

Dear Members

At last night's Full Council Meeting, there was an agenda Item 22 Opposition Business Proposal. This was proposed by our member, Cllr Martin Terry, because of the high level of crime Southend is experiencing, along with vandalism occurring in our area. Fortunately, before council commenced, all group leaders/spokespeople, including our Chairman, met and agreed a slight change in the wording to allow the whole to accept the motion in full agreement.

The Motion is as follows:

Following a recent period of 3 violent attacks in 4 days involving knives, which is a theme borne out by the publication of statistics proving Southend-on-Sea has the highest violent crime rates in the County of Essex, this Council believes that the level of crime in Southend-on-Sea is damaging community safety and community relations throughout the town, and specifically harming the confidence of local businesses and the town centre business improvement district.

The Council recognises and welcomes the recent increases in the Policing Precept, but feels that the allocation of 12 uniformed officers into the Southend Local Policing Teams is inadequate. After subtraction of rest days, holidays and sickness leave this will amount to only 4 additional officers on the front line.

As a matter of urgency, this Council calls upon the offices of the Police and Crime and Fire Commissioner (PCFC), The Chief Constable and the Home Secretary to authorise the allocation of additional resources for more uniformed front-line officers in Southend-on-Sea as a matter of urgency, including the re-establishment of the town centre beat team, recently removed under government cuts, to police the demands of the towns 7 million visitors a year over and above the normal population of the Town.

The Chairman and the Committee would like to extend their thanks to Cllr Martin Terry for proposing this motion to Council and also to Cllr Lamb (Conservative Leader), Cllr Woodley (Independent spokesman), Cllr Mulrone (Lib-Dem leader) and Cllr Gilbert (Labour Leader) for their support in passing the motion last night.