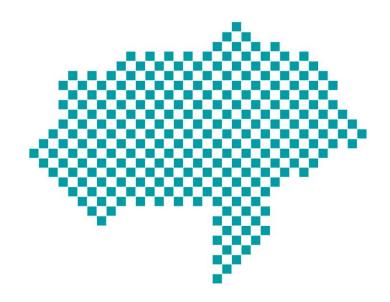
# Police and Crime Commissioner North Yorkshire



Update on the work of the National Rural Crime Network, and future of police funding

SPARSE Rural Assembly, 16th Nov 2015



### **NRCN** Members

- 30 Police and Crime Commissioners
- Countryside Alliance
- NFU Mutual
- Historic England
- CLA
- Crimestoppers
- Farmers Union of Wales

- Neighbourhood Watch
- Farmers Weekly Magazine
- National Community Safety Network
- Facewatch
- Supported by SPARSE

### Rural Crime Survey 2015

- Launched in May 2015
  - Rural crime/ASB in the UK is very under researched
  - Withdrawal of police presence in many rural communities is causing concern
  - How does rural crime/ASB affect communities financially and emotionally
- Over 17,200 responses received from England,
  Wales and Northern Ireland
  - 12,369 from bona fide rural residents or businesses identified for detailed analysis



## **Topline Findings**

- At £800m, the cost dwarfs previous estimates
- Fear of crime is disproportionate to actual crime levels and is increasing
- Rural communities are strong they are putting up and making do as best they can
- Confidence in the police is significantly lower (24%) in rural areas than the national average
- Businesses, hard-pressed families and people close to urban areas are particularly at risk
- The emotional and monetary cost of crime is high
- There is chronic under-reporting and people do not often claim on their insurance



### The cost of crime...

- Financial impact of crime on rural economy is significant
  - True cost is £800 million
  - equivalent to £200 for every household in the countryside
  - The average cost to rural households who are victims of crime is £2,500 and £4,100 for rural businesses
- There is also an emotional cost
  - Anger, frustration
  - A 'viscious' circle leading to under reporting and increasing lack of confidence, perceived poor levels of response and under reporting...
  - One in four victims did not report further crimes



## Fear of crime is increasing

- Despite lower 'threat, risk and harm' in comparison to urban areas, people in rural areas are more afraid of crime
  - 39% of rural people are very or fairly worried about becoming a victim of crime, compared to 19% nationally
  - Rural businesses are the most fearful of becoming victims of crime, with 51% very or fairly fearful,
  - Closely followed by younger families
  - This contrasts with 'convention' which often has older people as the most worried



## Low satisfaction with policing

- 39% of rural people rate the police as good or excellent
- This figure is 63% nationally
- Among rural businesses the figure was just
  32%

### But rural communities are resilient

### Rural communities are resilient

- Clear community spirit, and getting stronger
- Good base for engagement

### Local Authorities need to pay heed

- Two issues of great concern not 'crimes'
- 63% of rural people concerned about road safety
- 61% of rural people concerned about fly-tipping



# **Implications**

The NRCN is are calling for...

- 1. Fair funding for rural policing
- 2. Encourage reporting of all incidents
- 3. Police, government and other partners must work better together
- 4. Improved targeting of resources
- 5. Greater focus on 'what works' and best practice
- 6. Improved local engagement and working
- 7. A better service for rural businesses



# **Police Funding**

- CSR announcements on 25<sup>th</sup> November
  - Policing expecting between 25% and 40% funding reductions
  - On top of reductions in the last CSR
  - Full impact not known until late 2015, early 2016

# Funding formula

- Government had been consulting on this
  - Commissioners agreed this needed to be done. Current formula doesn't work/too complicated
- Nov 9<sup>th</sup> Minister announces the process is being halted, and delayed one financial year
  - This followed 'mistakes' in the process
- Many Commissioners felt this consultation flawed from the outset
  - Unfair, unsustainable and not transparent



### As was proposed

- Population volume 30%
  - Does not account for visitor numbers. Approx overnight visitors to North Yorkshire are 18 million
- Households with no adults employed and dependent children
   31%
  - Much more relevant to urban forces than rural
- Urban Adversity 31%
  - Clear focus on urban
  - No acknowledgement of rural adversity, or rural vulnerabilities e.g. isolation (this is also a wider problem)
- Volume and density of bars 8%
  - Clearly favours small forces which in turn increases 'volume and density'.
  - Presumes far too much about the impact of licensed premises on policing

#### CLEAR FOCUS ON URBAN 'DEMAND'

### Funding formula concerns

- As it stood, before being halted:
  - Top 8 financial losers ALL rural forces/ NRCN members (aside from North Wales!)
  - Of the £132 million redistributed <u>away</u> from forces, 80% taken from rural forces
    - Average loss for rural force = £6.2m
    - Average loss for urban force = £5.2m
  - Rural forces do gain too, but to a lesser extent



### Funding formula (continued...)

- Proposals
  - Set up an independent Panel to look at police funding
  - Needs to be seen in the round
    - National, regional, local
    - Local powers to raise money
    - Future demand
    - Collaboration, both force/force AND blue light

