



Police Annual Report 2025/2026 for ITC Town Meeting

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SECTOR PRIORITIES

- Addressing Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) and Crime: A top priority is tackling persistent, repeat crime and ASB, particularly in town centres. This involves high-visibility and plain-clothes patrols to deter, disrupt, and detect offences, along with working with partners to address the root causes.
- Drug Misuse and Supply: Addressing the use, possession, and supply of controlled substances is a key focus. Police are conducting proactive patrols, stop-searches, and targeting areas associated with drug dealing.
- Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG): reducing serious violence, including sexual violence, domestic abuse, and violence against women and girls, often through educational work with schools.
- Rural Crime: Dealing with crimes impacting rural communities, such as theft of machinery and livestock, is a priority.
- Road Safety: Working with "Vision Zero South West" to reduce road deaths and serious injuries, including tackling speeding and running education for younger drivers.
- Visibility and Engagement: The police are focusing on increasing visibility in town centres, utilizing CCTV, and holding regular public engagement surgeries in markets and villages.

In the last few months, we have done the following well:

- We have attended multiple meetings with One Ilfracombe around long-term problem solving. We have had an active presence in the Town Team, the Poverty Trust Commission, the Trading group.



- We have a new PCSO Lyndsey McDonnell who has been extremely proactive with our schools, local groups and businesses.
- Staffing Levels have been slowly increasing across the North Devon Patch.
- Secured funding through POCA to support for local groups.
- We have been supported with Trading standards to close the Mini Market in the High Street and will continue to target illegal Tobacco and Vape sales with any new Shops.
- New speed camera on St Brannocks Road.
- ASB steering group has been really useful to link in with Councillors and partners like the Licensing Team and North Devon council.
- Pop up Police station (Community Engagement Van) going out to key areas every month and bring the police to the community.
- Pulse patrols most Mornings at key times.
- Active engagement with ASB formal escalation sanctions with CPN, CPW and CBO's. We have working with the ASB officer to make sure people are formally processed through these with active breaches being followed and prosecuted.
- DC Alert is a very good means of updating the community, we hope to promote this more. This community messaging service allows a two-way community messaging system.

What has not gone as well:

- We do have a large amount of under reporting of crime. This can be a lack of trust in the police or a misunderstanding of how to report crime. Historically a problem with 101 and delays in answering the phone, there is a new and improved online reporting mechanism now which in place called One online Home and UK PAC for shop lifting. The impact of not reporting crime will lead to a reduced policing presence and a lack of additional funds like Hot Spot funding.
- There have been significant staffing issues throughout North Devon over the last few months due to retention of staff and this has led to staff being asked to cover a wider patch which



has had an impact on our response times and successful offender management.

- Delays with youth Criminal Justice due to the Child Centred Approach which has left Victims of crime without outcomes as quickly as we would like.
- Delays with the criminal Justice process and the changing to the sentencing act will mean prison sentences will not occur as often, moving forward.