

ROCHFORD DISTRICT



Rochford and Castle Point Community Safety Strategy 2025 - 2028

Date: Nov 2025

What is the Community Safety Partnership?

The Rochford and Castle Point Community Safety Partnership (CSP) brings together the key agencies involved in crime prevention and improving public safety across our communities. Its members include:

- Rochford District Council
- Castle Point Borough Council
- Essex Police
- Essex County Fire and Rescue Service
- National Probation Service/Essex Community Rehabilitation Company
- National Health Service (NHS)
- Mid and South Essex Integrated Care Board - South East Essex Alliance
- Essex County Council
- Essex Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner
- Other public, private and voluntary sector agencies

The aim of the Partnership is to ensure that Rochford and Castle Point are safe places to live, work and visit, to protect local communities from harm and help people feel safer.

Each year the Partnership completes a Community Safety Strategic Assessment which analyses levels of recorded crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) and completes a public consultation in order that we can better understand the experiences and concerns of local people and the issues that they feel are most important within their own neighbourhoods. Finally, each of the following factors are also considered before deciding what our priorities need to be:

- Volume – The level of offences as a proportion of total crime.
- Level of harm – The impact that offences have on victims and communities.
- Community concern – The level of priority that local people attribute to a particular type of offence.
- Partnership-added value – The extent to which multi-agency working can enhance the ability of agencies to tackle a particular strand of offending behaviour.
- Trend analysis – Giving due consideration to patterns of increase or decrease in an offence type.
- Essex Police and Crime Plan and the PFCC's Police and Crime Plan – To ensure that we take as unified an approach as possible and maximise the opportunities to pool our resources to achieve the greatest impact.
- Horizon-scanning – To take into account social and economic factors that could influence patterns of crime and ASB as well as any anticipated national events and legislative changes that may create new responsibilities or obligations for statutory partners.

This document identifies the priorities for Rochford and Castle Point CSP over the next 3 years and explains why these priorities have been chosen. Historically, most CSPs priorities do not change substantially from year to year as they are addressing long-term trends, however, this new Strategy also reflects a refocussing of efforts in response to emerging or changing trends in crime and ASB, the impact of previous interventions and learning gained from earlier multi-agency initiatives, new legal obligations and duties now placed upon CSPs and external national factors. We also recognise the need to respond to changing demographics – essentially understanding that not everyone’s experiences or perceptions of crime and ASB are the same and that our approach needs to be tailored to meet the needs of diverse communities.

In addition to the statutory partners the Partnership also includes the following agencies:

- Representative of Voluntary/Third Sector
- Youth Offending Service
- RDC and CPBC Portfolio Holders with responsibility for Community Safety
- Rayleigh Town Council & Canvey Town Council
- Representative of Neighbourhood Watch

The purpose of the Community Safety Partnership is to bring together local partners to formulate strategies to tackle crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour in their communities as set out in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and relevant legislation. The Partnership will coordinate community safety activity in Rochford and Castle Point at a strategic level with the aim of:

- Reducing anti-social behaviour (ASB) and the negative impact it has on quality of life and the local environment;
- Reduce crime and the harm caused by drug and alcohol use;
- Address risk threat and harm posed by crime and ASB to victims and local communities, including domestic abuse and violence against women and girls;
- Create stronger communities through the delivery of local initiatives.

Key legislation supporting the work of the Partnership

Key pieces of legislation have both created a number of responsibilities which our CSP has to fulfil and introduced tools and powers available to statutory partners to improve their ability to tackle crime and ASB. These have a bearing on the priorities within this Strategy and therefore, due consideration has been given to the following:

Crime and Disorder Act 1998, Police and Justice Act 2006, Policing and Crime Act 2009

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 introduced a statutory responsibility for local authorities, the police and key partners to work together to reduce crime and disorder in their communities. The responsible authorities, now commonly referred to as Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) were required to complete audits of crime and disorder every three years and to implement crime reduction strategies. The Police and Justice Act 2006 introduced amendments, including the addition of antisocial behaviour (ASB) and substance misuse within the remit of CSP strategies,

the sharing of evidence-based data to support the work of Partnerships and that Partnership activities must be open to scrutiny via a Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee. Reducing reoffending was added as a priority issue by the Policing and Crime Act 2009.

Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014

The Act requires CSPs to make use of statutory powers to address ASB e.g., Public Space Protection Orders, Community Protection Notices and Warnings and measures to empower victims of ASB e.g., the ASB Case Review process.

Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2014

In the exercise of its functions, a Local Authority is required to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure that there is a multi-agency panel in place to which referrals can be made (Channel).

Modern Slavery Act 2015

First responder agencies have a responsibility to notify the Home Office of any individual that is identified as a suspected victim of slavery or human trafficking.

Serious Crime Act 2015

The Act introduced a duty to work alongside law enforcement agencies to address serious crime by sharing intelligence and working together to make best use of legislative powers.

Domestic Abuse Act 2021

The Council has a duty to cooperate with and support Essex County Council (as our Tier 1 Authority) in delivering services to support victims of domestic abuse.

Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022

Statutory partners have a legal responsibility to work collectively to prevent and reduce serious violence as a priority (including assessing the level of serious violence locally, the formulation and delivery of a Serious Violence Strategy, completing annual reviews and providing monitoring returns to Central Government).

In consideration of the findings of the Strategic Assessment 2024, the responses of local people to our public consultation, legal responsibilities and other factors detailed above, we feel that the approach taken in this Strategy will ensure that our CSP is well-placed to work towards its mission of:

- Continuing to improve community safety in our district and make it a place in which people want to live, work and socialise
- Working collaboratively with statutory and voluntary sector agencies and most importantly, with local communities, to deliver initiatives that address crime and disorder
- Delivering local, regional and national priorities to fully meet the Partnership's statutory responsibilities.

Local Profile Rochford

Population - Rochford District was an estimated 86,981 people making it the ninth largest local authority area in Essex in terms of population size. This is an estimated increase of 1311 people since the 2011 census (a rise of 15.3%).

Disability - 5.4% of residents are identified as being disabled and limited a lot, 8.3% are identified as disabled and limited a little. 86.3% of residents are identified as not disabled.

Deprivation - Rochford is generally considered a less deprived area compared to many parts of the UK. While some areas within the district experience higher levels of deprivation, the overall picture is one of relative low deprivation.

Ethnicity - The percentage of people who did not identify with at least one UK national identity in Rochford increased by 0.1 percentage points.

classification	% in Rochford
British only identity	54.7%
Welsh only identity	0.2%
Welsh and British only identity	0.1%
English only identity	25.0%
English and British only identity	17.2%
Any other combination of only UK identities	0.6%
Non-UK identity only	1.7%
UK identity and non UK identity	0.6%

Crime - Total crime fell by 1.7% to 4,391 offences in Rochford in the year ending September 2024.



Local Profile Castle Point

Population - In 2021 census data, the population of Castle Point Borough was estimated at 89,600, a slight increase of 1.8% compared to the 2011 census data.

Castle Point is ranked 271st for total population out of the 309 local authority areas in England, a fall of 10 places in a decade. The increase in population of 1.8% between 2011 and 2021 is smaller than the overall population increase of the East of England (8.3%) and overall population increase of England (6.6%).

Demography - Between the last two censuses, the average (median) age of the Borough increased from 45 to 46. For comparison, the East of England median age is 41 years old with the average median age for England being 40 years.

Disability - In 2021, 6.8% of the Borough's residents identified as being disabled. This figure decreased from 8.5% in 2011.

Deprivation. The Borough is generally considered a less deprived area compared to many parts of the UK. While some areas within the borough experience higher levels of deprivation, the overall picture is one of relative low deprivation.

Ethnicity.

Castle Point: Percentage of usual residents by ethnic group	2011	2021
Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh	1.1%	1.7%
Black, Black British/Welsh, Caribbean or African	0.8%	1.3%
Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups	1.0%	1.6%
White	96.9%	94.9%
Other ethnic groups	0.2%	0.5%

*Data Source: The Office of National Statistics (ONS) is responsible for Census 2021 data and publishes regular updates.

Crime.

As at December 2024,(12 months ending), Castle Point recorded 4,315 victim based crimes – (Assault/Theft/Damage/Burglary/Sexual/Unlawful Driving/Homicide).

In addition, there were 669 other crimes against society - (Drugs/Public Order/Offensive Weapons/Misc). In the Castle Point borough, incidents of robbery of personal property have been cut by half year-on-year.

Key Principles and Cross-Cutting Themes

Public Health Approach

Ensuring that there is a primary focus on early intervention and prevention, taking into account the wider determinants of crime and community safety such as social inequalities, employment, skills, health, housing and the environment.

Safeguarding

Recognising that some people may be more susceptible to harm through personal characteristics (including factors such as age, disability, gender, religion and belief, or sexual orientation) and implementing measures to protect vulnerable people from harm as best we can.

Involving local people

Working with and involving local people in finding solutions to community safety issues in their area.

Improving collaboration

Building the membership of our Partnership to improve the sharing of data, intelligence and expertise and provide opportunities to pool our resources to maximise benefits.

Supporting victims

Ensuring that there is a concerted effort to improve and strengthen support for victims of crime and ASB, reduce repeat victimisation and recognise that some individuals may simultaneously be perpetrators and victims.

Community Safety Priorities 2025-28

These priorities are based on the outcomes of the annual strategic assessment of crime and anti-social behaviour, public consultation, legislative requirements and alignment with other agencies priorities.

This Strategy sets out the priorities that our Partnership will focus on and address over the next 3 years with the overarching objective of ensuring that local people feel safer in their neighbourhoods and that crime and ASB are effectively tackled. This is the shared commitment of all our CSP members.

- Reducing anti-social behaviour (ASB) and the negative impact it has on quality of life and the local environment;
- Reduce crime and the harm caused by drug and alcohol use;
- Address risk threat and harm posed by crime and ASB to victims and local communities, including Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls;
- Create stronger communities through the delivery of local initiatives;
- Reducing environmental crime;
- Reducing Retail crime.

Governance

Rochford and Castle Point's Community Safety Partnership (CSP) has responsibility for coordinating the delivery of this Strategy.

Having identified the priorities upon which multi-agency activity will need to concentrate, the structure of the Partnership has also been reviewed to ensure that it has the capacity to function effectively and that partnership initiatives are properly resourced and supported. As well as the overarching strategic group that brings together statutory agencies at a most senior level, various operational groups serve to deliver projects on the ground.

A representative from each of the Partnership's operational groups, as outlined in the CSP Structure diagram below will be required to attend Partnership meetings to report on progress being made.

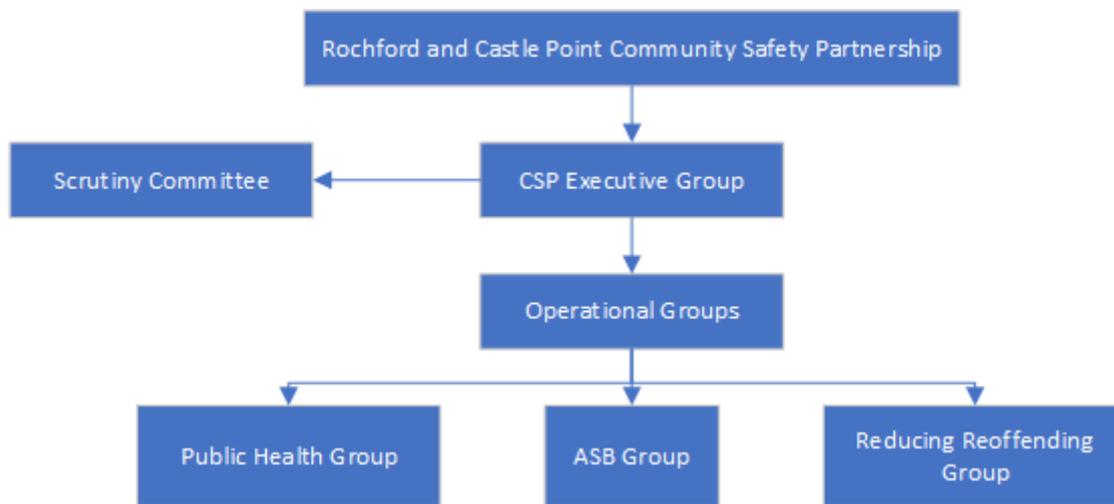
Rochford and Castle Point's CSP is co-chaired by each Council's Elected Member with Community Safety in their portfolio and Essex Police.

Partnership meetings are held four times a year, although should an urgent and serious need arise, an extraordinary meeting of the Partnership may be called by any of the core members of the Partnership.

Meetings are administered by the Community Safety departments of both Castle Point Borough Council and Rochford District Council. All CSP partners are able to place specific items on the Partnership's meeting agendas. External partners, organisations and voluntary groups may also be invited to attend.

The respective Scrutiny Committees within Rochford District and Castle Point Borough council, will be given oversight of all recorded decisions and overall performance against the legal responsibilities of a CSP.

The chart below shows the structure of the CSP but this will be reviewed each year to ensure that we are able to meet any new and emerging community safety issues and challenges.



Rochford

Facts (relating to figures from October 2023 to September 2024)

- In Greater Essex a total of 14,138 Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) incidents were recorded by Essex Police during the 12 months to September 2024, of which 425 (3.0%) were recorded in Rochford. This equates to 7.60 incidents per 1,000 population across Greater Essex, 4.96 per 1,000 population in Rochford.
- Rochford had an increase in Theft offences with theft from a motor vehicle up 44.2%, theft of a motor vehicle up 27.4%.
- In Rochford, the rural crime types that saw the greatest increases were Rural: Agricultural & Construction Equipment Theft.
- In Rochford, the Safer Essex Community Safety Survey, when asked to prioritise certain crime and ASB types for action by CSPs the highest ranked priority was People using or Dealing Drugs.
- Managing speed through enforcement was identified as a Road Safety priority under the Safer Essex Community Safety Survey.

Our Focus

- To identify those areas within Rochford that experience the highest levels of ASB and take a multi-agency approach (working with local people) to carry out preventative work.
- To reduce ASB incidents by considering underlining issues and contributory factors that need to be addressed and that may be affecting behaviour e.g. drug/alcohol dependency, mental health issues that may be responsible for the ASB/reports of ASB.
- To fully utilise legislative powers available to Councils and other partners to combat ASB.
- To continue to prosecute and take formal action as appropriate against identified individuals engaging in ASB.
- Raise awareness of domestic abuse and violence against women and girls.
- Protect vulnerable people.
- Improve road safety.

What we will do

- Establish a multi-agency working group as an Operational Group of the CSP to coordinate activity to address ASB in key locations through a problem-solving approach.
- Work collaboratively with the Safer Essex Road Safety to raise awareness, improve information sharing, carrying out enforcement activities to reduce vehicle incidents.
- Ensure plans are in place to address seasonal ASB e.g. Halloween and Bonfire Night.
- Undertake proactive operations/days of action in partnership with police and other agencies to educate and raise awareness of ASB e.g. ASB Awareness Week.
- Consider cost effective target hardening methods to 'design out' ASB in hotspot locations.
- Work collaboratively with Youth Services/Groups to deter/prevent ASB (including schemes and projects to deter young people away from ASB).
- Working in partnership to support victims of ASB and raising awareness of services available to them.
- Address cases of vulnerable victims making appropriate referrals to support services.

- Make full use of tools and powers available to take enforcement action against those who persist in ASB.
- Work effectively with Businesses to address action to deter shoplifting offences.
- Regularly publicise successful CSP action and prosecutions taken to tackle crime and ASB – to deter potential offenders and build public confidence.

What we want to achieve by the end of this Strategy.

- Increased awareness of the Community Safety Partnership and the range of projects that it is delivering.
- Increased confidence that agencies are working together to address issues in their neighbourhoods.
- Increase awareness and reporting of domestic abuse and violence against women and girls

- Reduction in ASB incidents recorded in Rochford district.
- Reduction in property crime, particularly theft offences.
- Reduction in repeat victims of ASB,
- Improving public perception of safety and confidence in reporting ASB.
- Reduction in vehicle offences/crime.

Rochford Strategic Priorities Action Plan 2025/26

The action plan for each of the priorities of the CSP is reviewed annually. The action plan for 2025/26 will be more focussed and will allow us to give partners a clear and concise narrative of what work is being done in each priority area.



Rochford Action Plan 2025/26

Our aims

1. Make Our Community Safer

Anti-Social Behaviour

- Establish a multi-agency working group as an operational of the CSP to coordinate activities to address ASB in key locations.
- Ensure that plans are in place to address seasonal ASB e.g. Bonfire Night and Halloween.
- Ensure plans are in place for ASB Awareness week.
- Work in partnership to support victims of ASB and raise awareness of available services.

Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls

- Identify cases of vulnerable victims of domestic abuse and violence against women and girls making appropriate safeguarding referrals.
- Support work with young people affected by violence and identify opportunities to raise awareness to counter the normalisation of violence.

Drug offences/dealing with knife crime

- Reducing drug related crime through engagement with local communities to increase information sharing and reporting.
- Increase awareness of impact of knife crime.
- Work together to tackle organised crime involving the use of weapons, although Police will lead this work, partners can assist in identifying key locations, build intelligence and support enforcement to disrupt activity.

2. Make Our Place Safer

Burglary

- Focus on prevention – encouragement of identifying risk through engagement.

Vehicle Crime

- Reducing vehicle related crime through engagement with local communities to improve prevention and reporting.
- Cross border activity - work with neighbouring Boroughs to improve intelligence sharing.

Rural: Agricultural & Construction Equipment theft

- Identify initiatives to tackle and prevent theft of agricultural and construction equipment.

3. Make Our Community Safer

Vehicle and road safety

- Work collaboratively to identify hotspot locations and identify initiatives to reduce road traffic incidents.
- Work in conjunction with outside agencies to deliver Safer Driving Campaigns.
- Work with Schools to promote safer street schemes for children and young people.

Managing speed through enforcement

- Promote use and awareness of Speed Watch campaigns.
- Work collaboratively with outside agencies to identify areas where speed limits can be reduced.
- Support work of Safer Essex Roads Partnership (SERP) to improve road safety.

Castle Point

Our community commitments form the basis of our five ambitions:

Working for a prosperous future

Healthier and safer communities

A greener and cleaner environment

Restoring our Council to good health

We ♥ Castle Point

These ambitions ground the Councils approach to tackling nuisance, anti-social behaviour and crime.

Crime and ASB

- Overall there were 5120 crimes recorded by Essex Police between October 2023 and September 2024. This represents a 9.1% decrease from October 2022 – September 2023 , where 5635 crimes were reported.
- The Borough saw recorded crime reductions for Violence against the person, Criminal damage and Arson, Public Order offences, Drug offences, Sexual Offences, Offensive weapons and robbery.
- In Greater Essex a total of 14,138 Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) incidents were recorded by Essex Police during the 12 months to September 2024. This equates to 7.60 incidents per 1,000 population across Greater Essex.
- In the Borough, 627 (4.40%) ASB incidents were recorded between October 2023 and September 2024, which equates to 7.0 per 1,000 population and a 92.3% increase in ASB compared to the previous 12 month period of (326).
- The highest ASB increases were seen in the following thematic. Nuisance vehicles 67/158 a 135.8% increase and General Nuisance 63/108, a 71.4% increase
- The Borough had a 9.7% increase in theft offences with motor vehicle theft offences increasing by 11%.
- In the Borough, the Safer Essex Community Safety Survey, when asked to prioritise certain crime and ASB types for action by CSPs the highest ranked priority was People using or Dealing Drugs.
- Managing speed through enforcement was identified as a Road Safety priority under the Safer Essex Community Safety Survey.

The Essex Residents Survey 2023 highlighted the public perception that safety, especially after dark, remains lower in Castle Point than in comparable parts of Essex, with only 42% of respondents reporting that they felt “fairly safe” or “very safe” after dark. This is despite levels of recorded crime in Castle Point being amongst the lowest in Essex.

(data source – Essex Police Crime Comparison Data. October 2022 to September 2023 - October 2023 to September 2024)

Our Focus

- Encourage public reporting of ASB to accurately identify hotspot areas within the Borough to prioritise a multi-agency approach to carry out preventative work and enhanced public reassurance.
- To reduce ASB incidents by tackling repeat offender behaviour, with partner support and intervention. Take formal action using legislative powers as appropriate
- Modernise our way of working with improved digital accessibility and public care contact with victims of ASB, to ensure a high level of service is provided which is supported by robust Service Level Agreements with partners.
- Raise awareness of domestic abuse and violence against women and girls.
- Protect vulnerable people.
- Improve road safety.

What we will do

- Progress plans for installation of 60+ CCTV cameras in the Borough to help catch and deter ASB and criminal behaviour
- Keep our street lights on to address concerns about perception of crime and improve safety and wellbeing
- Establish a multi-agency operational CSP working group to coordinate a problem-solving approach to address ASB in hotspot locations.
- Support existing Essex Police operational plans to address seasonal ASB e.g. Halloween and Bonfire night.
- Undertake proactive operations/days of action in partnership with police and other agencies to encourage reporting, educate and raise awareness of ASB e.g. ASB Awareness Week.
- Examine cost effective target hardening methods to 'design out' ASB in vulnerable hotspot locations in liaison with the Essex Police Design Out Crime Team.
- Work collaboratively with youth services/groups to deter/prevent ASB (e.g. Yellow Door, Sport England and Bar 'n' Bus)
- Working in partnership to support vulnerable victims of ASB and raising awareness of services available to them
- Make full use of tools and powers available to take enforcement action against repeat offender ASB and crime offenders.
- Publicise successful CSP action and prosecutions taken to tackle crime and ASB to deter offending and build public confidence under the Council ambition 'We ♥ Castle Point'.
- Work effectively with the Essex Police Business Crime Team and local businesses to address action to deter shoplifting offences.
- Work collaboratively with the Safer Essex Roads Partnership (SERP) to raise awareness, improve information sharing, carrying out enforcement activities to reduce vehicle incidents.
- Public consultation for renewal of the Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) for ASB driving on Roscommon Way Canvey Island
- Public consultation for the renewal of the borough-wide dog control PSPO

What we want to achieve by the end of this Strategy.

- Increased awareness and ongoing delivery of the five Council ambitions
- Increased awareness of the Community Safety Partnership and the range of projects that it is delivering.
- Enhanced partnership collaboration to address crime and ASB issues in our neighbourhoods.
- Reduction in ASB incident increases and repeat victims of ASB
- Disruption and action towards repeat offender ASB and crime
- Improving public perception of safety and confidence in reporting ASB.
- Reduction in vehicle offences/crime.
- Increase awareness and reporting of domestic abuse and violence against women and girls
- Enhanced partnership collaboration in the prevention of domestic abuse and violence against women and girls
- Reduction in property crime, particularly theft offences

Castle Point Strategic Priorities Action Plan 2025/26



1. Healthier and Safer Communities

Anti-Social Behaviour

- Establish a multi-agency working group as an operational arm of the CSP to coordinate activities to address ASB in hotspot locations.
- Support existing police plans to address seasonal ASB e.g. Bonfire Night and Halloween.
- Implement a partnership focused ASB Awareness week.
- Work in partnership to support victims of ASB and raise awareness of available services.
- Increase percentage of residents feeling safe after dark (42%)
- Development of Anti-ASB signage at hotspot locations

Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls

- Identify cases of vulnerable victims of domestic abuse and violence against women and girls making appropriate safeguarding referrals.
- Support work with young people affected by violence and identify opportunities to raise awareness to counter the normalisation of violence.
- Identify partnership opportunities for national domestic abuse prevention schemes e.g. Safe Lives and The Drive Project

Drug Offences/Knife Crime

- Reducing drug related crime through engagement with local communities to encourage reporting and information.
- Increase awareness of impact of knife crime.
- Support police activity to tackle organised crime involving the use of weapons, provide assistance in developing distraction initiatives, identifying key locations, building intelligence and supporting enforcement to disrupt activity.

2. Make our places safer

Burglary

- Focus on prevention – encouragement of identifying risk through engagement.
- Seasonal promotion of burglary prevention e.g. ‘Windows open on warmer nights’

Vehicle Crime

- Reducing vehicle related crime through engagement with local communities to improve prevention and reporting.
- Cross border activity - work with neighbouring boroughs to improve intelligence sharing.

Rural: Agricultural & Construction Equipment theft

- Identify initiatives to tackle and prevent theft of agricultural and construction equipment and improved engagement with farming and rural communities
- Engagement and consultation with rural/farming community to develop prevention initiatives such as Neighbourhood Watch, property marking, plant GPS, suspicious activity reporting

CCTV

- Work with partners and residents to install CCTV measures and design improvements to key locations to make people feel safer

3. Make our Environment Safer

Vehicle and road safety

- Work collaboratively to identify hotspot locations and identify initiatives to reduce road traffic incidents.
- Work in conjunction with outside agencies to deliver Safer Driving Campaigns.
- Work with schools to promote safer street schemes for children and young people.

Manage speed through enforcement

- Via speed watch campaigns, collaboration with other agencies including police and supporting Safer Essex Roads Partnership (SERP) to improve road safety

