

PROTECTING YOUR COUNTY

In setting this year's policing budget, I consulted with the public at every stage.

Residents across Derby and Derbyshire have shared the community safety issues and crimes that concern them most. Your priorities are my mandate, and the improvements you want to see in our city, towns, villages, and rural communities matter.

No matter where you live in Derbyshire, I hope my Police and Crime Plan is a true reflection of some of the challenges you feel we are facing and reassures you that we are committed to addressing them.

Working alongside partners, businesses, and residents, we share ambitious plans to make our communities safer. A strong, stable and secure Derbyshire benefits everyone - whether you live, work, study, visit, or invest here.

Our police force is funded by the Government through the Home Office Grant and the police precept, which residents pay through council tax. Through our recent budget survey, many residents expressed their support for contributing more towards tackling crime and addressing local policing priorities.

The Chief Constable assures me that this year's budget will strengthen the police service you receive.

I will not relent on building a safer, stronger and more inclusive future for Derbyshire and will continue to fight for a better funding deal for our county.





SUPPORTING POLICING

The budget for policing Derbyshire in 2025-26 has been set at £245.61m - an increase of 6% over the previous year. This includes a rise of £14 a year in the policing precept (the part of the Council Tax that goes towards policing) for a Band D property, meaning that a Band D property will pay a total of £293.60 towards policing in 2025-26.

The budget will support:

Serious Violence including VAWG

- Domestic Abuse Teams: Strengthening resources to improve outcomes.
- Introduction of Victim Liaison Officers: Providing early support for victims of rape and serious sexual abuse.
- Smart Water: Continued investment to protect victims of domestic abuse and stalking.
- Operation Sceptre: Targeting knife crime and awareness raising.

ASB & Community Safety

- Immediate Justice Scheme: Ensuring offenders pay back into communities.
- Hotspot Patrols: Targeting anti-social behaviour.
- Geo-fencing Patrol Technology: Informing the public about police activities.
- E-scooter Enforcement: Seizing more illegally used e-scooters from our communities.

Neighbourhood Policing

- New PCSO roles to improve outcomes for victims.
- Dedicated Rural Crime Team: To tackle rural criminality.
- Continuation of more police officers: Surpassing government targets.
- Home Burglary Response: Police attendance and Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) support for every reported home burglary.

- Technology Investment: Reducing 101 call waiting times and improving customer experience.

Bringing Offenders to Justice

- Clear, Hold, Build Project: Tackling organised crime in partnership.
- Investigations Programme: Improving the quality of investigations.
- Quarterly enforcement operations: Targeting high-risk suspects.

Drug Dealing and Substance Misuse

- Outreach Services: Support for young people with substance misuse issues.
- Drugs Testing on Arrest: To understand the impact of drug abuse in our county.
- Naloxone: Issued to officers to reduce the effects of drug overdose.
- Tackling County Lines: Focus on dismantling and asset recovery.

Supporting Victims and Safeguarding

- A new Victim Care Team: Ensuring victims' needs are met.
- Improved High Harm Function: Tackling serial and repeat offenders.
- Continued focus on Civil Orders: Providing extra control measures on offenders.
- Multi-Agency Tasking & Coordination Pilot – Targeting domestic abuse perpetrators.



STRONGER NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING

I have promised our Neighbourhood Policing Teams will be bolstered by more police officers in our communities this year to deliver the visible local policing important to all of us.

The Government has doubled its investment in the Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee to £200m and this means a further £2.8m for our county in 2025-26. The first tranche of 35 new officers will be deployed in frontline neighbourhood policing roles to fulfil the Government's commitment to make our streets safer and prepare us to deliver the Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee.

I know how important it is for residents to see police officers on the streets doing the jobs they are trained for. This is why Neighbourhood Policing is one of six priorities in my Police and Crime Plan, as determined by our residents.

I'm really pleased the Government recognises the need for urgent investment in neighbourhood policing. Issues such as anti-social behaviour, street drinking, drug use and drug dealing have a serious and detrimental impact on the public and residents should have access to local officers who

understand these unique issues and can built trust and confidence in the work they are doing to prevent them.

The officers will be recruited early this year, undergo training which means they will not be deployed until the final quarter of 2025-26. Further recruitment programmes will be unveiled by the Government following the next spending review.





TACKLING E-SCOOTERS

More than 300 e-scooters have been seized off the streets of Derbyshire since a tough enforcement drive launched.

I've been working with the Chief Constable in response to residents' concerns about the illegal and dangerous use of these vehicles on our roads and have vowed to take whatever action is necessary to deal with the nuisance they cause.

I fully supported the force's new 'seize and dispose' approach, introduced in November last year, which sees officers seizing e-scooters on the first interaction with police before sending them for disposal. Users can also face prosecution through the courts.

Since its implementation, 316 e-scooters have been seized while all PCSOs across the county

have received full training and have been granted the same powers as police officers to seize and dispose.

Alongside tougher enforcement, I've been determined to raise awareness of the illegality and dangers of these scooters among residents, parents and carers, teachers and young people and have written to MPs and councillors to share new resources explaining the law.

Illegal riding is widespread – these are not isolated incidents – and I'm pleased officers and PCSOs are using their full powers to bring our communities the peace and reassurance they deserve.

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR DOWN 22%

There is more good news to report this month from the targeted patrols taking place to protect our communities from anti-social behaviour (ASB).

The force and partners have been carrying out extra enforcement patrols across 20 'hotspot' areas since July 2023, alongside an 'Immediate Justice' programme that sees offenders repay their communities for the harm caused.

Latest figures show ASB has fallen 22% since the launch – and 11% in the last month alone – while two out of 20 hotspots saw no ASB reported in December.

Since roll out, 16,692 hours of patrols have taken place while 1,000 referrals were made to the Immediate Justice programme between July 2023 and January 2025. More than seven in ten of referrals (73%) have not reoffended.

ASB is consistently raised as a top concern by residents and this remarkable progress shows how seriously we take the issue. As positive as these figures are, the hard work will continue to address these problems as a matter of urgency.



LIFE-CHANGING SUPPORT



'Your Journey - Sexual violence – a survivor's guide to support and reporting' has been created by the Nottinghamshire Consent Coalition - a group of both statutory and voluntary organisations working together to raise awareness of consent and to reduce sexual violence.

Already in use across Nottinghamshire, the booklet has now been specially adapted in partnership with my office and our partners for use across Derbyshire.

We know from recent research with survivors of sexual abuse that there are common barriers to accessing help and this booklet is one of the ways we are trying to make a difference. Alongside advice and information about the different types of support available, the guide sets out what victims can expect during an investigation and court appearance and contains a list of support agencies.

Your Journey is available electronically on the Derbyshire Victims Services website:

derbyshirevictimservices.co.uk/types-of-crime/rape-and-sexual-assault/#yourjourney



Victims of crime must come first in our justice system.

I've proudly supported a new online booklet to help survivors of sexual violence find help and support quickly.

PEOPLE POWER IN ACTION

More than 30 community groups and charities across Derbyshire are celebrating a share of my first Safer and Stronger Communities Fund to address the public's top safety priorities.

I set aside £150k from my budget to support local projects that positively address the priority areas outlined in my new Police and Crime Plan, as determined by residents, and the first tranche of these initiatives are imminent thanks to individual grants of up to £5k.

They range from creative sessions to divert young people away from serious violence, enhanced support for women fleeing violence and domestic abuse, VAWG awareness workshops to help young women from diverse communities. Also, I am funding serious violence and interactive educational experiences to prevent substance misuse among young people.

When I unveiled the fund, I said I wanted to tap into the great pool of talent, skills and experience locally to help people live safely and to make help easier to find for those who need it. The response has been fantastic, and I've been impressed with the variety and strength of applications.

These projects will help address the priority areas of my Police and Crime Plan and increase community resources where they are needed most. I'm really looking forward to working with all the organisations who've received grants and reporting on their progress in due course.



ROUND THE COUNTY



Visiting Temple Normanton Junior Academy to see the work they are doing to improve the safety of children online through the i-Vengers programme.



Meeting the team at Sail Derbyshire to see the work they are doing to support victims of sexual violence and childhood sexual abuse



Attending the STOP Conference to focus our efforts on ending Violence Against Women and Girls



Visiting Derby Women's Centre to listen to how they are supporting women who have experienced domestic violence in the city.

ROUND THE COUNTY



Meeting the Neighbourhood Watch group in Breaston, to listen to volunteers and local residents' concerns regarding crime, anti-social behaviour and community safety



Meeting the team at Pathways of Chesterfield to see first-hand the work they are doing to tackle homelessness



Joining Derbyshire Partnership Against Rural Crime partners to discuss the issues facing our rural communities.

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Derbyshire Police and Crime Commissioner Newsletter

Derbyshire Police and Crime Commissioner Newsletter March 2025 | Issue 03