Essex residents are being urged to voice their concerns to help police and local authorities tackle crime and anti-social behaviour.

The anonymous Community Safety Survey by Safer Essex asks a range of questions to focus multi-agency efforts in different parts of the county.

In 2024, 46% of respondents said they had been a victim of crime – an increase of 18% from 2023. 84% of respondents identified burglary as their biggest concern, followed by 83% saying theft from their vehicle.

However, there have been nearly 9,000 fewer offences overall in the last year and 20,000 fewer over the last five years, according to Essex Police.

82% named fraud and scams as a top concern, which is a rise of 5% from 2023. This is consistent with a 6.1% increase in fraud crime between 2023 and 2024, [according to Action Fraud](https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/).

The rise represents 9,604 fraud offences in 12 months - an increase of 552 - and a loss of £68.5 million. As a result, the Multi Agency Approach to Fraud (MAAF) has engaged with residents to [share their experiences.](https://www.essex.gov.uk/news/2025/share-your-experience-fraud)

Residents in Braintree, Rochford, Castle Point and Brentwood showed elevated concerns for crime between 2023 and 2024, despite each district having low or below average crime rates. Some of the main reasons include hearing about crime, police presence and having previously been a victim.

Levels of confidence in identifying and reporting both radicalisation and modern slavery increased between 2023 and 2024. However, the number of people who said they were ‘not confident at all’ also rose.

Essex residents are now being urged to [complete the anonymous Community Safety Survey 2025](https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/equalities-and-partnership/community_safety_survey_2025). The results will help police and local authorities continue to build a picture of crime in Essex and develop solutions.

This has included [new neighbourhood policing teams](https://www.essex.police.uk/news/essex/news/news/2025/may/we-value-our-neighbourhoods-which-is-why-were-increasing-visibility-to-reduce-crime-even-further/) in response to concerns about police presence, as well as the MAAF now coming under Safer Essex for greater cohesion.

This year’s survey will also ask residents what they know about [Crimestoppers](https://www.google.co.uk/aclk?sa=L&ai=DChsSEwjT6vGP5PqNAxW6nVAGHWQVDKIYACICCAEQABoCZGc&co=1&gclid=EAIaIQobChMI0-rxj-T6jQMVup1QBh1kFQyiEAAYASAAEgJbbvD_BwE&category=acrcp_v1_32&sig=AOD64_3CBdq33db-Upf5TO1Pp9owPXJBzQ&q&adurl&ved=2ahUKEwjCneyP5PqNAxURU0EAHbgQHAQQ0Qx6BAgLEAE) and how it works to combat crime.

Residents can take part in this year’s Community Safety Survey until 3 August 2025 at <https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/equalities-and-partnership/community_safety_survey_2025>

**Cllr Peter Schwier AIEMA**

**Cabinet Member for Environment, Waste Reduction & Recycling**

**Chair, East of England Regional Climate Change Forum**