

## **District Profile**

Rochford district is situated in South East Essex within a peninsula between the River Thames and River Crouch and with the North Sea to the East. The south of the district adjoins the urban areas of Southend-on-Sea and Castle Point. Much of the district's 65 square miles are designated as green belt land and there are many miles of attractive coastline and nationally important areas of salt marsh.

The district's largest town, Rayleigh, and Rochford and Hockley have good rail connections to London and there is access to the A127 London-Southend Arterial Road, the A13 and the M25. London Southend Airport is primarily situated within the district, and the airport and surrounding area are part of the Thames Gateway regeneration area.

The district is relatively affluent, ranked as 299 out of 326 authorities nationally, where 1 is the most deprived and 326 the least deprived. Owner-occupied homes constitute 86% of households and private renting accounts for approximately 6%. House prices are higher than the average for England and Wales. The proportion of the resident working age population who are in employment in Rochford is high, with the area ranking in the top 40% of districts nationally.

## **Overview of policing teams**

The following policing model operates within the Rochford area.

### Neighbourhood Policing Team

Rochford consists of seven neighbourhoods: Rochford, Rayleigh, Hockley, Hullbridge, Great Wakering, Ashingdon and Canewdon. The local Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) comprises one Inspector, one Sergeant, three Neighbourhood Constables and seven Police Community Support Officers.

Each of the seven neighbourhoods has a named Neighbourhood Constable and Police Community Support Officer, who are a point of contact for community issues. The officers attend Neighbourhood Action Panels and work with the community to seek long-term solutions to local problems.

There is one police station situated at Rayleigh, which is open between 0800 and midnight, seven days per week. Rochford District Council has kindly provided officers with a drop-in facility at Rochford Council offices which is well used and helps to maximise the visible presence of officers in the community.

## Youth Officers

There are two dedicated youth officers within the district. Their role is to reduce youth related crime and anti-social behaviour. They are closely involved with local schools and work with partners to divert young people, wherever possible, out of the criminal justice system.

## Neighbourhood Crime Team

The district Neighbourhood Crime Team (NCT) is locally based at Rayleigh police station. There are five shifts ensuring 24/7 coverage. They are responsible for a range of policing duties, including local crime investigation, incident demand management, missing persons, crime and anti-social behaviour reduction patrols.

## Criminal Investigation Department (CID)

The CID team is based at Southend and covers crime across the south policing area. Detectives investigate the more serious crimes such as high-risk domestic abuse incidents, serious assaults such as GBH, fraud, robbery and dwelling burglary.

## Response and Patrol

The Response and Patrol Team, which serves Rochford, is based at Southend police station. There are five shifts enabling 24/7 coverage. The Response and Patrol team includes officers with road policing skills who are responsible for attending emergency and priority calls.

## **Crime Data for Rochford district**

At the meeting on March 13, 2014, there will be detailed discussion about the crime trends and the facts which lie underneath the headline figures.

Crime figures for Rochford district show that there have been 116 more offences, an increase of 4.2 per cent, comparing the period of 1 February 2013 to 31 January 2014 with the same period in 2012-13.

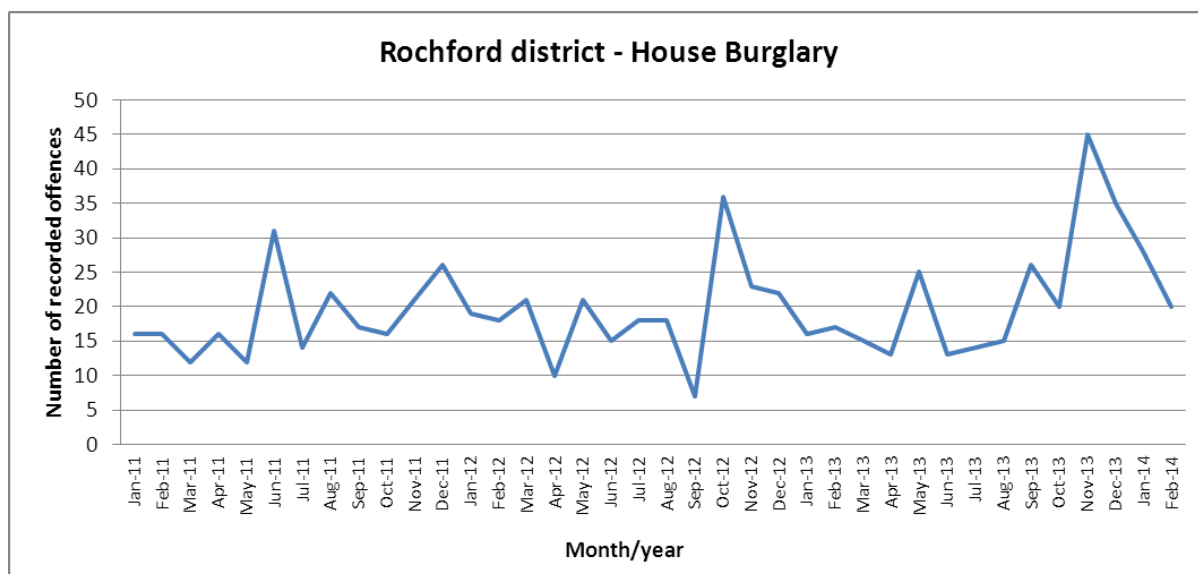
Comparing the same time periods, areas of note include:

- All Crime has increased by 4.2% (116 more offences);
- Burglary Other (which includes commercial, shed and garage burglaries) has decreased by 10.5% (22 less offences);
- Theft and Taking of Vehicles has decreased by 28.2% (29 less offences);
- Theft from Vehicles has increased by 25.5% (66 more offences);
- Other Theft and Handling has decreased by 0.3% (1 less offence);
- Anti-Social Behaviour has decreased by 1.4% (23 less incidents);
- Burglary in a Dwelling has increased by 18.8% (42 more offences);
- Shoplifting has remained static with 238 offences in both time periods;
- Criminal Damage has increased by 14.3% (68 more offences).

## All Crime overview

The graphs showing specific crime trends in the document below provide data back to 2011.

### House burglary



Rochford district has experienced an increase in house burglary with 42 more offences compared with the previous year, and a decrease in other types of burglary (such as commercial, shed or garage) of 22 fewer crimes.

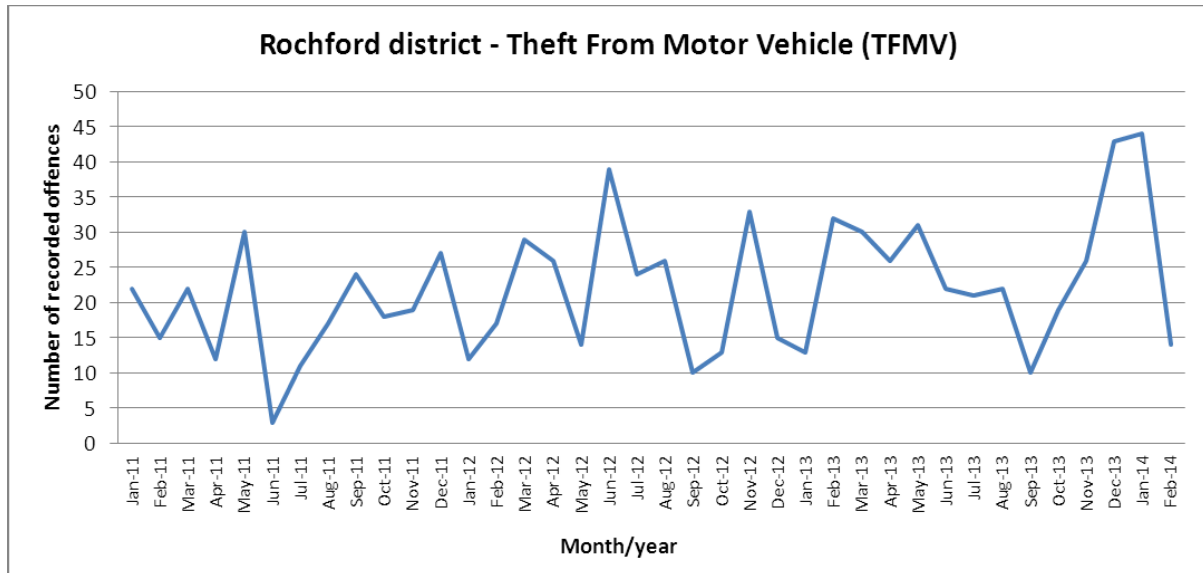
The house burglary increase was predominately due to a spate of crimes during November and December 2013. Rochford and Castle Point have a coordinated local response plan for burglary offences which includes the active targeting of known local offenders and robust enforcement of court imposed bail conditions. All house burglary offences are attended by Forensic Scene Investigators (FSI) and investigated by detectives from the Criminal Investigation Department (CID).

Those areas affected by burglaries are subject to additional policing patrols by the Neighbourhood Policing Team, as directed by crime analysts under Operation Insight, a forcewide anti-burglary initiative using predictive policing techniques. Uniformed officers visit victims of burglary and other nearby premises to provide information about crime prevention and seek any available community intelligence or evidence relating to the crime.

On a daily basis, the local policing team, supported by partner agencies, continue to target those individuals believed to be committing burglaries, in an effort to minimise reoffending.

## Vehicle crime

Thieves who steal from cars often act quickly and opportunistically, trying multiple door handles to identify an unlocked vehicle, and then stealing items such as mobile devices, cash, sunglasses and CDs.



During the period February 1, 2013, to January 31, 2014, Rochford district experienced a 25.5 per cent increase in theft from vehicles (66 more offences) when compared with the same period the previous year.

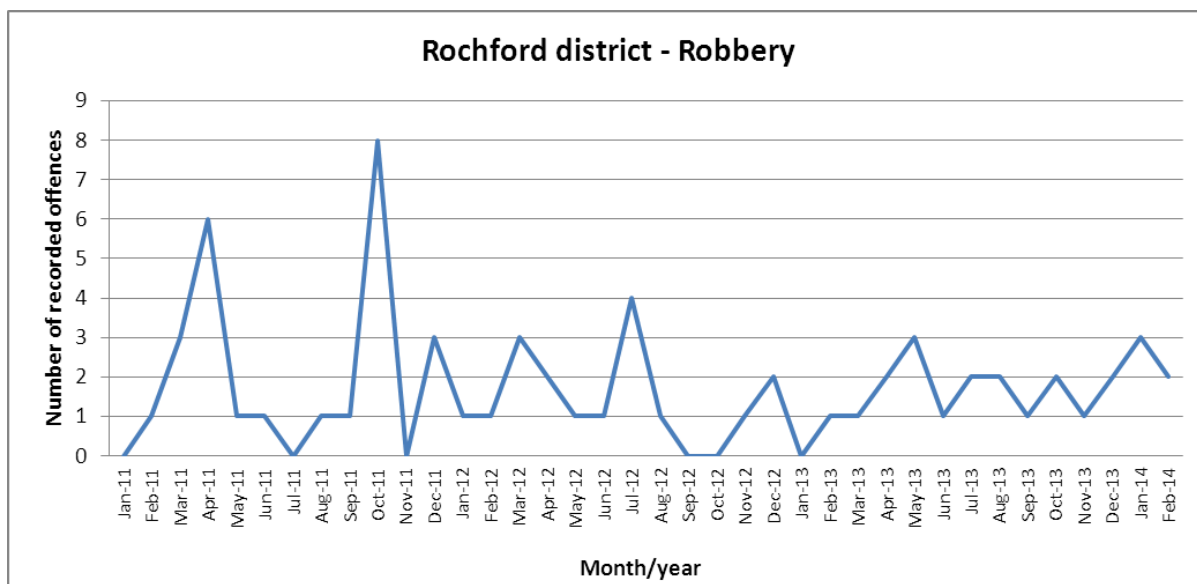
An analysis of these crimes revealed that many of the vehicles had been left insecure or the means of entry were unknown.

Much of the increase in theft from motor vehicles can be attributed to a spate of vehicle crimes in Hockley and Rochford over two weekend periods at the end of December 2013 and beginning of January 2014. In this series of offences, several Volkswagen vehicles were specifically targeted. There were similar offences in locations in the north and west of the county, with intelligence suggesting that offenders may have travelled from other areas to commit these crimes.

These crimes are being actively progressed by the Criminal Investigation Department and there have been no further series of this type in the district since early January 2014.

## Robbery

During the period 1<sup>st</sup> February 2013 to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2014, Rochford experienced four more robberies when compared with the same period the previous year.



There were 20 robberies during the reporting period. Police have arrested five suspects and their cases are currently progressing through the criminal justice system. Not all of the victims were prepared to cooperate with police, which is disappointing and makes bringing the offender to justice difficult.

Of the offences reported, 11 related to young victims aged between 15-19 years old, with mobile phones being the most prevalent items being stolen.

The crime reduction plan for 2014/15 will specifically focus on the Essex Police Crime Prevention Tactical Advisor and partner agencies raising young people's awareness of robbery offences involving mobile phones and providing crime prevention advice to local schools.

### Working closely with everyone in Rochford

Rochford has a population of 83,300 in the 2011 Census compared with 78,483 in 2001 - an increase of 4,817 people. Compared with the 2001 Census, the 2011 Census reports the three largest percentage increases in the population of Rochford are the 60-64 year olds by 40.7% (1,765 additional people), 85+ year olds by 37.7% (575 additional people) and 80-84 year olds by 29.9% (553 additional people). Compared with the 2001 Census, the 2011 Census reports the three largest percentage decreases in the population of Rochford are the 30-34 year olds by 24.2% (1,343 fewer people), 5-9 year olds by 13.4% (682 fewer children) and 35-39 year olds by 12.8% (781 fewer people).

Essex Police and the Rochford District Community Safety Partnership (CSP) continue to be vigilant around any types of crime that target older people. At the meeting, there will be a discussion of some of the police and partnership working in this area.

Compared with the 2001 Census, the total population of Rochford has grown by 6.1% compared with an Essex increase of 6.3%. Census reports the District has a population of 83,300 compared with 78,483 in 2001, an increase of 4,817. The three largest percentage increases in population are 60-64 year olds by 40.7% (increase of 1,765), 85+ year olds by 37.7% (increase of 575) and 80-84 year olds by 29.9% (increase of 553). By 2030, an additional 15,000 people (approximately) are expected to reside in the district, 26% of which will be over 65, 4<sup>th</sup> highest in the county.

With an increasing ageing population in Rochford District, the CSP has developed and delivered two highly successful free Community Older Persons Events (COPE) aimed at older residents in the District. The event aims to equip our older population with information and expert advice in specific areas of personal and home safety, to continue to enable them to feel safe and secure within their own homes and when they are out and about. The 40-60 attendees remain seated whilst presenters move from table to table giving 30 minute presentations on their specialist subject. Those attending receive free transport to and from the event, refreshments, lunch, and an opportunity to chat and meet new people. The events have been welcomed by older residents and are often over-subscribed, so much so that the CSP is now holding an event every 6 months.

### **The Rochford District Community Safety Partnership (CSP)**

Rochford District CSP continues to work positively with partner agencies, voluntary and community groups to tackle crime and disorder across the district despite reductions in funding and diminishing resources. To address the Partnership strategic priorities for 2013/2014 of:

- Reducing Anti-Social Behaviour**
- Reducing Serious Acquisitive Crime**
- Reducing Acquisitive Crime**
- Reducing Domestic Abuse**
- Reducing Re-offending.**

the CSP has allocated its PCC budget of £13,000 to projects and initiatives which in turn support the delivery of the Police and Crime Commissioner priorities as set out in his 2013/2014 Police and Crime Plan.

Some of the CSP funded projects/initiatives include:

Mediation – Deliver Mediation sessions to address anti-social behaviour for neighbour disputes.

Achievement Through Football – The main focus of the sessions is to challenge negative behaviour in young people and provide meaningful occupation, volunteering opportunities and engagement.

Groundworks Essex – Supporting vulnerable or elderly people with disabilities to address overgrown gardens to reduce the risk of becoming a victim of burglary.

Essex Police – “Cut out cardboard cops” which have had a positive impact on deterring shoplifters.

**Your feedback is most welcome.**

Should you wish to contact the PCC about this meeting or any other matter please e-mail:

[pcc@essex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:pcc@essex.pnn.police.uk)

or write to:

Police and Crime Commissioner for Essex  
3 Hoffmanns Way  
Chelmsford, CM1 1GU

News alerts will usually be tweeted via the Essex PCC Twitter account:

<https://twitter.com/essexpcc>

You can learn more about the PCC's work at:

[www.essex.pcc.police.uk](http://www.essex.pcc.police.uk)

The neighbourhood policing teams will always act on intelligence received from the community. If you have information regarding any criminal activity please either call your local team or contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. Crimestoppers is an anonymous line where you can report any criminal activity.