



# Rural Update

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# Overall rural crime in County Durham



- The crime and incident rates in the deepest rural areas of County Durham and Darlington are much lower than for the force area as a whole
- County Durham's rural areas are some of the safest places statistically to live and work nationwide.
- The reported crime rate has increased slightly over the past year, whilst the incident rate has fallen

# PCC's rural pledges



The Police and Crime Plan commits to **'improve community safety in rural areas'** and the vision for the PCC's Rural Statement is:

'People living in the more rural parts of County Durham and Darlington will feel safe. They will know that their concerns about crime and anti-social behaviour will be understood and addressed by the police and partners'

# Issues in our area



- Poaching
- Equine issues
- Thefts of farm equipment
- All-terrain vehicle theft
- Domestic abuse
- Missing from home
- Serious and Organised rural crime (SORC) landscape

# Technological Response



- Drones
- ANPR
- Dot Peen
- Keep in the know
- WhatsApp
- Twitter and Facebook
- What 3 Words

# Strategic/ Partner Response



- PCSVs
- Neighbourhood policing teams-  
Establishment of PCSO SPOCs.
- Community and partner  
engagement- invigorate  
community
- Farmwatch/ Ruralwatch
- Community Safety Responders
- PACT
- Rural Affairs Strategic Group
- Community Speedwatch van

# Drones



- After PCC funding drones are available to use should officers need them
- Force capability is developing; currently there are a limited number of trained pilots
- the force can call upon 24/7 roads capability

# Serious and Organised Rural Crime



- Work on understanding the landscape continues to develop at an unprecedented pace
- Policing in silos for SORC is becoming a thing of the past
- Immediate priority response times in rural areas is currently operating at 85% year to date- higher than the urban category counterpart



# Theft



## All-terrain vehicle theft

- Has increased across northern force areas
- Specific work is being undertaken to understand and combat this

## Agricultural plant and equipment theft

- The chances of recovery can be slim- due to the remoteness of the crimes
- Crime prevention and target hardening techniques are being prioritised

# Overall Outcomes



- Safer rural communities
- Enhanced public engagement
- Increased public confidence in the police
- Empowered communities
- Strong partnership working
- Raised profile of rural affairs
- Embedded rural focus into policing culture



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