

YEOVIL TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the **TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber, Town House, 19 Union Street, Yeovil on **Tuesday 7 January 2014**

(7.30pm – 8.40pm)

Present:

Manny Roper – Mayor
Martin Bailey
Peter Brock
Clive Davis
Bridget Dollard
David Dollard
Jon Gleeson
Dave Greene

Peter Gubbins
John Hann
Mike Lock
Tony Lock
David Recardo
Darren Shutler
Alan Smith

Also present:

Alan Tawse
Chief Inspector Tim Coombe
Inspector Jamie Rees

Town Clerk
Avon and Somerset Constabulary
Avon and Somerset Constabulary

(Prior to the start of the meeting, the Mayor's Chaplain led those Members of the Council in attendance in prayers on behalf of the Townspeople of Yeovil).

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS DISPLAY COMPETITION

The Mayor announced the winner and the runners-up of the recent Town Council Christmas Lights Display competition, and presented prizes to those in attendance:

*First Lorraine and Tony Cox of Rowan Way
Runner-up Emily Oakes of Highfield Road*

The Mayor thanked everyone who had taken part in the competition, which had been extended to include the adjoining Parish of Yeovil Without and had again attracted a high standard of entry.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments from members of the public.

8/396 MINUTES

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 3 December 2013, copies of which had been circulated, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

8/397 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Kris Castle, J Vincent Chainey, Tristan Cobb, Tony Fife, Andrew Kendall and Wes Read.

8/398 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

8/399 **MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR'S RECENT AND FORTHCOMING ENGAGEMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Details of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor's recent and forthcoming engagements and announcements were attached to the Agenda.

8/400 **CORRESPONDENCE**

The Town Clerk reported receipt of the following item of correspondence:-

- Letter of thanks from the Rector of St John's Church regarding a recent grant award.

8/401 **AVON AND SOMERSET CONSTABULARY**

Chief Inspector Tim Coombe of Avon and Somerset Constabulary gave a presentation on current issues facing the Police in Yeovil and the Force's plans for the future (a copy of the slides used during his presentation is attached to these Minutes).

Tim began by outlining various changes that had been made to the operational structure of the Police across the Force area, and he set out the Senior Leadership Team that had been established for Somerset.

He then drew attention to recorded crime figures and detection rates across a range of criminal activities to help illustrate how the Somerset East Policing District was performing in Yeovil. These included a reduction of almost 5% in recorded crime over the past year, which had continued the downward trend experienced over the past five year period.

Tim referred to the reduction of almost 4% in violent crime since 2011/12 and indicated that detection rates for this type of crime had increased by 9% over the same period. He also gave an explanation of various trends and outlined a number of responses and strategies that the Police had adopted to deal with adverse patterns of crime.

Tim indicated that the current overall detection rate in Yeovil had continued to improve and had achieved 42.9% in 2012/13. He drew attention to the key role played by the Town Centre CCTV system, which not only acted as a deterrent but also helped the Police to detect and solve a number of crimes.

He also referred to the key role played by initiatives such as Radiolink in helping to tackle crime in the Town Centre, and drew attention to a dedicated action plan that had been put in place to improve further the current shoplifting detection rate of 66%.

Attention was also drawn to the public satisfaction rate of almost 73% in the Avon and Somerset Constabulary, and the overall satisfaction rate of 85.5% amongst victims of crime in the Somerset East Policing District.

Tim also drew attention to the Police and Crime Commissioner's priorities and gave details of a range of activities and initiatives that were currently being undertaken in Yeovil to help achieve these objectives.

Finally, he referred to the challenges that lay ahead and the action that was being taken in response.

During the ensuing discussion, reference was made to the increased use of social media by the Police to help prevent and detect crime and to help ascertain the views of the public on issues important to them.

In response to a query, Tim drew attention to various changes in specialist teams across the Force area and the use of a number of properties under their control, both of which he explained were under review to ensure that the Police provided an effective and efficient service that met their strategic objectives. He added that greater emphasis was being placed on integrating neighbourhood teams and that the development of multi-agency working was a key tool in delivering improved services.

Reference was also made to action taken by the Police in relation to specific offences including the sale of stolen metal for scrap and the use of mobile 'phones by motorists whilst driving. In response to a request, Tim undertook to investigate complaints about motorists speeding in Lysander Road and vehicles using Upper Hendford and the High Street/Borough for unauthorised access.

The Mayor thanked Tim for his interesting and informative presentation, and it was

RESOLVED

that the matter be noted.

8/402 REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES AND OTHER MEETINGS

The Chairmen of the various Committees of the Council presented the Minutes from the previous cycle of meetings, drawing attention to specific references to Council, any matters of particular interest and answering any questions.

Planning and Licensing Committee

2 December 2013

8/403 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Members who represented the Town Council on outside bodies were given an opportunity to report on any matters of interest.

8/404 PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments from members of the public.

Presentation to Yeovil Town Council

7th January 2014

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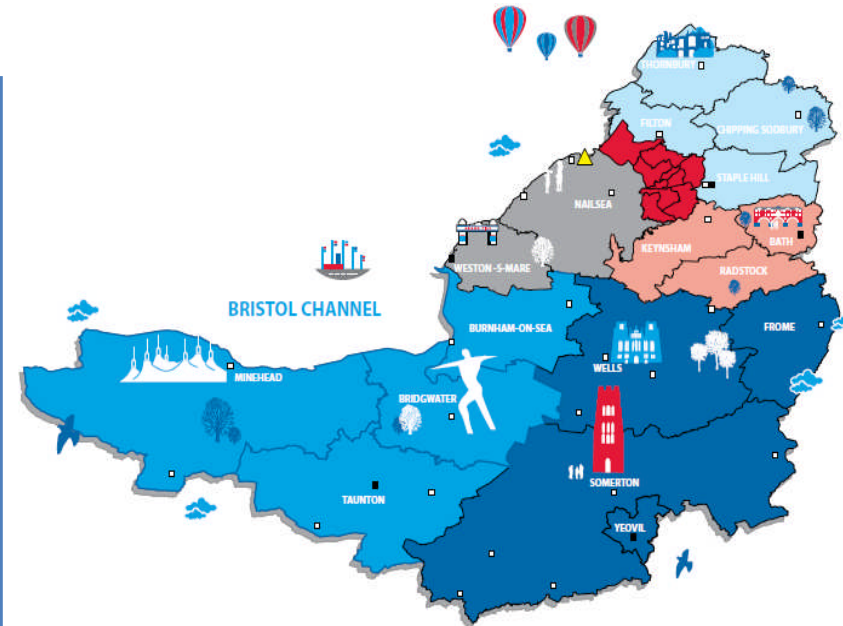
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Our current operational structure has changed – moved from 6 to 3 Commander-led areas

3 Commander-led areas are:

- Bristol
- North East (B&NES and South Glos Local Policing Areas)
- Somerset (Somerset East, Somerset West and North Somerset Local Policing Areas)



Each Commander-led area is led by a Chief Superintendent

Each Local Policing Area is led by a Chief Inspector with oversight from a Superintendent.

MAP LEGEND

- ▲ POLICE HEADQUARTERS
- DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS
- POLICE STATIONS

DISTRICTS

- BRISTOL
- BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET
- NORTH SOMERSET
- SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE
- SOMERSET EAST
- SOMERSET WEST

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Somerset

Senior Leadership Team



Chief Superintendent Nikki Watson
Somerset Area Commander



Superintendent Ian Wylie



Temp/Superintendent Richard Corrigan



Sue Harze
Finance and Admin Manager



Sue Innes
HR Manager



Detective Chief Inspector Phil Jones
Intelligence, Priority crime investigation,
IMPACT, Targeting, YOT



Detective Chief Inspector Susan Wilshire
Serious and Major crime, Prisoner
handling units



T/Chief Inspector Tim Coombe
Somerset East Operations



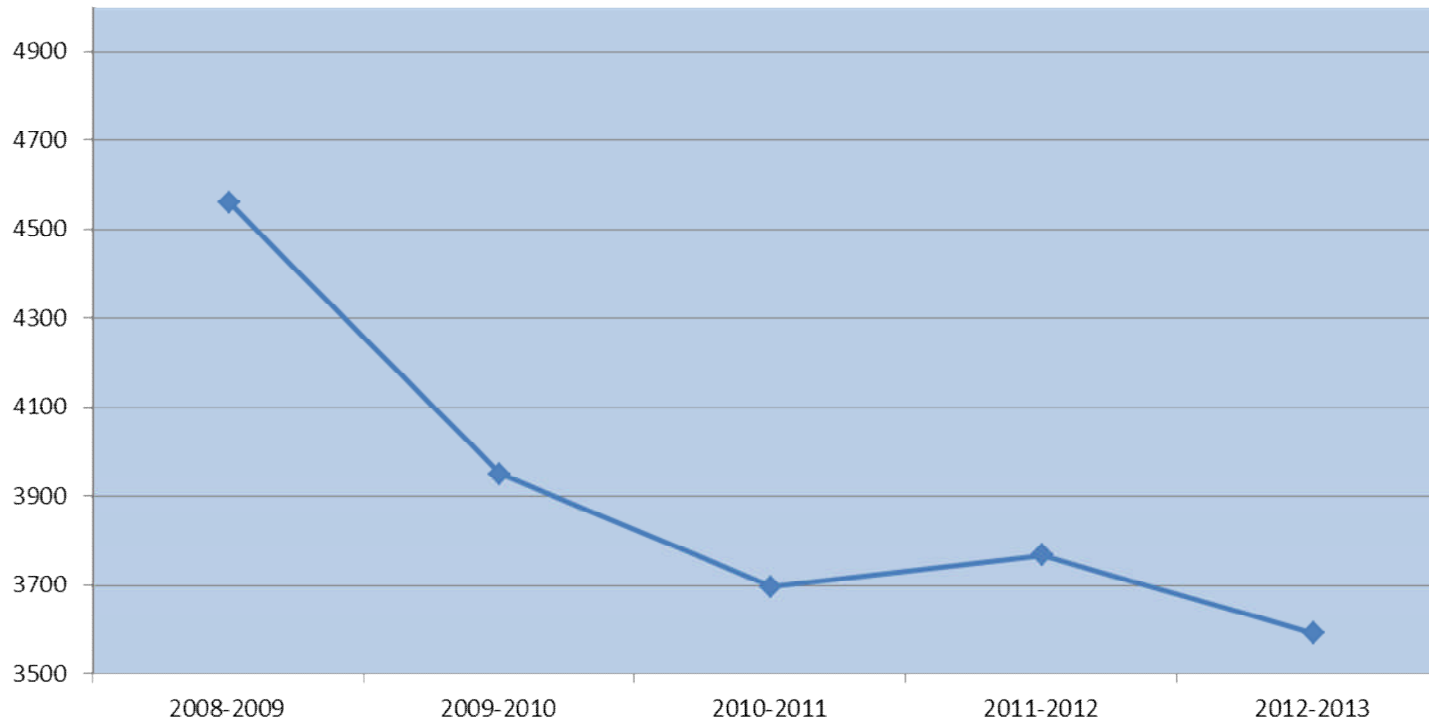
Chief Inspector Peter Saban
Somerset West Operations



Chief Inspector Alex Cohen
North Somerset Operations

Getting Safer

Yeovil – Total number of Crimes Recorded per Year



Average number of offences per day in Yeovil: 9

Average of: 1 Burglary per day; 2 Criminal Damage incidents per day; 1 shoplifting incident per day; 2 Violent crimes per day

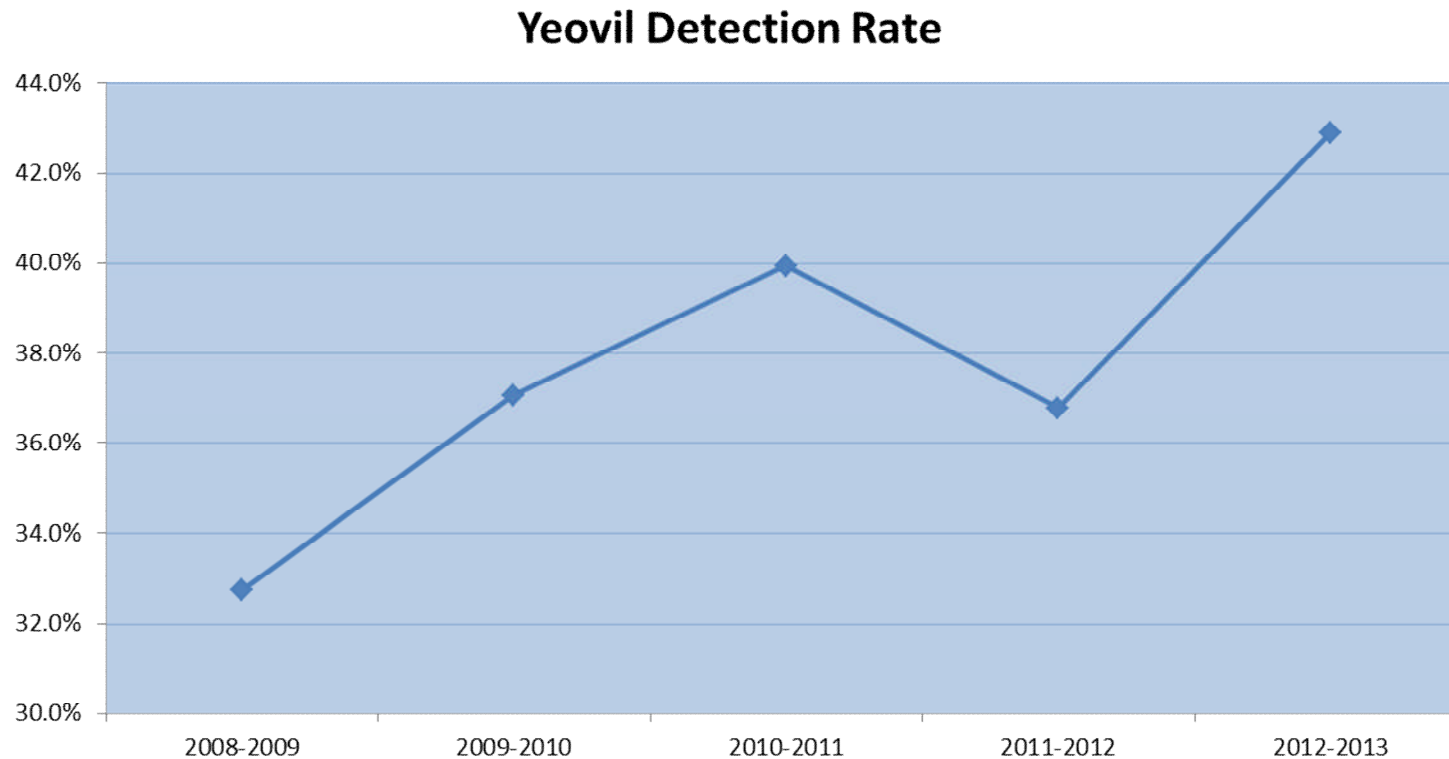
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Solving a Greater Percentage of Crime



Average number of offences solved per day in Yeovil: 4

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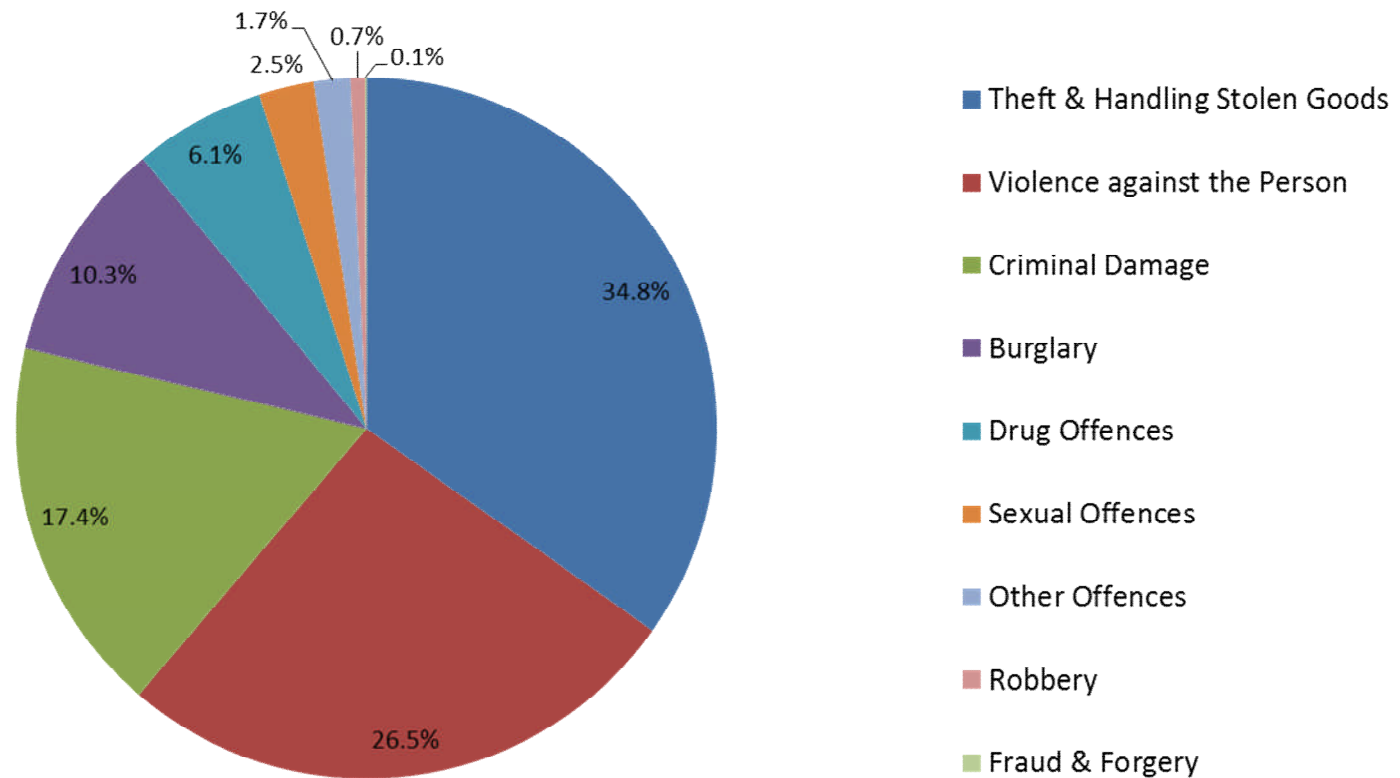
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Breakdown of Crime Year-to-Date

Yeovil - Breakdown of Crimes Year to Date



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Yeovil Outcomes Delivered in 2012/13

Crime Reduction

-4.6%

Recorded crime
reduction across
Yeovil

Public Confidence

72.7%

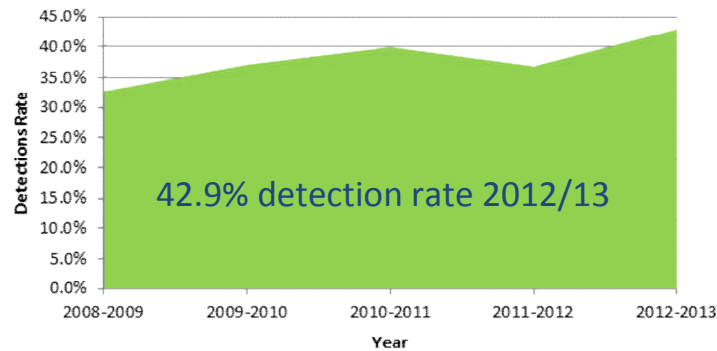
Avon and Somerset residents
who have confidence in their
local police force

(Crime Survey for England and Wales – Dec 2012)

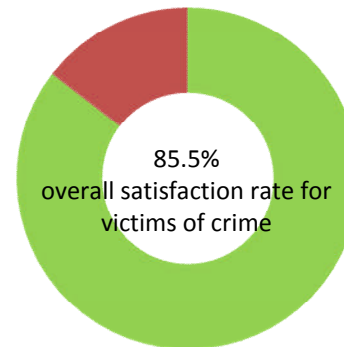
Victim Satisfaction

Crime Investigation

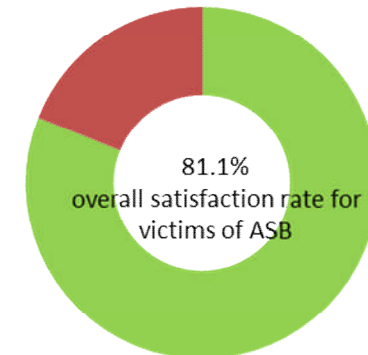
Yeovil Total Crime Detection Rate



Somerset East Victim Satisfaction 2012/13



Somerset East ASB Satisfaction 2012/13



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Police and Crime Commissioner's Priorities

The residents of Somerset will have the highest level of trust and confidence in their Police, Community Safety and Criminal Justice services.

- Reduce the impact that anti-social behaviour has in our communities
- Prevent and reduce violence, particularly violence towards women and children
- Prevent and reduce burglary and fear of burglary in your area
- Ensure victims are at the heart of the criminal justice system

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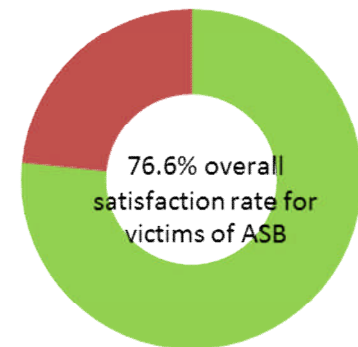


Reducing the Impact of Anti-social Behaviour in Somerset Communities

- We received just over 3200 calls about anti-social behaviour (ASB) in Yeovil in the period 2012-2013 (188 less calls than the previous year)
- We aim to provide the highest possible quality of service to victims of ASB and reduce ASB using a long-term problem solving approach
- We support a multi-agency approach towards the prevention and reduction of ASB
- We specifically identify and prioritise helping vulnerable people and repeat victims of ASB

35.1% ASB cases fully resolved in Somerset East ytd

**Somerset East ASB
Satisfaction Year to Date**



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Preventing and Reducing Violence, Particularly Violence Towards Women and Children

- Reported serious sexual offences increased by 28% last year in Yeovil (an increase of 14 recorded crimes)
- Reported domestic violence increased by just over 1.5% last year
- In partnership with other agencies our aim is to ensure victims of domestic and sexual violence get the support they need, when they need it by:
 - ✓ Working with schools and academies to improve support for children affected by domestic abuse and raise awareness of sexual violence, particularly amongst young people
 - ✓ Driving up reporting of sexual and domestic violence
 - ✓ Delivering robust and effective investigation
 - ✓ Tackling domestic and sexual violence offenders who offend repeatedly.

**Violence against women
& children**

+1.5%

Crimes/ incidents
in Yeovil
year-to-date

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Preventing and Reducing Burglary and Fear of Burglary

- Total burglary increased by just under 15% in the period 2012-2013 in Yeovil (an increase of 24 crimes)
- However, we relentlessly target active burglars and year-to-date Yeovil is showing a 15% reduction in dwelling burglaries and a 30% reduction in non-dwelling burglaries.
- We are also detecting more burglaries with a 7% increase in detection rates this year.
- We aim to attend all reported dwelling burglaries within an hour.
- We aim to tackle and reduce burglary that affects business communities by working with local businesses to improve our understanding and approach to tackling these offences.

**Year-to-date burglary
reduction**

-23.7%

Recorded
burglary across
Yeovil

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Shoplifting

- The number of shoplifting offences in Yeovil remained at the same level in 2012-13, but have shown an increase in levels this year.
- However, this year just over 66% of all Shoplifting offences in Yeovil are detected.
- There is a dedicated action plan in place to further improve the shoplifting detection rate and to reduce the volume of offending.

Criminal Damage

- Criminal damage offences in Yeovil fell by almost 14% last year (over 110 fewer victims) and continues to fall in the current year.
- Detection rate for this type of crime increased by 3.5% last year

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Violence Against the Person

- Violent crime in Yeovil fell by almost 4% last year (over 35 fewer victims) and continues to fall.
- Detection rates for this type of crime increased by over 9% last year
- Somerset operates a positive arrest strategy.
- Yeovil has a night-time economy operation in it's town centre, focusing on ASB and dissuading violent/public order offences.
- Operation Flagstaff has drawn positive comment from many traders and licensees

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Ensuring victims are at the heart of the criminal justice system

- Our aim is to ensure victims are satisfied with the service they receive from us and make sure all victims get the support they need.
- Current satisfaction rates for victims of crime in Somerset East stands at 91.8% and for victims of ASB at nearly 80%

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Challenges

- Continuing to reduce crime
- Improving the level of trust and confidence in local policing
- Ensuring that residents of Yeovil are safe
- Protecting those that are most vulnerable
- Tackling and fully resolving anti-social behaviour
- Reducing budgets
- Improving multi-agency working

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