

ESSEX POLICE RURAL CRIME STRATEGY 2017

FIGHTING RURAL CRIME
ACROSS ESSEX





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1. INTRODUCTION

Nearly three quarters of the Essex Police area is classified by the Office of National Statistics as “rural” and Essex Police acknowledges that rural areas require a different style of policing to urban environments (as outlined in Appendix 1).

It is recognised that certain types of crime/incidents are more common in rural areas and some crimes, such as the theft of agricultural machinery, are almost uniquely rural.

The impact of crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) on victims and communities can be greater in rural areas where there are fewer local amenities and support services and people can feel more isolated and vulnerable.

Despite a consistent fall in the overall level of recorded crime in the last 10 years, it has become increasingly clear at engagement events (e.g. Farmers’ Action Panels, the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner’s Rural Crime Forum and via the Essex Rural Partnership) that people within rural communities believe that:

- crime is rising
- feel increasingly insecure within their own neighbourhood
- rural policing is being sacrificed in favour of urban areas.

Whilst these perceptions may not be borne out by evidence, we recognise that the fear of crime is very real, and has a detrimental impact on residents and businesses within rural communities and Essex Police has a responsibility to respond to these concerns.

Rural Crime is therefore a priority for the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex, and is an integral part of the Police and Crime Plan 2016-2020.

The [Police and Crime Plan](#) emphasises the need for greater collaboration and partnership working and identifies 3 building blocks for success:

1. Prevention

By making sure that crime and anti-social behaviour do not happen and that everybody is kept safe from harm.

2. Communication & Engagement

By giving the public a voice in local policing and working together to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour

3. Volunteering

By providing opportunities that enable people to undertake a more active role in reducing crime and anti-social behaviour

This strategy has been developed in accordance with these principles.

To support the delivery of this strategy and to demonstrate our commitment to tackling rural crime, in October 2017, Essex Police introduced the [Gypsy, Traveller and Rural Engagement Team \(GTRET\)](#) based within the [Local Policing Support Unit \(LPSU\)](#) at Essex Police Headquarters, providing a county-wide resource.

The team will initially concentrate on four main areas:

1. Unauthorised traveller encampments¹
2. Rural engagement
3. Hare coursing
4. Fly Tipping

by engaging with rural communities to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour through the delivery of activity such as Operations Buzzard² and Galileo³ to detect and disrupt criminality.

¹ For the joint protocol regarding unauthorised encampments, please see: www.essex.pfcc.police.uk/news/essex-gypsy-traveller-protocol-unlawful-encampments

² Operation Buzzard is an initiative to combat crime in rural communities utilising a variety of tactics, particularly the Essex Police drones.

³ Operation Galileo is a national operation to tackle hare coursing

2. IMPACT OF RURAL CRIME

Whilst some types of crime, such as business crime, domestic abuse and hate crime, can take place anywhere, we acknowledge that the fear and impact of such crimes in rural areas can be different, primarily due to perception and increased feelings of vulnerability resulting from isolation.

Crimes related to farming and agriculture or wildlife and the environment are entirely unique in their nature and require a specialist approach.

Crime in any area can have a negative influence on the economic prosperity and quality of life within the community.

Potential investors could be deterred from setting up new businesses if crime rates are high.

Security measures can hamper daily activity and may blight communities and the countryside.

Small businesses in rural areas have limited resources that are not easily replaced. The theft of a single, high value, piece of machinery or plant can threaten the viability of the business and cause considerable stress and anxiety for owners and employees and have an adverse impact on the wider rural economy due to short term unemployment, lack of services and investment in local shops and businesses.

A report to Crimestoppers from Women's Aid in 2013 showed that 26% of women using specialist domestic abuse services came from rural areas, while only 19% of the UK population lives in rural areas which indicates a degree of disproportionality.

A lack of local support services and a feeling of isolation exacerbate the impact of this type of crime.

Young people in rural areas may find it difficult to access a wide range of services such as family social services, employment opportunities, and leisure facilities.

Consequently, the risk of them being involved in crime or disorder may increase.



“ Crimes related to farming and agriculture or wildlife and the environment are entirely unique in their nature and require a specialist approach. ”

3. VISION

Our vision is to actively strengthen our response to fighting crime in rural areas through the effective use of policing resources, partnerships and working with our rural communities.



4. MISSION

Through consultation with key partners (as outlined in **Appendix 2**) we have established our aims, our priorities and the means by which these will be achieved.

Our aims are:

- ▶ to reduce the volume of crime and ASB being committed in rural areas
- ▶ to continue to bring offenders to justice
- ▶ to increase public confidence in Essex Police

Needs and issues for communities, businesses and the environment are different and our priorities reflect this:

Communities

- visible and accessible policing; having a recognised place to go for advice/reporting
- maintaining a police and volunteer presence in rural areas
- recognising the exaggerated impact of crime caused by isolation
- working to address speeding and road safety
- working to provide an effective and efficient 101 service

Businesses

- Recognising the impact of theft (of vehicles and equipment) on business operations and finances in rural communities

Environment

- Working to reduce ASB and fear of crime and improve personal safety
- Working to deter and detect fly tipping
- Working to deter and detect Hare coursing.

We will achieve our aims by **means** of:

- innovative problem solving
- devising practical solutions to identified local problems
- effective partnership working
- supporting victims of crime
- improving crime prevention

5. DEFINING RURAL CRIME

There is no National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC), Home Office or National College of Policing (NCoP) definition of Rural Crime, accordingly the definition varies considerably between police services.

Historically Essex Police has separated its geographical area into rural and urban beat codes in order to set appropriate response times for incidents (10 minutes for urban, 20 for rural).

The National Rural Crime Network uses the [2011 Rural-Urban Classification of Local Authority Districts](#) and other higher level geographies definition of rurality for the purpose of research.

Other organisations and rural-themed areas of work use the [2011 Rural-Urban Classifications](#) of Super Output Areas (SOAs), which offers a greater precision in classification and resultant measuring.

We have an aspiration to be able to record and measure crime in Essex according to SOA Rural-Urban classification.

For the purposes of this strategy we will consider Rural Crime to be:

“ Any crime committed in a rural location, or where the victim is specifically targeted because of their connection to, or involvement in, the rural community, economy, or area ”

Rural crime is often thought of in terms of theft of plant, livestock, metal, oil or damage to property, however this strategy seeks to incorporate all types of crime and wider issues that have a significant impact on rural communities, such as:

Anti-Social Behaviour	Assaults and Domestic Abuse	Wildlife Crime
Fly-Tipping	Hare Coursing	Damage/ Arson/ Vandalism
Dwelling Burglary	Drug and Substance Misuse	Fear of Crime / Personal Safety / Harassment
Theft from Outbuildings	Forced Labour/ Slavery	Racial Harassment and Intimidation

6. APPROACH

By clearly **defining** rural crime we will be able to fully understand the volume, distribution, nature and frequency of these offences and compare our performance against our most similar forces.

Through **analysis** of this data we will be able to focus our resources into the areas of greatest need and develop innovative solutions to tackle the issues.

Our Crime Prevention Tactical Advisors (CPTAs), Essex Watch Liaison Officers (EWLOs), Local and Community Policing Teams (LPTs/ CPTs) will engage with our repeat and vulnerable victims, offering advice, support and developing crime prevention and reduction plans thereby enhancing public confidence and satisfaction in areas that have historically considered themselves neglected in favour of urban centres.

Through focused, visible policing at a local level, we will:

- ▶ reassure rural communities
- ▶ deter crime
- ▶ gather (and share) intelligence
- ▶ bring to justice those who commit crimes in rural areas.

Throughout this process we will constantly **evaluate** our tactics, sharing and adopting best practice and intelligence and developing innovative partnership projects and solutions to reduce rural crime.

This strategy has been informed by consultation with a variety of stakeholders (as outlined in **Appendix 2**).



As a result of this consultation, we will place particular focus on the following:

- ▶ continuing to work closely with partners, such as those shown at the bottom of this page developing [Farm and Rural Watch](#)
- ▶ continuing to host Rural Crime Awareness Days and similar events
- ▶ making the best use of established and new communication links
- ▶ enhancing our use of social media to share intelligence and good practice
- ▶ working closely with Community Safety Partnership Hubs
- ▶ maximising the benefits and opportunities of volunteering including:
 - dedicated members of the Special Constabulary as part of the GTRET
 - Improving links and communication between areas of volunteering within Essex Police
- ▶ maximising the benefits of community involvement through
 - Raising awareness and activity of Watch Schemes
 - Encouraging self-help via local prevention initiatives
 - Using community networks (including the Voluntary and Community Sector and Parish Councils) to promote volunteering
- ▶ increasing use of covert cameras to protect remote locations
- ▶ developing a public-facing rural publication which brings together advice and information pertinent to rural areas
- ▶ sharing Intelligence and good practice with neighbouring forces, enforcement agencies and other partners.

National Farmers Union (NFU)	Country Land and Business Association (CLA)	Neighbourhood Watch (NHW)	Crimestoppers
Rural Community Council of Essex (RCCE)	Essex Rural Partnership (ERP)	Essex Association of Local Councils (EALC)	Essex County Council (ECC)

“ By clearly defining rural crime we will be able to fully understand the volume, distribution, nature and frequency of these offences and compare our performance against our most similar forces. ”

7. GOVERNANCE

This strategy will be led by the **LPSU**.

Its delivery and implementation will be supported and assisted by working with partner organisations, using established relationships and by developing new ones.

The LPSU will ensure that the appropriate structures are in place to support and deliver this strategy and monitor the delivery of the strategic plan.

Delivery of this strategy will be monitored through two primary channels:

- 1. The Local Policing, Crime and Public Protection (LPCPP) Board**, which is chaired by the Assistant Chief Constable (LPCPP) has oversight of the operational aspects of crime reduction and scrutinises new developments, operational activity and performance in line with Essex Police's over-arching Crime Prevention Strategy.
- 2. The Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (OPFCC)** which oversees the interaction between Essex Police and the diverse communities of Essex.

Delivery will utilise the support of, and consult with, key partners to influence future direction and delivery of the strategy, particularly:

- 3. The Rural Crime Forum (RCF)** which is chaired by the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (PFCC). This forum will monitor the strategic developments in line with the Rural Crime Strategy and act as a conduit between the rural community, the PFCC and the Police.
- 4. The Essex Rural Partnership (ERP)** which is a non-statutory body, working to raise the profile of rural Essex at a local, national and EU level.

The ERP brings together a wide range of organisations from the public, private and voluntary sectors, to coordinate action on the major economic, social and environmental issues facing rural Essex.

The ERP has been a significant contributor to the development of this strategy and will be a key partner in its successful delivery.





WARNING

THIS IS AN OPERATION BUZZARD AREA



Tackling rural crime with the help of rural communities

Operation Buzzard is an initiative to coordinate all rural crime related operations in Essex. These operations will make best use of all the specialist teams and partners we have to ensure we are in the best position to tackle a range of rural crime offences.

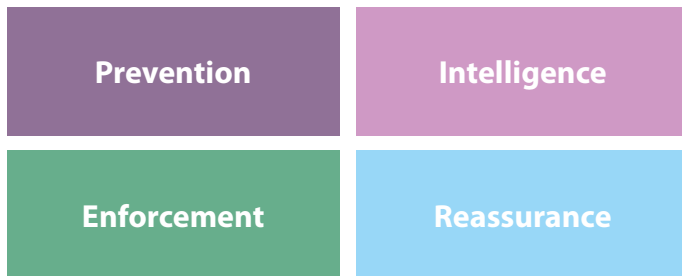
Find out more and how you can help by going to [essex.police.uk/operationbuzzard](#) or contacting the call centre on 101



CALL
ESSEX
POLICE
101

8. TACTICAL OPTIONS (PIER)

We will work with partners and key stakeholders in public and voluntary sectors to address rural crime in Essex via 4 key elements:



- ▶ We will identify repeat and vulnerable victims and prioritise activity towards them, ensuring that policing teams are visible and easily available to rural communities, particularly those who are vulnerable or isolated
- ▶ We will actively target rural areas when recruiting officers to the Special Constabulary
- ▶ We will promote the Active Citizen/ volunteering agenda in rural communities
- ▶ We will work with other departments and partners to promote road safety in rural areas.

Prevention:

- ▶ We will seek opportunities for early intervention to prevent crime and deter criminality
- ▶ We will encourage rural communities and businesses to engage with their local watch schemes (via their local EWLO), Action Panels, CPTAs and local police to share information and intelligence around offenders, trends and crime series.
- ▶ Via the PFCC's Rural Crime Forum, Farmers and Rural Watch meetings, with the assistance of partners and via a variety of media we will provide timely information and crime prevention advice to prevent rural communities and businesses becoming victims of crime, thereby improving confidence in policing
- ▶ We will look to improve our use of technology and information sharing to identify individual and organised criminality and to share intelligence
- ▶ We will provide training and support to rural businesses, community groups, watch schemes and partners to promote intelligence sharing and proportionate intervention
- ▶ We will provide training and guidance to Essex Police staff receiving initial reports of crime, ASB or suspicious activity to ensure they understand the impact such incidents can have on the rural community (e.g. hare coursing, poaching)
- ▶ We will provide training to develop the specialist rural policing skills of frontline officers
- ▶ We will develop opportunities to offer training for partner organisations so that they can better understand our work and be better placed to add value to what we do



Intelligence:

- ▶ We will routinely “flag” rural crime incidents for ease of recognition and analysis
- ▶ We will identify hot spots and repeat victims and set intelligence requirements around key offenders
- ▶ We will develop our information sharing regarding current crime hot spots with rural communities to improve crime prevention awareness, vigilance and to encourage intelligence on known offenders
- ▶ We will fully explore the use of Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) capability and promote the use of such cameras in rural areas, particularly those with limited access
- ▶ We will ensure that all relevant information reaches our staff via local briefings and ensure they are aware of the requirement to focus on rural crime
- ▶ We will work with the Integrated Offender Management Team (IOMT) to explore all opportunities for diversion and enforcement
- ▶ We will undertake analysis of rural crime and links with Organised Crime Gangs particularly for high value crimes (e.g theft of plant)
- ▶ We will ensure that our Community Safety Accreditation Scheme (CSAS) partners are fully briefed and able to share intelligence in a timely fashion
- ▶ We will ensure that those involved in the Active Citizen agenda have a clear communication channel to provide intelligence and information
- ▶ We will improve intelligence sharing and partnership working to develop awareness and reduce targeting of vulnerable and isolated sections of rural communities
- ▶ We will enhance our collection of community intelligence through working with partners and other organisations, such as Crime stoppers.

Enforcement:

- ▶ We will increase visible presence (both Police and partners) in identified hot spots and around areas of repeat victimisation
- ▶ We will actively encourage rural communities to report crime, particularly those crimes that have historically been under reported, by promoting the 101 phone number, on-line reporting and ensuring call-handling staff are adequately trained to identify rural-specific issues
- ▶ We will encourage appropriate proactive use of Stop and Search powers in rural areas
- ▶ We will encourage the use of alternative resolutions for low level, first time offences (e.g. Community Payback, Community Resolution) to allow greater focus and proactivity around offenders
- ▶ We will, Together with statutory partners, explore the increased use of appropriate ASB legislation
- ▶ We will continue to train officers to recognise stolen agricultural plant
- ▶ We will refresh and re-publish the Rural Officers Companion to assist with the identification of rural offences and to offer appropriate guidance to Officers.

Reassurance:

- ▶ We recognise that there is a need for residents in rural areas to feel safe
- ▶ We will educate Officers and Staff to understand the impact of rural crime on victims
- ▶ We will use the Special Constabulary and volunteers (e.g. Active Citizens) to help increase visibility and accessibility of policing in rural areas
- ▶ We will make sure that opportunities to meet with Essex Police and the PFCC for Essex are communicated to those who could benefit
- ▶ We will make best use of communication channels (including traditional media, electronic communications, events).

9. DELIVERING THE STRATEGY



The strategy will be delivered by a number of key methodologies:

▶ The **Gypsy, Traveller and Rural Engagement Team (GTRET)**:

this team launched in the Autumn of 2017 and consists of 1 Sergeant and 4 Constables, including a dedicated Wildlife, Heritage and Rural Crime Officer.

The team will have responsibility for all Gypsy and Traveller issues in the county (particularly unauthorised encampments) and be responsible for long term problem solving in rural communities, providing visible and accessible policing and a place to go for advice, initially focussing on fly-tipping and hare-coursing.

▶ **Community Policing Teams (CPTs)**:

Each of the 10 policing districts in Essex (see Appendix 3) has a dedicated CPT with the remit to resolve long term problems in their community.

Each team comprises of an Inspector, Sergeants, Constables, Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs), members of the Special Constabulary, Police Support Volunteers and Active Citizens.

The teams work with key partners within the Community Safety Hub structure to address the local Community Safety Partnership (CSP) priorities and any emerging issues.

With the exception of Harlow and Southend, each team has a dedicated Single Point of Contact (SPOC) for rural crime.

Each team will be responsible for identifying crime trends, hotspots or issues relating to rural crime in their district and working with the GTRET and wider partnership to develop sustainable solutions.

▶ **Partners:** Essex Police has developed its partnership working with a wide range of statutory (e.g. CSPs, Local Authorities, Essex County Fire and Rescue), Third Sector (e.g. National Farmers Union and the Country Landowners Association) and volunteer (e.g. Neighbourhood Watch, Crimestoppers) partners to prevent crime and disorder across the county.

A number of these partners have been involved in the development of this strategy and we will continue to work with them to explore opportunities for their contribution to its delivery.

▶ **Citizens in Policing Programme (CiPP):**

This programme is led by the Home Office and the NCoP and seeks to utilise volunteers to support the Police in reducing and preventing crime and disorder.



In Essex the CiPP has 5 main strands:

1. The Community Safety Accreditation Scheme (CSAS) whereby certain organisations are accredited with low-level policing powers to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour. Essex has the largest scheme in England and Wales with over 500 Accredited Persons.

These Accredited Persons can be used to support the Rural Crime Strategy where appropriate.

2. Police Support Volunteers (PSVs) are volunteers who undertake specific training and are vetted to be able to work within Essex Police departments and premises in a wide range of supportive roles.

Essex has 150 PSVs with an aspiration to have 10 PSVs within each district. In rural areas we aim to recruit people with knowledge of the local areas and the challenges faced and who are able to contribute to solutions.

3. Active Citizens are volunteers who assist the Police in a wide range of roles in the wider community, helping to provide information and reassurance.

Their assistance can take a variety of forms and will be utilised in rural areas to promote crime prevention messages and support local teams in accessible, visible policing

4. Volunteer Police Cadets (VPCs) is a national, uniformed voluntary youth organisation which launched in Essex in April 2015.

We now have 10 VPC Units and 222 Cadets.

The scheme is open to young people aged 13 -18, including those vulnerable to crime or social exclusion.

The aim of the scheme is to prepare young people for their future by providing varied activities and opportunities to develop qualifications, enhance their inter-personal skills and confidence, and achieve a sense of pride through supporting Community Policing.

VPCs work closely with their local CPTs and partners on crime and ASB reduction and to increase public reassurance via highly visible patrols and activity

5. Watch Schemes: there are a number of specialist watch schemes in Essex, administered by Essex Watch Liaison Officers (EWLOs) based within the LPSU, including such themes as **Farm Watch**, **Horse Watch** and **Heritage Watch**.

These schemes provide a wealth of information about crime and local issues to the Police and their memberships, enabling us to map need and allocate our resources effectively.

10. THE FUTURE...

The [NPCC Policing Vision 2025](#) states:

“The link between communities and the police will continue to form the bedrock of British policing.

Local policing will be tailored to society’s complex and diverse needs – with the delivery of public protection being informed by community priorities and robust evidence-based demand analysis.”

The Vision talks of:

“working with a range of partner agencies including health, education, social services, other emergency services, criminal justice and victims’ organisations to reflect the more complex emerging crime challenges while being conscious of service-drift, as partner agencies capacity is reduced.”

These themes of partnership working and community relations are inherent in this strategy, and must clearly remain priorities for rural policing, as well as policing in a wider context.

There are a number of specific challenges which we anticipate in the short-medium term future, including:

Funding and Resources

Whilst the full implications are unclear it is expected that the UK’s withdrawal from the EU will, in the short-term at least, place added pressure on public funding.

It will become increasingly important to justify the use of resources in all areas of public spending, including policing, placing an expected emphasis on statistics-driven prioritisation.

Pressure on public funding will also increase the need to look at alternative methods of funding specific projects and activities, leading to exploration of grant funding and private sponsorship.

Growing Population

It is anticipated that Essex will experience a population growth of 17% by 2036⁴ the housing demand this will generate, coupled with the proposed establishment of three new Garden Communities in North Essex will present a significant rural policing challenge.

There is also possibility that further garden communities may be announced.

There will be a need to provide adequate resources to support crime prevention delivery, and to ensure that planning for safe communities is undertaken at an early stage.

Opportunities arising from S106⁵ agreements should be explored as a potential means of helping to resource the additional need to protect and serve these new developments.



Ageing population

Whilst life expectancy is increasing, and people are assisted to live in their own homes for longer, this can lead to a less mobile population who feel particularly vulnerable.

In rural areas social isolation adds to feelings of vulnerability and the elderly can become easy targets for criminals.

In this situation, reassurance and communication become key parts of any strategy to support rural communities in particular.

Technology

Improvements in technology present both a challenge and an opportunity.

As use of technology in rural environments, and its value, increases, the motivation to commit crime, and the resulting cost, also rise.

Alongside this, technology can be used to commit new forms of crime and those who are remote from services are more likely to be using such technology and therefore more likely to become victims.

Improvements in technology can also be used to our advantage, through better ability to inform residents and businesses, and better ways of gathering intelligence.

Under-reporting

Whilst this is not a new challenge, it is one that is likely to continue.

Ensuring rural communities do not feel isolated and forgotten will continue to be important as this sits alongside their willingness to report crime and share information when it occurs.

We will continue to endeavour to make it easier for the public to contact Essex Police (including [on-line reporting](#)).

Changing nature of crime

As violent crime, cyber-crime and threat of terrorism are all predicted to increase, ways of preventing and addressing these in rural areas must be considered.

Diversity and complex needs

Serving a diverse community means being able to deal with a variety of complex needs, particularly a growing need to work with mental health needs, as well as a variety of cultural differences, as apparent in rural areas as in urban.

⁴ Greater Essex Growth and Infrastructure Framework 2016-2036 (www.essex.gov.uk/Documents/GIF.pdf)

⁵ S106 refers to [Section 106 planning obligations as part of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990](#) (as amended), which mitigate the impact of development on a local area, and are negotiated as part of the planning permission process.



11. MEASURING SUCCESS

We will measure the success of this strategy across 4 key areas:

1. The number of positive disposals for rural crime
2. A reduction of repeat victims of crime in rural areas.
3. Conducting masterclasses with partners/ other forces to identify “what works”
4. A measurable increase in satisfaction

As well as the defined measures 1 - 4 above, we will expect success to be recognised through:

- ▶ the provision of crime prevention advice available to rural communities
- ▶ an increased confidence in policing rural areas
- ▶ a decrease in the value of rural crime (NFU Mutual report)
- ▶ increased engagement and membership of Farm and Rural Watch
- ▶ the amount of shared intelligence and identified best practice.



APPENDIX 1

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Background

Data from the Office of National Statistics indicates 72% of the land area in Essex is classified as rural.

As well as the countryside of north Essex, this includes important areas of farmland and nature reserves in the more urban south of the county, which are often overlooked.

The county of Essex contains:

- ▶ **250,000** hectares of farmed land
- ▶ **1,750** farmers
- ▶ **350,000** residents in rural Essex
- ▶ **75,000** children in rural Essex
- ▶ **22,500** businesses and industries based in rural Essex

National Rural Crime Report (2015)

The report highlighted underreporting and fear of crime as particular issues, alongside poor perceptions of rural policing.

- ▶ **Financial impact of crime on rural economy is significant;** the cost of crime to rural communities is £800 million, equivalent to £200 for every household in the countryside.
The average cost to households who are victims of crime is £2500 and it is £4100 for rural businesses.
Only 26% of households that suffered a loss made an insurance claim. Amongst rural businesses the figure was 32%.

- ▶ **Fear of crime is relatively high and increasing, with emotional cost of crime taking its toll too;** 39% of rural people are very or fairly worried about becoming a victim of crime, compared to 19% nationally.

Even more worryingly, 32% of respondents are more fearful of becoming victims of crime than five years ago, compared to only 3% who are less fearful.

The most significant emotions reported are ones of anger and frustration but the increased fear and concern as a result of being a victim of crime raises the pervasive fear of crime.

- ▶ **Low satisfaction rates of police performance in rural areas;** rural communities have a poor perception of the performance of their police service and see the police as being out of touch with them and the impact crime has on their lives. 39% of rural people rate the police as good (32.4%) or excellent (6.3%).

Only 39% agree the police can be relied upon to be there when needed, which compares to 61% nationally.

Similarly only 33% of respondents agree that their local police deals with the things that matter to their community – again the national comparison is 62%

- ▶ **Crime is under reported in rural areas (including civil offences e.g. fly-tipping⁶);** more than one in four (27%) did not report the last crime of which they were a victim, this means that against Home Office figures of 294,000 rural crimes between April 2014 and May 2015, the actual number of crimes could be as high as 403,000.

Worryingly the main reasons crimes were not reported were because the victim either felt it was a waste of time or that the police would not be able to do anything.

⁶ Whilst fly-tipping is technically a civil offence, in Essex it is dealt with via a multi-agency approach in which Essex Police is a partner; www.essexruralpartnership.org.uk/FlyTipping.aspx

APPENDIX 2

RESEARCH AND FINDINGS FROM PREVIOUS CONSULTATIONS

This strategy draws on information and research, including that used for other strategic documents and from relevant events.

Essex Rural Partnership's Rural Strategy (2016)

The Essex Rural Partnership (ERP) published a new [Rural Strategy](#) in July 2016.

In preparation for this the ERP carried out research through an online public questionnaire and through workshop sessions.

Findings from the pre-strategy questionnaire (in winter 2015) showed that

- ▶ only **31%** of people responding to our survey are **confident that they feel safe in rural areas** all of the time
- ▶ **61%** of Essex residents have **felt unsafe due to traffic conditions in rural areas** over the last 12 months
- ▶ **51%** of respondents to our survey citing a **lack of police presence as a reason why they have felt unsafe** over the last 12 months

The ERP Rural Strategy priorities 9a- 9d support initiatives which will result in rural communities and businesses being, and feeling, safer places in which to be.

Essex Police supported the launch of the new strategy and the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex is the current nominated lead for chapter 9.

Rural Crime Awareness Day (RCA) findings (2016)

Essex Police holds biennial Rural Crime Awareness Days.

As part of these events, attendees are invited to indicate which issues are priorities for them.

The 2016 Rural Crime Awareness day highlighted the following as key concerns:

- ▶ Theft from outbuildings
- ▶ Hare coursing
- ▶ Theft of fertiliser, fuel and machinery

Essex submission contributing to national research to find the top national priorities for rural crime (July 2017)

In July 2017 Essex Police was invited to contribute to research to find the top national priorities for rural crime.

After consultation, the top priorities for rural policing in Essex were submitted as:

- 1.** Anti-Social Behaviour and fear of crime / personal safety
- 2.** Theft from outbuildings, including sheds, barns, etc.
- 3.** Fly-tipping
- 4.** Hare coursing

As well as the need to focus on particular types of crime which pose a threat to rural areas, there are some over-arching issues which remain a priority for rural policing.

- ▶ **Visible policing;** maintaining a visible rural presence and supporting volunteer activity.
- ▶ **Speeding and road safety** (in village communities and remote areas; which were found to be the primary concern of rural residents who were consulted for the Essex Rural Strategy.
- ▶ **An effective and efficient 101 service;** enabling and encouraging reporting of crime

Needs and issues for communities, businesses and the environment are different, and local priorities can be summarised thus:

- ▶ **Communities;** visible and accessible police; having a recognised place to go for advice/ reporting and retaining rural police and volunteers in rural areas, and the exaggerated impact of crime caused by isolation.
- ▶ **Businesses;** Theft (of vehicles and equipment, having an impact on business operations and finances.
- ▶ **Environment;** Fly tipping and hare coursing.

APPENDIX 3

POLICING DISTRICTS IN ESSEX

Whilst the county of Essex consists of 14 local authority areas and 15 local authority bodies (12 boroughs and districts operating as part of a two-tier structure with Essex County Council and 2 unitary authorities), there are 10 District Policing Areas (DPAs) grouped into 3 Local Policing Areas (North, West and South):

North:

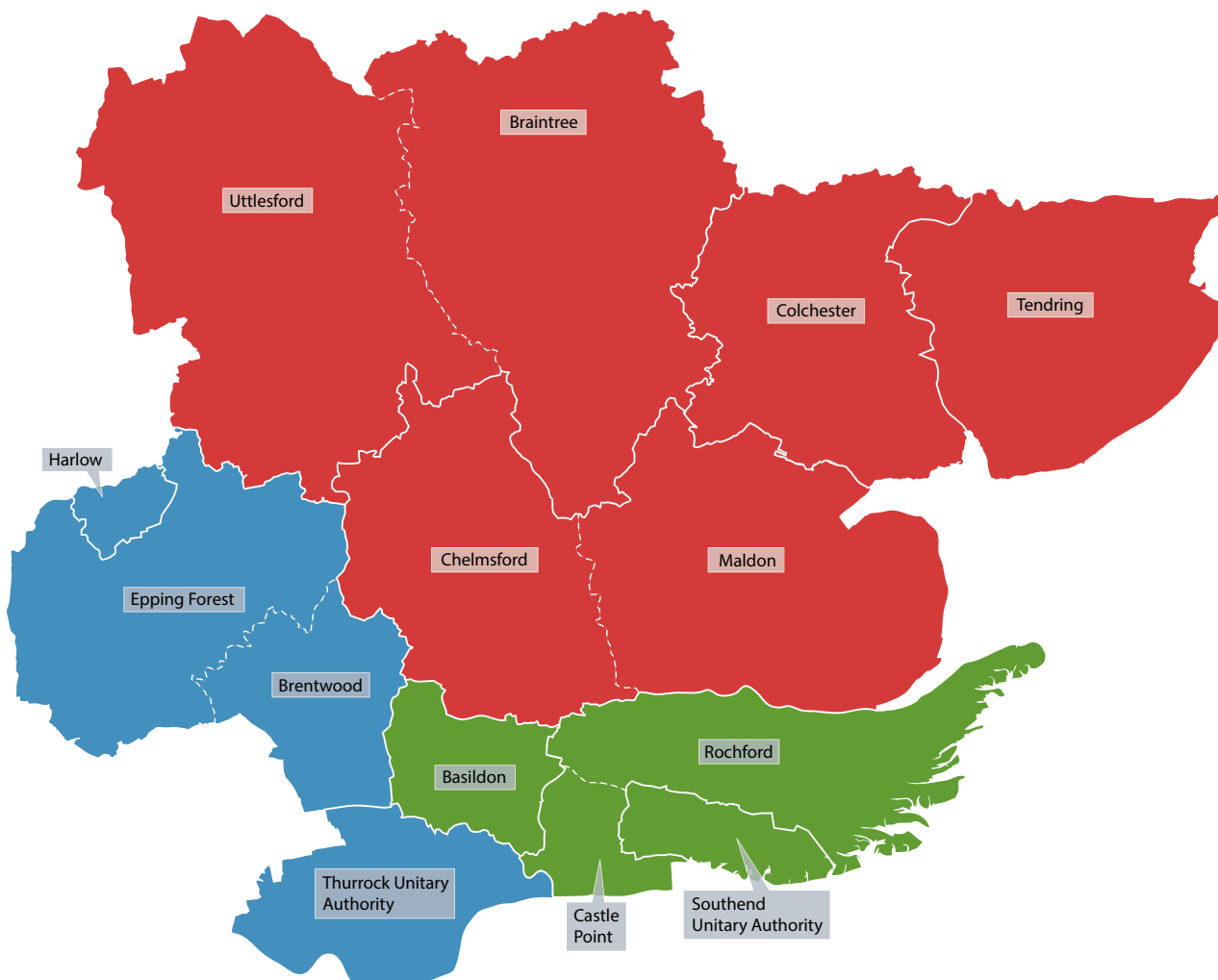
- [Braintree & Uttlesford](#)
- [Chelmsford & Maldon](#)
- [Colchester](#)
- [Tendring](#)

West:

- [Brentwood & Epping Forest](#)
- [Harlow](#)
- [Thurrock](#)

South:

- [Basildon](#)
- [Castle Point & Rochford](#)
- [Southend](#)



Each District Policing Area is managed by a Chief Inspector, supported by a team of Inspectors, Sergeants, Constables, PCSOs, Special Constabulary and Volunteers.

APPENDIX 4

CONTACTS

Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner

www.essex.pfcc.police.uk
01245 291 600

Your Local Community Policing Team

www.essex.police.uk/your-area
Tel 101

Gypsy, Traveller and Rural Engagement Team (GTRET) (Headquarters)

www.essex.police.uk/advice/rural-crime
Tel 101

Your Local Crime Prevention Tactical Adviser

www.essex.police.uk/advice/crime-prevention-tactical-advisors
crimepreventiontacticaladvisors@essex.pnn.police.uk
Tel 101

Your Local Essex Watch Liaison Officer:

www.essex.police.uk/advice/essex-watch
Tel 101

Essex Rural Partnership

www.essexruralpartnership.org.uk
01376 574 330

Rural Community Council of Essex

www.essexrcc.org.uk
01376 574 330

National Farmers Union (Essex)

www.nfuonline.com
adam.scott@nfu.org.uk
01638 672100

Country Land and Business Association (CLA)

www.cla.org.uk
east@cla.org.uk
0207 235 0511

Farming Community Network

www.fcn.org.uk
Urgent: 03000 111 999
Non-Urgent: 01788 510866

Crimestoppers

www.crimestoppers-uk.org
0800 555 111

Victim Support

www.victimsupport.org.uk
0808 1689111

APPENDIX 5

GLOSSARY

ASB	Anti-Social Behaviour
CiPP	Citizens in Policing Programme
CLA	Country Land and Business Association
CPT	Community Policing Team
CPTA	Crime Prevention Tactical Advisor
CSAS	Community Safety Accreditation Scheme
CSP	Community Safety Partnership
EALC	Essex Association of Local Councils
ECM	Essex Community Messaging
ERP	Essex Rural Partnership
EWLO	Essex Watch Liaison Officer(s)
GTRET	Gypsy, Traveller and Rural Engagement Team
IOMT	Integrated Offender Management Team
LPCPP	Local Policing, Crime and Public Protection (Board)
LPSU	Local Policing Support Unit
LPT	Local Policing Team
NFU	National Farmers Union
NPCC	National Police Chief's Council
PCSO	Police Community Support Officer
PFCC	Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner
PSV	Police Support Volunteer(s)
RCF	Rural Crime Forum
RCCE	Rural Community Council of Essex
SPOC	Single Point of Contact
VPC	Volunteer Police Cadet(s)



Further copies of this document can be obtained by contacting the Local Policing Support Unit at Essex Police Headquarters: localpolicingsupportunit@essex.pnn.police.uk