

DRAFT – 18 FEBRUARY 2005



Crime and Disorder Audit 2004

*Making your community
a safer place in which to live!*

The District of Rochford

Geographically, the District of Rochford is situated within a peninsula between the Rivers Thames and Crouch, and is bounded to the east by the North Sea. The District has land boundaries with Basildon and Castle Point districts and Southend-on-Sea Borough. It also has marine boundaries with Maldon and Chelmsford districts. It is ideally located within South Essex, with linkages to the M25 via the A127 and the A13 and direct rail links to London.

The Rochford District covers an area of 65 square miles. It is rich in heritage and natural beauty, with miles of unspoilt coastline and attractive countryside. There are more than 200 sites of archaeological interest, 14 ancient woodlands and several nature reserves across the District.

Rochford District is predominantly rural with three larger urban areas and a number of smaller settlements. The District's towns and villages are diverse in character reflecting their history, location and size. The character, layout and form of groups of buildings, streets and spaces make a significant contribution to providing a sense of place and adding to the quality of life in town and country. Residents have a strong sense of identity with their own settlement.



A Review of the 2002 - 2005 Crime Reduction Strategy

The priorities under the above Strategy were:

- To reduce: dwelling burglary
vehicle crime
violent crime
fear of crime
- To tackle: drugs and alcohol misuse
domestic violence
- To challenge: anti-social behaviour
hate crime
- To improve: road safety
quality of life
- To support: victims of crime

Crime Trends during the 2002 – 2005 Crime Reduction Strategy

Home to around 78,500 people, the District is one with an ever increasing percentage of older residents. The District is considered to be reasonably affluent, except for a few small pockets of deprivation and has a low rate of recorded crime compared to the rest of the country. Rochford is also in within the fourth and lowest quartile in the Eastern Region that identifies levels of crime.

Consultation is an important aspect of the work of the CDRP and has ensured that all sectors of the community, statutory and voluntary, have contributed to the formation of the new 2005/08 strategy.

Dwelling burglary:

The first year of the Strategy saw an increase of 90 offences on the previous year (245 compared with 155) but in the second year, there was a reduction of 11 offences (234 offences in all).

Violent Crime:

The end of year figures for 2002/03 showed an increase in from 467 offences to 685 (46%) and whilst this was cause for concern, the recording implications could account for much of the increase. In 2003/04, the figure increased from 685 to 849, a much smaller increase (23.9%) and one that more accurately reflects the

situation. These figures are still lower than the national trend and are largely due to the way statistics have been recorded.

Vehicle Crime:

During the first year of the Strategy, there was a reduction on the previous year of 118 offences (437 compared with 555) but in year two, there was an increase to 482 offences. Although only a slight increase, and not reaching the level of the first year, we will continue to initiate ways of reducing vehicle crime per 1,000 population.

Criminal Damage:

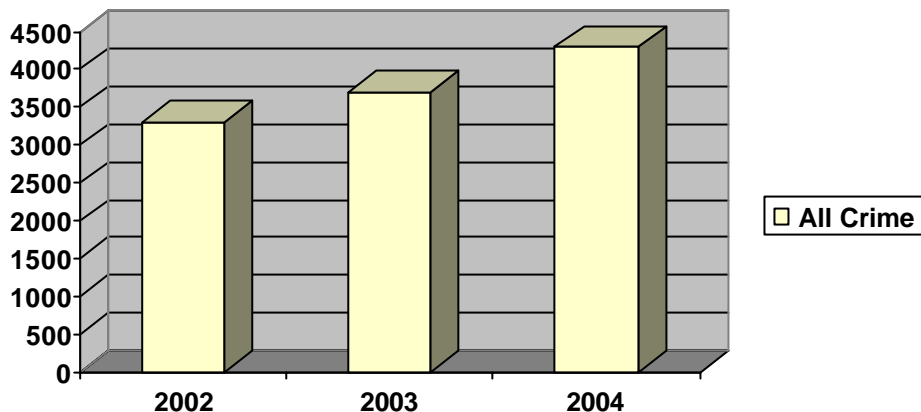
During the first year of the strategy, there was an increase of 217 offences (28%) and in year two, a further increase of 305 offences (31%). The CDRP is aware that anti-social behaviour and criminal damage is of concern to local people and it will continue to develop ways of reducing vandalism in the community and this is reflected in the Strategy.

See crime graphs for more comprehensive information

Crime

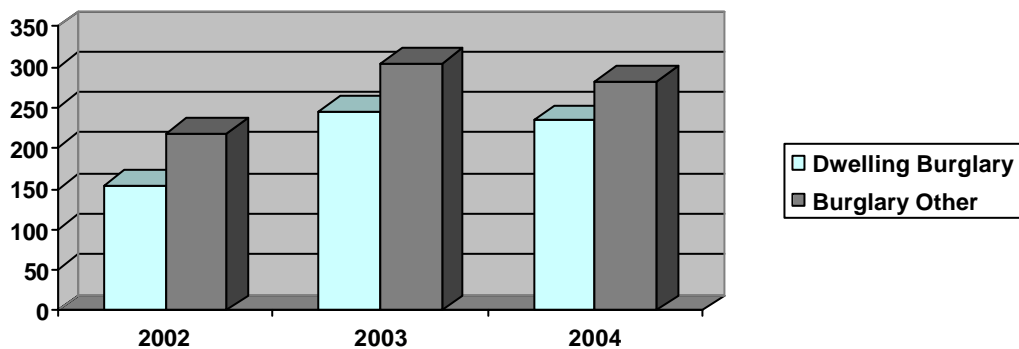
All statistics reproduced here have been supplied by Essex Police.

Figure 1 - Comparison of all Recorded Crime in the Rochford District



Period Ending	Offences	Increase / Decrease
31 st Mar 2002	3306	+ 6.95%
31 st Mar 2003	3705	+ 12.06%
31 st Mar 2004	4291	+ 15.81%

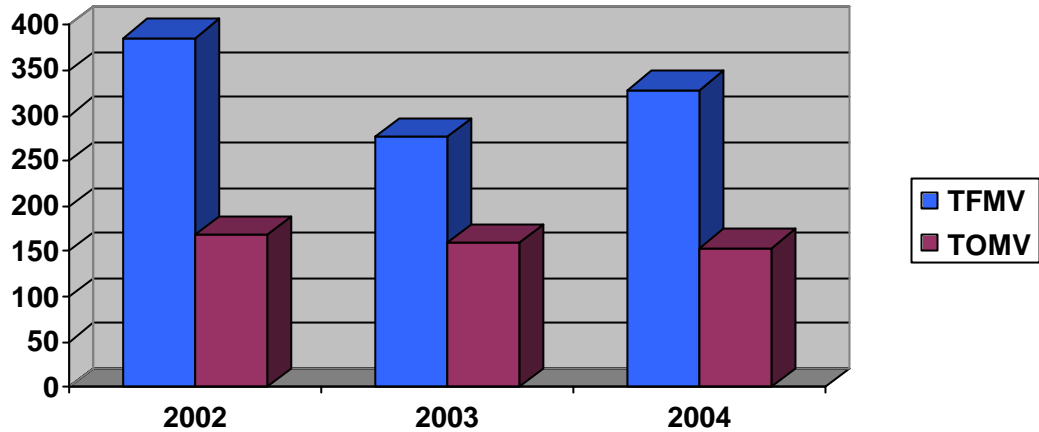
Figure 2 – Comparison of Dwelling and Non-Dwelling Burglary



Year Ending	Dwelling Burglary	Increase Decrease	Burglary Other	Increase Decrease
31 st March 2002	155	- 9.03%	219	- 25.7%
31 st March 2003	245	+ 58.0%	304	+ 38.8%

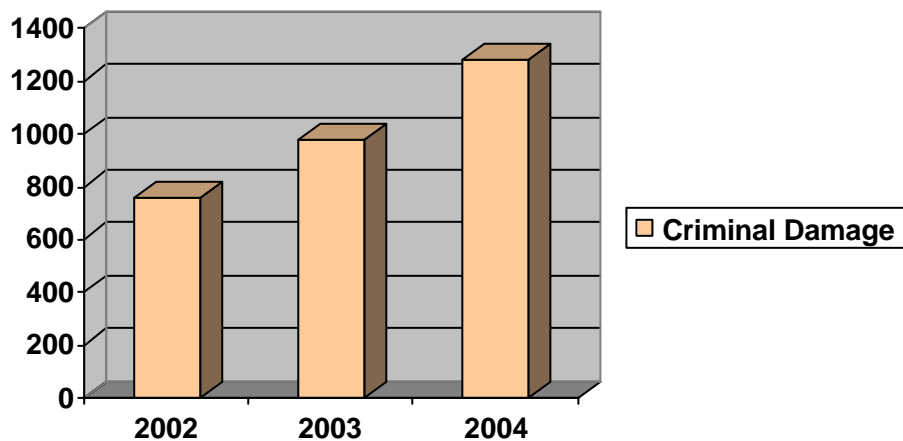
31st March 2004	234	- 4.7%	282	- 7.2%
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Figure 3 – Comparison of Vehicle Crime.



Offence	Year ending 31 Mar 2002	Year ending 31 Mar 2003	Year ending 31 Mar 2004
Theft from M/Veh	386	277	328
Theft of M/Veh	169	160	154
Totals	555	437	482
% Variation	+ 9.25	- 27.0	+ 10.29

Figure 4 – Comparison of Criminal Damage (includes arson).

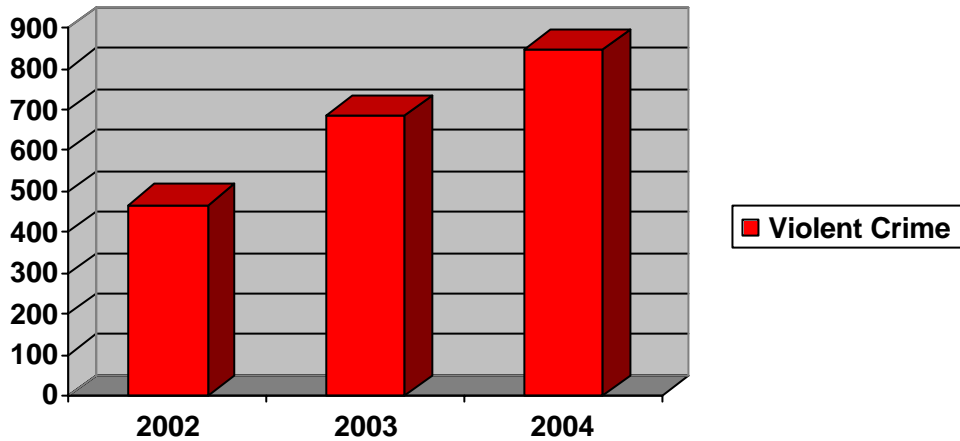


Period	Offences	Increase / Decrease
31st March 2002	759	- 0.92%
31st March 2003	976	+ 28.59%

31st March 2004	1281	+ 31.25%
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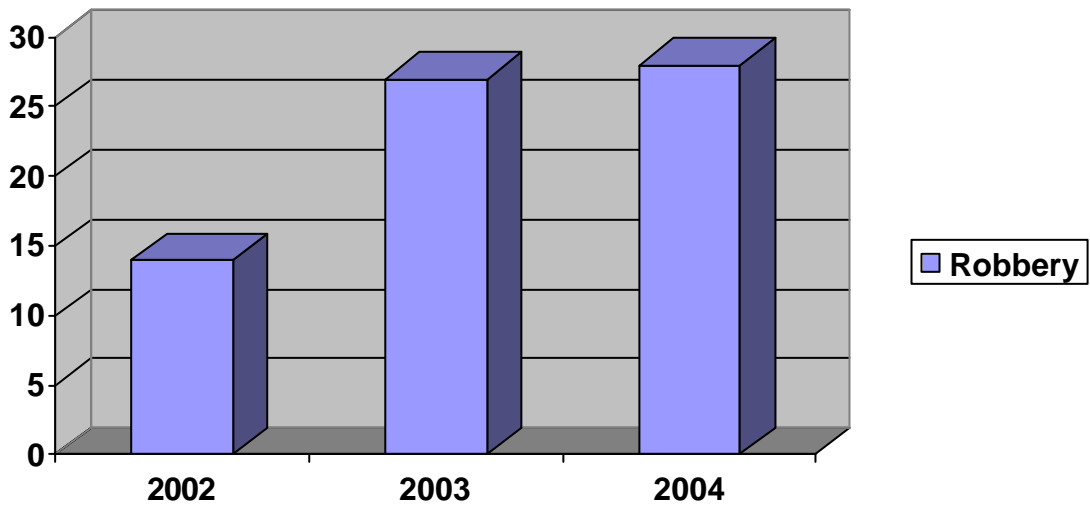
Figure 5 – Comparison of Violent Crime.

This category includes varying degrees of assault, robbery, rape and sexual offences. Specific figures for robbery and rape have been extracted and shown in additional charts.



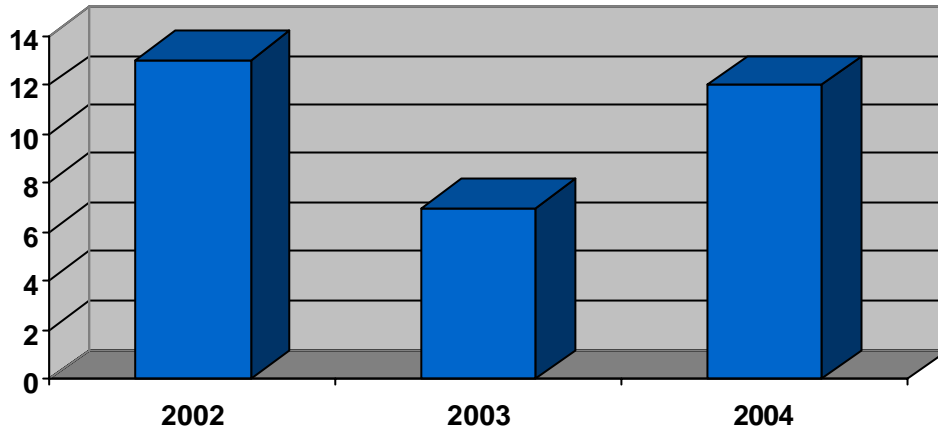
Period	Offences	Increase / Decrease
31st March 2002	467	+ 18.2%
31st March 2003	685	+ 46.6%
31st March 2004	849	+ 23.9%

Figure 6 – Comparison of Robbery Offences.



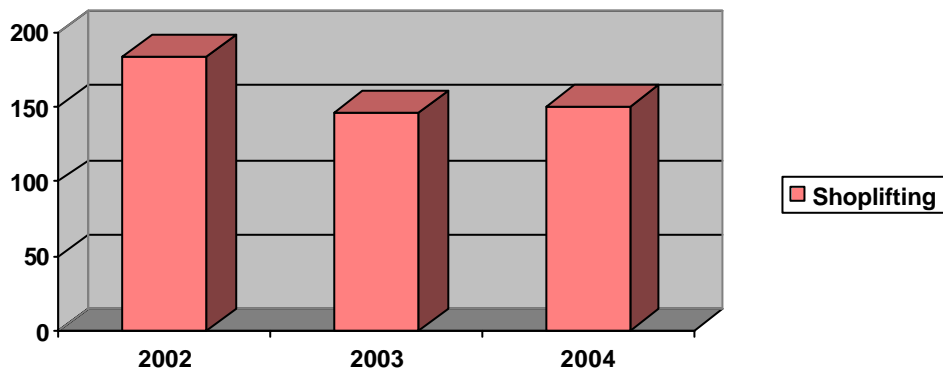
Year Ending	Total
31 st March 2002	14
31 st March 2003	27
31 st March 2004	28

Figure 7 – Comparison of Rape Offences



Year Ending	Total
31 st March 2002	13
31 st March 2003	7
31 st March 2004	12

Figure 8 – Comparison of Shoplifting.

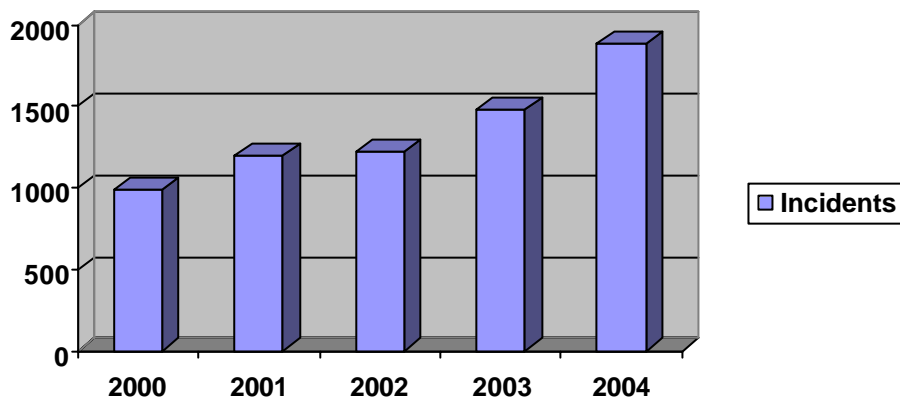


Period	Offences	Increase / Decrease
31 st March 2002	184	+ 41.5%
31 st March 2003	146	- 20.6%
31 st March 2004	151	+ 3.4%

Anti-Social Behaviour

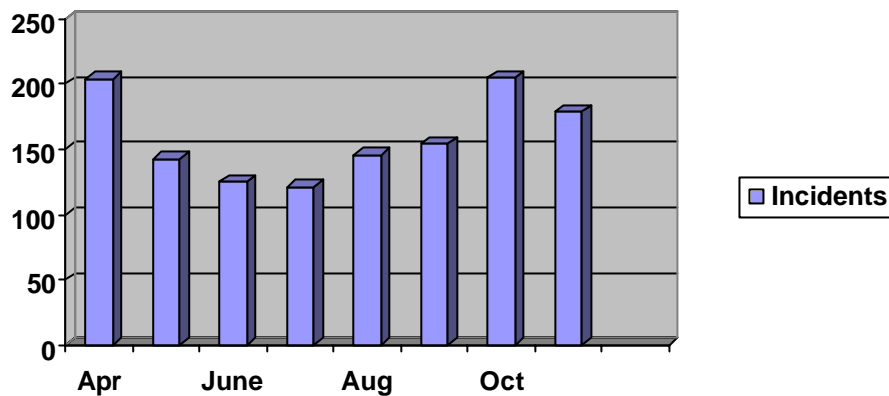
It is becoming increasingly difficult to define anti-social behaviour and, indeed, the government list activities, e.g. prostitution, begging, repairing motor vehicles on the highway, that most people could group elsewhere. The table below refers to Nuisance Incidents Year by Year which related to all Nuisance Incidents. Its show the total number of “nuisance” calls recorded by Essex Police for the Rochford area. They are not restricted to any particular age group but it would be reasonable to assume that a significant proportion would be described as “youth nuisance”.

Figures for the Rochford District



Number of Incidents for Rochford District	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
	989	1195	1220	1478	1887

Since April 2004, the Rayleigh Division has an objective in its Annual Plan for Nuisance Youth only, so from April, Nuisance Youth and Youth Related Incident codes have been used to produce these stats which cover the Rochford District only.



Number of Incidents for Rochford District	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
	204	143	125	121	146	154	205	179

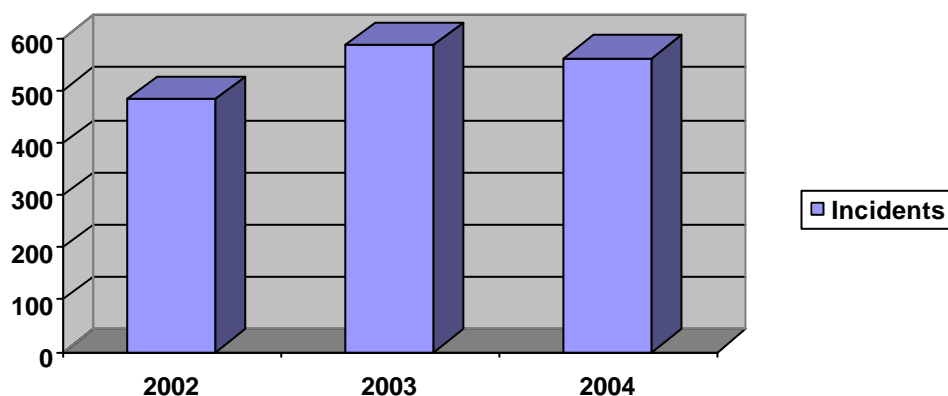
Domestic Violence

Police

There is one full time post shared by two Domestic Violence Liaison Officers based at Rayleigh Police Station. All recorded incidents of domestic violence within the Rayleigh Police Division are filtered through their office and this enables them to implement appropriate interventions and/or refer victims to suitable support services.

They have provided the following statistics:

Totals for the Rochford District:



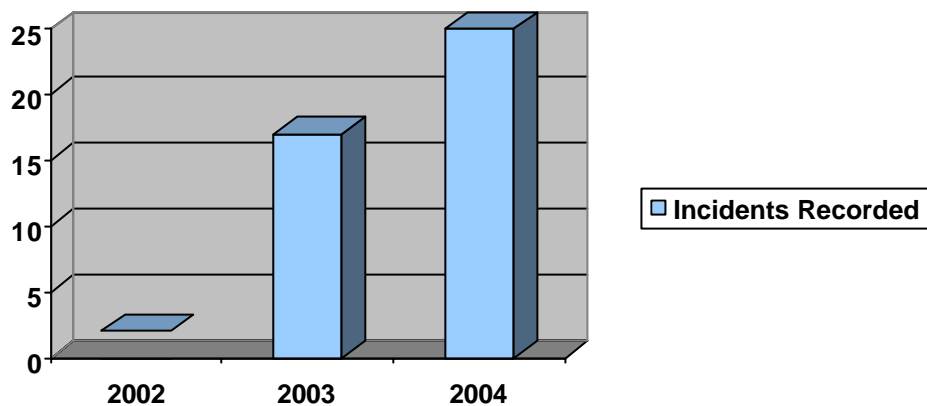
	Year ending December 2002	Year ending December 2003	Year ending December 2004
Incidents for Rochford District	483	587	562

Racial and Homophobic Incidents

The Rochford District sector of Rayleigh Police Division has a designated officer to monitor the investigation of all racist and homophobic incidents.

Racial Incidents

A racist incident is defined as “Any incident which is perceived to be racist by the victim or any other person”. (Recommendation 12 of the report of the Stephen Lawrence Enquiry). This definition includes incidents that are racist in nature but do not amount of criminal offences. The following statistics have been recorded:



Total Incidents Recorded	2002	2003	2004
	2	17	25

Homophobic Incidents

A homophobic incident is defined as any incident which is perceived to be homophobic by the victim or any other person. This definition includes incidents which are homophobic in nature but do not relate to criminal offences. The following statistics have been recorded.

Total Incidents Recorded for Rochford District	12 months ending 31 March 2002	12 months ending 31 March 2003	12 months ending 31 March 2004
	2	3	NIL

Public Consultation

Citizens' Panel Survey

The 2004 Audit has been greatly assisted by the fact that we and our neighbouring Partnership in Castle Point each have a 'Citizens' Panel', comprising residents who completed a crime and disorder questionnaire.

Main Points from the Survey

This survey has been most useful in highlighting those areas that most concern the respondents and the Partnership will certainly remain mindful of these concerns when identifying priorities, aims and objectives under the new Strategy.

Some of the points that emerged:

- 98% of respondents felt fairly or very safe when walking in the district during daylight, and whilst this dropped to 64% during the hours of darkness, these figures are very good when compared to national figures.
- Speeding traffic, vandalism and bad behaviour by young people generated more concern than the possibility of having one's car stolen or being burgled.
- Litter and graffiti were the main environmental concerns and there was a large consensus that the problem has got worse over the past three years
- 51% of respondents felt that reports in the national media increased their fear of crime and 52% felt that this also applied to local media.
- During the preceding twelve months, only 12% of respondents had been a victim of crime, in most cases motor vehicle crime .
- Only 8% of respondents had suffered a burglary and 3% had been subjected to some form of assault.
- 72% of respondent victims or witnesses had reported the crime to the police.
- Reasons given for not doing so (26%) were that the crime was of a minor nature, they did not believe the police would be interested or it had been reported by another person.
- Of the 70% that did report the crime the police, 33% were either fairly, very or completely satisfied with the service they received and 48% expressed varying degrees of dissatisfaction.
- The top five measures that respondents would like to see in place for a safer community are:
 - More police on the beat
 - Enforcement against anti-social behaviour
 - More facilities for young people
 - Greater use of CCTV
 - Tackling drug and alcohol abuse

1. *How safe do you feel when.....?*

	Very safe	Fairly safe	Neither	A bit unsafe	Very unsafe	No reply	
Walking around in your neighbourhood in daylight	68	30	1	1	0	*	%
Walking around in your neighbourhood after dark	9	55	8	23	4	1	%
Walking around the Rochford DC/Castle Point BC area as a whole in daylight	39	51	6	3	0	1	%
Walking around the Rochford DC/Castle Point BC area as a whole after dark	3	42	15	32	7	1	%
Traveling on the bus or train	13	49	17	18	3	1	%

2. *How much do you think the following are problems in your local area ?*

	Very serious	Fairly serious	Minor problem	Not a problem	No reply	
Having your home burgled	7	32	50	10	2	%
Theft from your grounds (e.g. garden or shed)	5	29	49	15	2	%
Vandalism to your property	8	20	45	25	2	%
Arson to your property or grounds	4	5	34	55	3	%
Having your business burgled	5	12	32	36	15	%
Being assaulted	4	14	52	28	2	%
Harassment of any kind	4	20	50	23	2	%
Being mugged and robbed	4	16	47	31	2	%
Being sexually assaulted	4	7	44	42	3	%
Theft of a vehicle	5	23	48	21	3	%
Vandalism to your vehicle	7	25	48	17	3	%
Drunk people causing a problem to you	9	23	44	22	2	%
Speeding traffic	16	38	31	12	2	%
Neighbour nuisance	4	10	43	40	3	%
Young people	26	31	30	10	2	%
Abandoned/derelict vehicles	4	12	40	42	2	%
Domestic violence	2	9	35	51	3	%
Drug related crime	8	17	39	33	3	%

3. *Over the past three years, do you think these problems have improved, stayed the same or got worse ?*

	Improved	Stayed the same	Got worse	Don't know/not applicable	No reply	
Having your home burgled	3	65	14	15	3	%
Theft from your grounds (e.g. garden or shed)	3	64	15	15	3	%
Vandalism to your property	3	63	15	17	3	%
Arson to your property or grounds	4	59	4	31	3	%
Having your business burgled	3	46	8	38	5	%
Being assaulted	3	58	15	22	3	%
Harassment of any kind	2	56	22	16	3	%
Being mugged and robbed	2	58	17	20	3	%
Being sexually assaulted	3	57	8	29	3	%
Theft of a vehicle	3	56	20	19	3	%
Vandalism to your vehicle	3	52	26	17	2	%
Drunk people causing a problem to you	3	48	31	16	3	%
Speeding traffic	6	40	45	7	2	%
Neighbour nuisance	3	57	14	23	3	%
Young people	5	31	55	7	2	%
Abandoned/derelict vehicles	7	51	18	22	3	%
Domestic violence	2	51	4	40	3	%
Drug related crime	1	47	22	27	3	%

4. *In the area where you live, how concerned are you about the following environmental factors ?*

	Very concerned	Fairly concerned	Not very concerned	Not at all concerned	No reply	
Poor street lighting	13	33	35	18	*	%
Empty/derelict housing properties	6	12	41	41	1	%
Abandoned vehicles	7	22	39	32	*	%
Drug debris such as discarded needles	19	12	31	37	*	%
Poor/broken fencing or walls	10	25	38	36	*	%
Empty/derelict commercial properties	8	17	36	38	1	%
Graffiti	23	32	26	19	*	%
Litter	33	33	24	9	*	%
Stray animals	6	16	36	41	*	%

5. *How much do you think the above have changed over the past three years ?*

	Improved	Stayed the same	Got worse	Don't know/not applicable	No reply	
Poor street lighting	9	76	7	7	1	%
Empty/derelict housing properties	5	62	5	27	1	%
Abandoned vehicles	9	51	18	21	1	%
Drug debris such as discarded needles	4	51	13	31	1	%
Poor/broken fencing or walls	4	60	16	20	*	%
Empty/derelict commercial properties	4	50	10	34	1	%
Graffiti	4	44	36	16	1	%
Litter	5	39	46	10	*	%
Stray animals	5	53	5	37	1	%

FEAR OF CRIME:

6. *How much does each of the following influence your worries about crime ?*

	Makes me more worried	No change	Makes me less worried	Don't know/no opinion	No reply	
a) National Media	51	45	*	4	*	%
b) Local Media	52	42	1	5	1	%
c) Personal experience	26	53	7	13	1	%
d) Experience of friends/family	41	45	5	8	*	%

See also question 13 in the next section.

REPORTING CRIME and MISCELLANEOUS:

7. *In the past 12 months, have you been a victim of, or a witness to, a crime ?*

	%
Yes, I have been a victim of a crime	12
Yes, I have been a witness to crime	8
Yes, I have been a victim and a witness to a (separate) crime	1
No, I have not been a victim or a witness to a crime	78
No reply	1

8. *Which crime were you a victim of, or witness to ? (Most recent if more than one)*

	a) Victim %	b) Witness %
Motor vehicle crime	34	12
Attack or an assault	3	5
Burglary	8	4
Vandalism or damage to a property	9	14
Racial attack (Racist crime)	0	0
Mugging and/or theft	6	5
Other	2	5
No reply	38	55

9. *Did you report this to the police ?*

	%
Yes	72
No	26
No reply	2

10. *If you answered yes to 9, how satisfied were you with the service provided to you?*

	%
Completely satisfied	6
Very satisfied	8
Fairly satisfied	19
Neither satisfied or dissatisfied	19
Fairly dissatisfied	17
Very dissatisfied	7
Completely dissatisfied	24
No reply	0

11. *What, if anything do you feel the police could have done better ?*

	%
Respond quicker / respond	18
Shown greater interest	30
Follow up leads / catch criminals	14
More police officers needed / bigger public presence	16
Nothing the police could do	3
Police did the best they could	6
Keep me advised about progress	4
Other	0
No reply	28

12. *If you answered no to question 9, why did you decide not to report this ?*

	%
It was only a minor crime	53
Police would not be interested	54
The victim/other parties reported it	12
Other	0
No reply	0

13. *Thinking of the next twelve months, how likely do you think it is that you will become a victim of the following types of crime ?*

	Very likely	Quite likely	Not very likely	Not at all likely	No reply	
a) Motor vehicle crime	5	33	49	10	3	%
b) Attack or an assault	1	12	75	9	3	%
c) Burglary	3	25	63	6	3	%
d) Vandalism or damage to property	5	27	60	7	2	%
e) Racial attack (racist crime)	0	2	40	54	4	%
f) Mugging and/or theft	1	18	69	9	3	%

14. *What measures, if any, would you like to see put in place to help reduce crime and improve community safety in your area ?*

	%
a - Greater use of CCTV cameras	65
b - Better street lighting	49
c - More police officers on the beat	91
d - Enforcement against anti-social behaviour (e.g. vandalism, groups hanging around)	84
e - Tackling drug and alcohol abuse	63
f - Easier ways to report crimes	30
g - Greater support for victims of crime	33
h - Greater community involvement	44
i - More facilities for young people	76
j - More advice	17

For question 14, respondents were able to tick as many boxes as they wished. The questionnaire then asked them to highlight their top three priorities from those measures they had selected.

15. First Priority

	%
Greater use of CCTV cameras	13
Better street lighting	4
More Police Officers on the beat	48
Enforcement against anti-social behaviour (e.g. vandalism, groups hanging around)	20
Tackling drug and alcohol abuse	3
Easier ways to report crimes	*
Greater support for victims of crime	*
Greater community involvement	1
More facilities for young people	10
More advice	*
No reply	1

* Denotes a value of less than half of one per cent

16. Second Priority

	%
Greater use of CCTV cameras	15
Better street lighting	6
More Police Officers on the beat	22
Enforcement against anti-social behaviour (e.g. vandalism, groups hanging around)	27
Tackling drug and alcohol abuse	8
Easier ways to report crimes	2
Greater support for victims of crime	*
Greater community involvement	2
More facilities for young people	13
More advice	1
No reply	3

* Denotes a value of less than half of one per cent

17. Third Priority

	%
Greater use of CCTV cameras	16
Better street lighting	6
More Police Officers on the beat	11
Enforcement against anti-social behaviour (e.g. vandalism, groups hanging around)	16
Tackling drug and alcohol abuse	13
Easier ways to report crimes	3
Greater support for victims of crime	5
Greater community involvement	5
More facilities for young people	17
More advice	*
No reply	7

Rochford District Matters (RDM)

Each of the previous audits included a public survey using the Council's newspaper, Rochford District Matters, that gave respondents an opportunity to prioritise their concerns and identify those areas where they wished to see improvement.

The RDM questionnaire was sent out to all households (approximately 33,000). There were 273 returns.

Types of crime that people said they were most concerned about was burglary, followed by vandalism, violent crime, drink driving, substance misuse and youth nuisance. Environmental issues appeared low on the list.

More specifically:

Only 4.4% of people felt that crime was high, with 16.8% saying that there were hardly any crimes and, just over half at 53.5% saying that there were a few crimes.

55.7% felt that parking was a problem.

60.6% felt that speeding was either quite a big or very big problem.

49.3% of people said that dog mess was either not a problem or only a slight problem. 48.2% said that litter was a problem.

Vandalism varied from being quite a big problem, 22.1% to people just not knowing one way or another, at 24.3%. It could be argued that such a wide discrepancy could be as a result of criminal damage being more prevalent in some areas over others.

A large number of people did not know whether there was a problem with supplying drugs (46.7%) or with drug misuse (45.2%).

38.3% felt that there was a problem with rowdy behaviour and anti-social behaviour.

Business Crime Survey

The CDRP agreed to commission a survey to explore the extent of business crime, and in August 2004 The Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) SE Essex Branch sent out **750** forms to its members in Southend Borough, Rochford District and Castle Point Borough areas. This questionnaire attracted an **18%** response rate.

In Rochford District **2250** were sent out and there was a response rate of **7.8%**. The key findings are as follows:

Of the **7.8%** respondents, **47% (Essex 55%)** had been the victim of some form of crime within the last 12 months, these included the following:

12.3%	(Essex 18.5%)	- burglary
7.6%	(Essex 8.0%)	- robbery
3.8%	(Essex 4.8%)	- assault
24.7%	(Essex 29.0%)	- theft
3.0%	(Essex 2.5%)	- arson
48.0%	(Essex 37%)	- criminal damage

There were only **14.7% (Essex 24.3%)** who had reported the incident to their insurance company. Again some responses from those that had not were "Only increase the premium" "Damage was less than the excess" "Insurers would not cover this type of loss after the second time".

When asked if any self-action had taken place **64%(Essex 95%)** had already taken steps to reduce the risk of crime.

54%(Essex 71%) said they would be prepared to join a crime reduction group. There was comment that "they had been previously involved but these schemes had mainly failed".

Anticipated Profile of the 2005-2008 Crime Reduction Strategy

Based upon the crime statistics and the concerns of local people, the CDRP will concentrate on the following:

Reducing Crime

As previously, the Strategy will need to reflect a combination of central government expectations and matters of local concern. In the context of crime and disorder, there are a number of areas, mainly volume crime, in respect of which the police and local authority are subject to performance assessment, so clearly we must continue our efforts to bring about reductions in these specific categories of crime. The majority of criminal damage would probably fall under a separate primary objective of addressing anti-social behaviour.

Drugs and Alcohol

It is a proven fact that a significant amount of crime and disorder, particularly violent crime, vandalism and anti-social behaviour is fuelled by alcohol consumption and/or taking drugs. Much work has been undertaken during previous strategies and no doubt more work is required, not only in respect of enforcement but also, to provide treatment for those who need it

Domestic Violence

The audit has shown that there is an undesirable level of domestic violence in the district so we will continue our efforts to raise awareness, encourage victims to come forward, provide appropriate assistance and support and take positive action against perpetrators.

Anti-Social Behaviour

It will be noted from the statistics that the District has seen a year-on-year escalation in anti-social behaviour (ASB) and the reality of the situation is that residents in the community are now more likely to be adversely affected by ASB than become the victim of a crime. This, linked with vandalism and drug and alcohol related disorder, will emerge as one of our top priorities and, in addition to making full use of enforcement legislation, we will constantly seek examples of good practice around the country, in case successful initiatives in other areas might be implemented locally.

Quality of Life Issues

- **Fear of Crime**

Although Rochford tends to be one of the safer parts of Essex in which to reside, there remains a disproportionate fear of becoming a victim of crime so it is important that the CDRP addresses this fear and finds ways to place matters in perspective.

- Hate Crime

We are a multi-cultural community and although the number of black and ethnic minority groups in Rochford is comparatively low, there are still incidents involving racially motivated crime or harassment. We will continue to promote cultural diversity and take positive action when victims of racial crime or harassment come forward.

The same applies to harassment or crime directed at individuals because of their sexual orientation or because they are disabled.

- Supporting Victims of Crime

South Essex Victim Support are members of the CDRP and, assisted by other agencies as necessary, will continue to provide advice and assistance to victims and also provide support to victims and witnesses in the law courts.

- Road and Fire Safety

The CDRP recognises the potentially catastrophic effects of negligence in connection with road safety and fire safety in the home. Whilst it may become difficult in the future to provide financial support for such projects, it is important that they remain on the agenda and the CDRP will do everything possible to ensure that public awareness is maintained.

- Bullying

We will continue to promote and support initiatives that address bullying in an effort to improve the quality of life of those people, often the young, who are subjected to any form of bullying.

Census Information:

The following sets of information were obtained from the 2001 Census and will have changed over the past three years.

Households

Number of households with residents	31952
Number of people per hectare	4.6
Average household size	2.44
Vacant household spaces	754
Owner-occupied	27400
Without central heating	1084
Without own bath/shower & toilet	90

Population

Total number of people	78489
Males	38139
Females	40350
Aged 0 to 15	15518
Aged 16 to 74	56720
Aged 75 and over	6251
Marital status (all people aged 16 and over)	
Single people (never married)	14249
Married or re-married people	37565
Separated or divorced	5977
Widowed	5180
Transport (all households)	
Households without car/van	5240
Household with 1 car or van	13476
Household with 2 or more cars/vans	13236

Employment

These statistics relate to people between 16 and 74 years of age.

Employed	36672
Unemployed	1180
Long-term unemployed	318
Student (economically active)	1217
Retired	9276
Student (economically inactive)	1377
Looking after home/family	4090
Permanently sick or disabled	1767
Other inactive	1141
Travel to work (all people aged 16-74 in employment)	
Travel to work by car	23949
Travel to work by public transport	7273

Ethnicity

<u>Ethnic Group (all people)</u>	
White	77165
Largest minority ethnic group(s)	Asian (241)
<u>Place of birth (all people)</u>	
Born in UK	76140
Born elsewhere in EU (inc Rep Ireland)	927
Born outside EU	1422
<u>Religion (all people)</u>	
Christian	59517
Buddhist	88
Hindu	190
Jewish	240
Muslim	168
Sikh	28
Other	174
No religion	12283
Religion not stated	5801