and a greater draw on its NPT resources, including specialist unit support officers.
13. Emerging new communities need to be integrated with existing communities, and an appropriate level and duration of community safety, cohesion and policing would therefore need to be provided across the occupation phases of developments.
14. Major new housing developments give rise to significant additional resource needs and implications for NPT's, (including specialist officers supporting the NPT's), requiring appropriate developer funding in order to mitigate and manage the community safety, cohesion and policing requirements, including the crime impacts arising.

Police Infrastructure & Facilities (Police Facilities)

15. In the context of the Essex - wide plan making and development management processes, police facilities are defined as follows;
 - ❖ Additional or enhanced police station (Local Policing Team) floor space & facilities, including fit out & refurbishment;
 - ❖ Custody facilities;
 - ❖ Mobile police stations;
 - ❖ Communications, including ICT;
 - ❖ Speed Camera/ Automatic Number Plate Recognition Technology;
 - ❖ Police vehicles;
 - ❖ Funding for additional staff resources, incorporating the recruitment, training, equipping & tasking of Police Community Support Officers (PCSO's) during the construction phase of residential development, & recruitment, training &

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equipping of Local Policing Team Officers (LPTO's) during the occupation phase of residential development;

16. The developer funded police facilities required to mitigate and manage the impact arising on Essex Police service capacity (and related costs) are outlined in the **IADP**.

Local Plan Text & Policy Revisions

17. Essex Police is satisfied that the **IADP** reflects its budgetary evidence concerning the level of developer funded police facilities required to mitigate and manage the planned housing/ population growth within the Colchester City Council area to 2041.

18. Essex Police is not currently satisfied, however, that the text and policies within the Preferred Options Local Plan Regulation 18 Consultation are sufficiently justified or comprehensive, as they are not considered to;

- ❖ Identify Essex Police as an essential social infrastructure provider – requiring developer funding in order to mitigate & manage the impacts arising from planned housing/ population growth;
- ❖ Essex County Fire & Rescue Service & the East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust are also not identified as essential infrastructure providers;
- ❖ Provide sufficient clarity concerning the requirement for developer funded police infrastructure/ facilities in association with the strategic housing sites >250 dwellings;
- ❖ Provide sufficient recognition concerning the definition of 'infrastructure' being applicable to police infrastructure/ facilities (police facilities) – this position is equally applicable to fire & rescue & ambulance facilities;
- ❖ Provide adequate recognition to the wider remit & role of Essex Police in providing community safety, cohesion & policing in contributing to the delivery of sustainable new communities, in addition to its duties as a Category 1 Responder under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 (i.e. its emergency service role) - this position is equally applicable to fire & rescue & ambulance facilities;

19. A **Schedule of Text & Policy Changes** outline the changes sought to the draft text and policies contained in the Preferred Options Local Plan, which is submitted as an **Accompanying Document**.

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20. In addition, **16 x form-based representations** outline the changes sought, and are submitted as **Accompanying Documents**.
21. Essex Police commend the changes sought in its representations which are considered necessary to provide for a justified and comprehensive local plan, and look forward to continuing its productive working relationship with the City Council and its retained consultants to that end.