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**POLICE & CRIME
COMMISSIONER**

Delivery of The Police & Crime Plan:

**Priority 2: Crime and
Anti-Social Behaviour**

June 2025

Building greater trust and confidence in Northumbria Police - Engage with local communities to understand their needs so that everyone feels confident to report crime and share concerns.

Question 6

Motorcycle anti-social behaviour (ASB) continues to be the number one issue identified by the public in the Safer Communities Survey, how are the force working with partners across all six Area Commands to tackle this and what impact is this having?

The recent PEEL inspection rated Northumbria Police as Good in relation to preventing and deterring crime and reducing vulnerability. It was noted that the force works effectively with other agencies to prevent crime and ASB with activity part-funded through my Safer Streets Projects highlighted.

- Operation Capiro was introduced into Force in November 2023 and implemented to coordinate response to motorbike ASB and tackle the issues across all Area Commands. I want to understand how this is progressing and the engagement with stakeholders in respect of this key area of community concern.
- This is a partnership operation involving local authorities, housing, trading standards, children's services and education, which encompasses all activity including operations, seizures, warrants, prevention work and good news stories.
- The Force has recently introduced a motorbike unit within Force Coordination and Operations Department which will enhance the forces' proactive capability to tackle motorbike enabled crime and ASB.
- Drone capability has been increased enabling offenders to be tracked in a safe manner. The tactic has been used for both pre-planned operations and to provide wider coverage in hotspot locations leading to successful seizures without the risk of pursuit.
- The Force have worked with schools to provide inputs to over 1,300 young people to outline the risks and enforcement implications through the delivery of bespoke assemblies.
- Funding from the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) has enabled the Force to deliver the 'back on track' scheme with partners from TWFRS, NEAS, local authority ASB officers, and education. The project has worked directly with individuals in Sunderland to change their behaviour with inputs on risk, first aid and motorbike related injuries, police tactics, tenancy enforcement implications, impact on victims and a reward scheme. It has led to a 45% reduction in the targeted locality.
- The Force have trialled 'Garage watch', which prevents people filling up cannisters at a forecourt when in attendance with motorbikes or on foot, to reduce the sales of fuel which contributes to the behaviour. ID is required prior to any sale which helps build intelligence.
- Op Capiro has been shared regionally and formally presented at both the neighbourhood policing conference and regional problem-solving conference.
- ASB is a core element of the community safety partnership meetings to ensure a problem solving and cohesive approach, involving local authorities and the VRU.
- This activity has led to incident reductions, warrant execution, use of orders being increased, over 200 bike seizures and improved victim satisfaction. In 2024 there was a force wide decrease of 14% in the total number of motorcycles disorder incidents compared with 2023.

I know that Motorcycle ASB remains a significant concern for the public and continues to be the number one issue identified by the public in the Safer Communities Survey and was assured of the approach by Northumbria Police in response to my question. I will continue to raise this with the chief constable as communities tell me about their concerns in respect of motorcycle ASB.

Rural Crime - Share intelligence across borders to fight organised crime and prevent criminals from other areas targeting our countryside by working with the National Rural Crime Network.

Question 7

From your shared intelligence across borders, what are your top 3 priorities in relation to rural crime and what are you doing to address these issues?

A significant proportion of the Northumbria force area is rural land which provides differing criminal opportunities than urban areas. I wanted communities in these areas to be assured that the force understands what the main issues are and is working with wider partners to tackle them. The force provided the following update on activity:

- Operation Hawkeye is the primary mechanism through which intelligence is shared in response to the force Rural Crime Priorities. This is a cross-border intelligence sharing platform involving nine forces in Northern England and Police Scotland.
- Bi-weekly intelligence sharing meetings are chaired by the Rural Crime Team. There is also a rolling TEAMS document, accessible by nine forces and the national team, that can be updated as and when required. This has been recognised as best practice throughout the country.

The force have identified their top 3 priorities and provided updates in relation to all 3 areas. This has provided reassurance that the force is proactively tackling the most prolific issues:

- **Priority 1:** Acquisitive crime, specifically quad bike thefts
 - Nationally there is a trend for bikes to be sold to Organised Crime Groups who use them to commit further crimes such as fuel thefts/thefts from articulated wagons.
 - The force have engaged with farmers through messaging platforms, visits to livestock markets and face to face engagement encouraging them to secure their bikes.
 - Twenty trackers have been provided to farmers free of charge supported by OPCC funding.

- The Rural Crime Team (RCT) and Rural CrimeVolunteers have supplied Crime prevention marking kits.
- The RCT conducts in-person visits to victims of quad thefts.
- **Priority 2:** Poaching
 - Poaching leads to the loss of livestock and causes disruption to business, damages crops, livestock is let out of fields and threatening, and intimidating behaviour, is used.
 - The RCT has implemented a nine force Community Protection Notice. Prior to this a poacher could potentially receiving nine different notices. The notice prohibits the use of dogs off a lead, trespassing on farmland and other related measures.
 - Training has been delivered to response officers and communications staff on seldom used poaching legislation concerned with searches, seizure of vehicles and equipment.
 - RCT lead Operation Checkpoint, an anti-poaching operation held throughout the North of England. Operational resources are deployed over hours of darkness across the rural areas resulting in arrests for theft, excess alcohol, drugs and road traffic act offences.
- **Priority 3:** Motor Vehicle ASB
 - The use of vehicles, particularly trial bikes in rural areas is a significant problem which transcends our borders with Scotland and Cumbria in particular. Bikes are ridden on sites of Special Scientific Interest, forest land, farmland, moor and hills, causing huge damage to wildlife habitats and sensitive landscapes with the damage taking decades to repair itself.

PRIORITY 2: CRIME AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

- OPCC secured funding that has been used to secure an all-terrain vehicle to combat ASB as well as wildfires and casualty rescue. This vehicle has been used in partnership with forestry and National Park to educate riders and prosecute for road traffic act offences.

The National Park and Forestry Commission issue letters to registered keepers of vans parked in rural areas who facilitate the transportation of bikes. Northumbria Police considered use of community protection notices and ASB legislation for repeat offenders.

Road Safety – Promote safety and awareness around the fatal four - speeding, drink or drug driving, not wearing a seatbelt and using a mobile phone - making people aware of the dangers of these behaviours.

Question 8

What road safety activity is being undertaken with partners and are there any campaigns for drug and drink driving and speeding planned for the summer?

There is increasing concern nationally about road safety, with too many tragic accidents in which people have lost their lives. I asked the Chief Constable about local activity that is planned to help educate people about the most significant factors in road deaths to reduce the risks here in Northumbria.

- An Inspector led prevention unit is embedded within the Roads Policing Unit, which coordinates force resources to deliver against the Road Safety Strategy with the aim of preventing road related casualties and changing driver behaviour.
- In December 2024, all six local authorities and Northumbria Police signed a new Northumbria Road Safety Partnership agreement with a priority being to procure equipment which allows for the digitalisation of the static camera network across all six areas. The partnership is working towards functionality of initial sites before the end of 2025.
- Northumbria Police has a fleet of five camera enforcement vans, deploying seven days a week. This coverage has increased evidential 'captures' from an average of 4,000 per month last year to an average of 8,000 per month in 2025. The presence of the camera enforcement vans themselves, positively influences driver behaviour, with sites showing a reduction of 25%-61% reductions in captures where they have been subject to repeated deployments.
- Statistical collision data has identified the six highest collision areas on the Strategic Road Network. The sites are targeted with marked police vehicles at the times of highest traffic volume to influence driver behaviour and reduce the risk of incidents of killed or seriously injured (KSIs). As part of our partnership with Highways England, they deploy their marked vehicles to the identified sites to enhance their ability to positively influence driver behaviour.
- There is national concern in relation to young drivers and statistical analysis has identified that they are more likely to be involved in a collision. Northumbria Police are proposing to adopt a pathway that is bespoke to the needs of young drivers. Young Driver Intervention is offered to drivers, aged between 17 and 25, as an alternative to a fine and points on their driving licence. It helps them to understand the risks, and potential dangers, of their driving decisions and subsequently mitigates the risks that they may pose.
- Northumbria Police have adopted the road policing NPCC Calendar of Operations as the basis for summer campaigns which will ensure a range of campaigns across the year focussing on the most common causal factors but also those drivers most at risk such as young drivers and bikers

Retail and Business Crime - Continue to engage with the retail sector to understand first hand experiences.

Question 9

Speaking to retailers across the sector and different geographical areas, their experience varies in relation to reporting offences. How will the force engage with businesses of all sizes to ensure that they understand reporting mechanisms and ongoing police activity?

Retail crime is a national issue that has been ignored for too long. I have engaged with retailers to understand their experiences and the challenges they face. One thing they consistently tell me is that the reporting process for this type of crime is too difficult and time consuming. The force have introduced streamlined processes but there is inconsistency how information about these improvements is being shared. I asked the Chief Constable about this to be reassured that all retailers, not just larger businesses, are being supported.

- The improvement of the force response to retail crime is an ongoing process which is being shaped by national trends, government policy and retailers' representative groups.
- The force has developed a 4P (Prepare, Prevent, Protect and Pursue) plan aimed at altering the local narrative to retail crime, and specifically to improve the investigations of theft from retail premises and identify when violence has been used to facilitate these offences.
- Northumbria Police purchased software which enables large file transfer such as CCTV footage, making the process of reporting retail thefts more efficient. Force policy changed in line with the Retail Crime Action Plan so that all offences with reasonable lines of inquiry or a named offender are investigated.
- The force lead for retail crime attends partnership retail crime workshops and round table discussions and has ensured our police response to reports of retail crime is updated to reflect the changes. Engagement with retailers includes advice around improvements and safeguards they could implement to reduce shop thefts and updates on ongoing police activity.
- Key retail crime nominals are given Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) owners to create responsibility and targeting of those causing most harm, working with the Local Council for tenancy enforcement and Force Legal Services Department and using the CPS for preventative orders.
- In both Sunderland and Newcastle City Centres the Force works closely with the Sunderland BID and NE1 organisations to provide support to businesses impacted by retail crime.
- Business Breakfasts have been undertaken to provide retailers with a forum to provide feedback and raise concerns. With business newsletters utilised to promote key messages and highlight success to build trust and confidence.

Burglary and other Acquisitive Crime - Reduce the level of residential burglary in Northumbria.

Question 10

Burglary increased by 11% in the KPI report received in December 2024 – data relating to June - Is the Chief Constable confident that trends and increases in residential burglary are identified and that the most effective interventions are used to respond to any themes - are any crime prevention campaigns planned?

Burglary is a very personal crime which leaves a long-lasting impact on victims. Previous monitoring highlighted that there was an increase in this type of offence and I wanted to understand how the force is responding to this and what activity was being undertaken to try and reduce the risk of someone being victim of burglary. The Chief Constable assured me that bespoke operations and days of action are implemented to tackle specific burglary crime types and areas with a focus not only on bringing offenders to justice but providing target hardening and working with partners. The following update was also provided:

- The Northumbria Police burglary lead chairs a regular Burglary suppression group involving key stakeholders from across the Force to tackle this area of criminality. Also involved are crime prevention advisors who provide support around advice, best practice, understanding trends and work with national and regional SPOCs.
- The force provided updated figures in relation to burglary and whilst offences are slightly above the average for England and Wales the force continues to achieve higher than average positive outcome rates nationally for this crime area.
- It is assessed that some increases can be attributed to attempted burglaries, which would previously have gone unnoticed and unreported, being identified through increased ownership of home CCTV systems including ring doorbells.
- Recent performance identifies 297 residential burglaries were recorded during February. This represents a decrease of 114 offences (-28%) compared to January. When reviewing monthly totals since January 2021, February 2025 is the lowest recorded. Residential burglaries are now below the 12-month rolling average of 433 offences per month.
- Intelligence gathering has been prioritised in relation to burglary offences and a range of techniques employed to encourage reporting leading to an increase in actionable intelligence to help combat burglary in the last few months. December 2024 and January 2025 saw our largest Burglary Covert Human Intelligence Source (CHIS) intelligence capture since implementation.
- Serious acquisitive crime and burglary specifically, are included in the Force Control Strategy and prioritised in the Force and local tasking and coordination group agenda. It is also a significant part of the Force's Strategic Assessment. This allows the Force and Area Commands to prioritise resource allocation to this crime type.



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STRONGER COMMUNITIES**



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