

## **District Profile**

Thurrock district sits in the south-west of the county, and consists of 20 wards which include the towns of Grays, Chafford Hundred, Tilbury, and Corringham. Thurrock is one of two unitary authorities within the Essex Policing area, alongside Southend.

The district forms part of the West Local Policing Area (LPA) and covers an area of 165 sq. km, 70% of which is green belt land. The south western area of the district has a significant industrial and retail employment. The district is bordered to the south by the River Thames, which gives the district 18 miles of riverfront.

The population of Thurrock is approximately 159,700\* (Office for National Statistics estimate, 2010). The district includes 64,380 dwellings, which makes it one of the most populated districts in the county. Currently, there are numerous housing and infrastructure developments underway within the district, including significant housing developments in the South Ockendon and Purfleet areas.

The district has a number of iconic sites and is home to Lakeside, one of the UK's premier shopping destinations with four department stores and over 250 shops, restaurants and cafes.

### Dubai Ports World

The London Gateway is located on the former Shell Haven site in Thurrock, Essex. The 1,500 acre (6.1 sq. km) site is a former oil refinery, which closed in 1999. However, the site has been used as a port since the 16th century. Dubai Ports World (DP World) received government approval in May 2007 for the development of the London Gateway and was also given the go-ahead for construction of the port. Work started in February 2010.

DP World is planning to invest over £1.5bn to develop the project over a 10-15 year development period. It predicts that London Gateway will deliver about 12,000 new direct jobs, benefit the local and regional economy, and assist the government's Thames Gateway regeneration initiative. In addition, there will be over 30,000 indirect and induced jobs.

The jurisdiction of the new port will remain with Essex Police and already communications are underway to establish and forge good working relationships.

## **Overview of Thurrock policing teams**

The following policing model operates within the Thurrock area.

### Neighbourhood Policing

The Thurrock district is split into two neighbourhood policing areas with the East Team operating from Tilbury Police Station and the West Team operating from South Ockendon Police Station. Each of the teams has its own departmental Inspector and Sergeant. They are supported by dedicated neighbourhood Constables who work with communities and partnership agencies to find solutions to community issues. They are also supported by Police Community Support Officers across the district who work with the neighbourhood policing team.

Lakeside shopping centre has its own dedicated policing team which forms part of the West Neighbourhood Policing Team. The officers are part funded by Capital Shopping Centres who own the Lakeside centre.

### Neighbourhood Crime Team

The Neighbourhood Crime Teams have responsibility for the investigation of volume crime, crime reduction and general policing duties.

### Response and Patrol Teams

The Response and Patrol teams in Thurrock deal with priority and emergency incidents. The hub also covers Brentwood District.

### The Community Safety Partnership

The Community Safety Partnership team consists of police officers, a Licensing Officer and a LPA ASB officer who work closely with community partners in promoting a cohesive and joined up work ethic. This role is further enhanced with Thurrock Council's unitary status.

## **Crime Data for Thurrock district**

At the meeting on April 2nd, 2014, there will be detailed discussion about the crime trends and the facts which lie underneath the headline figures.

Crime figures for Thurrock district show that reported crime is decreasing, with 360 fewer offences between 1<sup>st</sup> March 2013 and 28<sup>th</sup> February 2014 compared to the previous twelve month period.

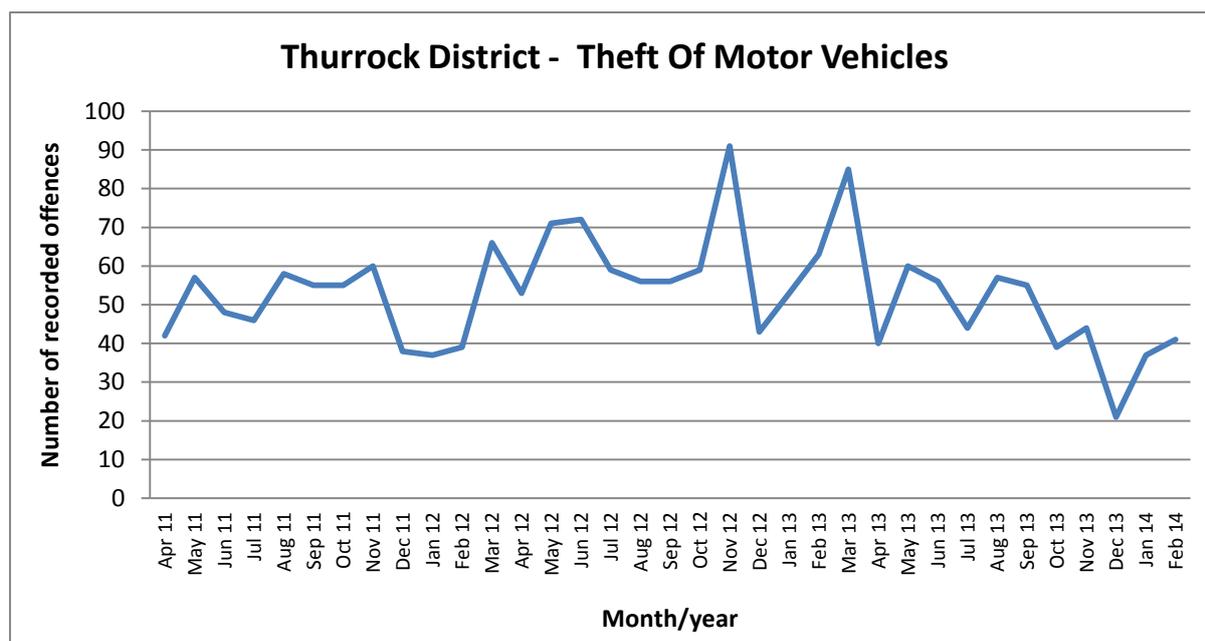
Comparing the same time periods, areas of note include:

- All Crime has decreased by 3.1% (360 fewer offences);
- Burglary in a Dwelling has decreased by 7.7% (67 fewer offences);
- Theft and Taking Motor of Vehicles has decreased by 22.4% (166 fewer offences);
- Theft From Motor Vehicles has decreased by 6.0% (78 fewer offences);
- Robbery has decreased by 19.2% (30 fewer offences);
- Anti-Social Behaviour has decreased by 6.4% (375 fewer incidents);
- Shoplifting has increased by 25.9% (256 more offences);
- Other Violence Against the Person has increased by 7.8% (164 more offences);
- Serious Sexual Crime has increased by 13.0% (17 more offences).

### All Crime overview

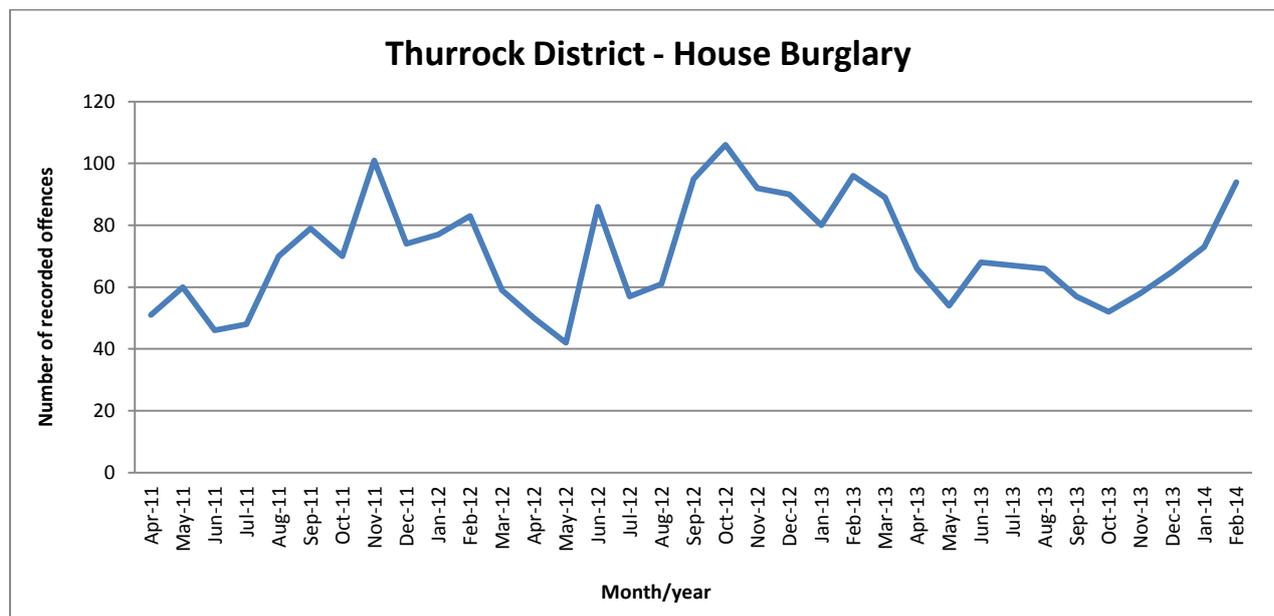
The graphs showing specific crime trends in the document below provide data back to April 2011.

#### Theft of Motor Vehicles



A local policing operation has been running since February 2013 to tackle theft from vehicles. This operation has been fundamental in reducing vehicle crime (see chart above) and has achieved some excellent results. During the period 1<sup>st</sup> March 2013 to 28<sup>th</sup> February 2014, there were 78 fewer thefts from vehicles and 166 fewer thefts of motor vehicles than during the same period the previous year.

## House Burglary



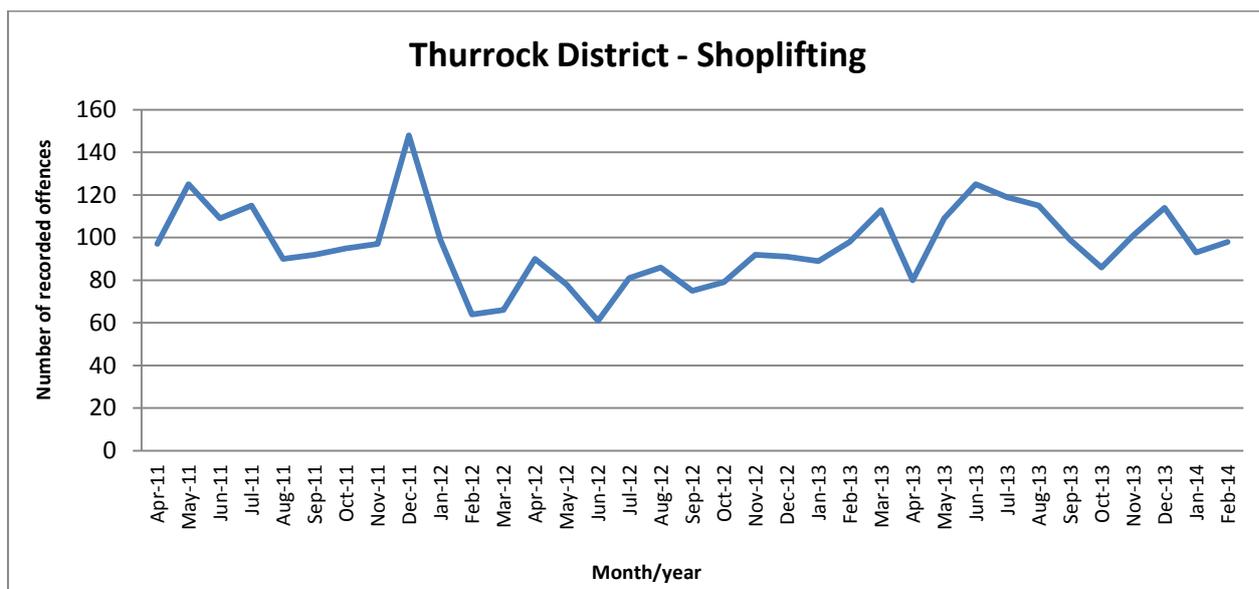
Essex Police has been running 'Operation Insight', which is a policing operation that is underway forcewide to identify burglary 'hot spots' and focus resources on these locations.

Thurrock also has a dedicated proactive burglary team which aims to reduce offences of burglary through a range of policing tactics that focus on burglary hotspots and targets those people who are suspected of committing burglary offences.

Burglary is one of the Community Safety Partnership objectives and this type of crime is being tackled through an integrated partnership approach. In Thurrock, there has been Community Safety Partnership activity and days of action which have focussed on providing crime prevention advice and re-assurance to members of the public.

## Shoplifting

During the reporting period 1<sup>st</sup> March 2013 to 28<sup>th</sup> February 2014, offences of shoplifting increased in Thurrock by 25.9% (256 offences). The majority of these offences occurred in the Lakeside Basin area and in Grays town centre. The challenging economic environment has resulted in some stores reducing numbers of staff - in particular, security staff, which is likely to have affected the number of offences occurring.



Both areas are subject to enhanced policing and have dedicated policing teams in place. A local policing operation identifies repeat offences at various shops across the area. A bespoke plan is then created with the shop manager in order to reduce the number of shoplifting offences. Whilst we always seek to prevent crime occurring, there remains a strong focus on bringing offenders to justice for shoplifting, with good progress made in this regard.

### Working closely with everyone in Thurrock

Thurrock unitary authority is supported by a strong Community Safety Partnership (CSP), working closely together to keep communities safe, find solutions to local problems, and reduce crime and the fear of crime.

The CSP has targeted 5 hot spot areas of burglary providing crime prevention advice to over 2,000 residents

In response to concerns around anti-social behaviour and under-age drinking, Essex Police, in conjunction with community partners, Trading Standards and licensing teams, promoted a Community Alcohol Partnership Scheme (CAPS) in Corringham and developed diversionary tactics to deter young people from participating in alcohol related crime and disorder. This work included test purchase operations with licenced retailers, deployment of the Community Bar and Bus to the location and encouragement for young people to use the newly opened youth community centre in Victoria Road, Stanford-le-Hope. Since the autumn, there have been early indications of a drop in anti-social behaviour and underage drinking in the target areas.

**Your feedback is most welcome.**

Should you wish to contact the PCC about this meeting or any other matter please e-mail:

[pcc@essex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:pcc@essex.pnn.police.uk)

or write to:

Police and Crime Commissioner for Essex  
3 Hoffmanns Way  
Chelmsford, CM1 1GU

News alerts will usually be tweeted via the Essex PCC Twitter account:  
<https://twitter.com/essexpcc>

You can learn more about the PCC's work at:  
[www.essex.pcc.police.uk](http://www.essex.pcc.police.uk)

The neighbourhood policing teams will always act on intelligence received from the community. If you have information regarding any criminal activity please either call your local team or contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. Crimestoppers is an anonymous line where you can report any criminal activity.