# Havering council urged to unlock millions for urgent CCTV upgrade after rise in Romford crime



Following a recent attack on a 15-year-old girl in Romford, calls have intensified for urgent action to improve street safety across Havering. The incident, which involved a rape in St Edwards Way, has heightened fears among local residents, particularly women and mothers who express growing concern about their safety while walking through certain areas, such as subways, at night. Despite the Metropolitan Police's ongoing investigation, no arrests have been made so far.

Conservative councillor David Taylor, who represents the affected St Edwards ward, has urged the council to deploy unspent funds toward enhancing security measures, particularly by expanding operational CCTV coverage. Taylor emphasized that funds for such improvements exist but have yet to be fully utilised. Drawing on a recent Freedom of Information request, he pointed out that around a third of the borough’s CCTV cameras are not functioning, with 23 of 72 cameras broken. He also believes that money accumulated from the community infrastructure levy (CIL), which the council collects from developers for local projects, could be channelled into upgrading the borough's surveillance systems. Latest data shows millions of pounds from this levy remain unallocated, although council officials indicate some portion has already been invested.

In response, Havering Council leader Ray Morgon stressed the authority's commitment to public safety and highlighted ongoing projects with the Metropolitan Police, including council-funded officers specifically tasked with community safety. Morgon outlined a £3 million investment currently being made to upgrade the CCTV network, including a new control room near Romford's Town Hall, with an aim for all cameras to be fully operational soon. He noted that £750,000 of CIL funds have been dedicated to this CCTV upgrade, which forms part of the broader ‘Where We Live’ campaign designed to foster community pride and security. While Morgon supported further initiatives such as police-community summits, he also cautioned that these require careful balancing of resources and staff priorities.

Statistics underline rising concerns about safety in Romford’s town centre. Reported violent and sexual offences increased to 81 in April, up from 74 the previous year and 70 in 2023. Anti-social behaviour offences have nearly doubled over two years, reaching 64 in April 2025 compared to only 28 in 2023. These troubling trends amplify the urgency cited by local representatives.

This broader context includes ongoing debates about park safety and after-hours security. Cllr Taylor recently launched a petition advocating for locked gates at parks after dark and CCTV installations at park entrances to curb anti-social behaviour. The concerns echo those raised by Andrew Rosindell, the local MP, who criticised the council’s past cost-cutting measures, arguing they have contributed to a spike in serious crimes. Rosindell has repeatedly called for improved policing resources in Havering and a more equitable funding settlement to reflect the borough's demographic challenges, which include both significant elderly and young populations.

Community safety initiatives continue beyond surveillance enhancements. Collaborations between the council’s CCTV team and police have led to successful interventions, including the seizure of dangerous weapons and enforcement actions against environmental crimes like fly-tipping. The council has also introduced schemes such as 'Ask Angela' to support residents feeling vulnerable in social venues.

Amid these efforts, Havering Council has sought residents' input through surveys to identify priority crime issues and tailor prevention strategies accordingly. The local community’s anxiety has been compounded by recent knife attacks and violent incidents, reinforcing the pressing demand for tangible improvements in public safety measures.

The current situation clearly highlights a critical juncture for Havering, balancing investments in technology, personnel, and community engagement to restore a sense of security in Romford and beyond. The effectiveness of these combined efforts will be closely watched as residents seek reassurance that they can walk their streets and use public spaces without fear.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.yellowad.co.uk/councillor-calls-for-cctv-funding-after-teen-attacked-in-romford/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=councillor-calls-for-cctv-funding-after-teen-attacked-in-romford), [[7]](https://www.romfordrecorder.co.uk/news/23535468.havering-people-asked-crime-community-safety-views/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.yellowad.co.uk/councillor-calls-for-cctv-funding-after-teen-attacked-in-romford/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=councillor-calls-for-cctv-funding-after-teen-attacked-in-romford), [[3]](https://thehaveringdaily.co.uk/2025/02/14/romford-councillor-launches-petition-for-safer-parks-and-closing-gates/), [[4]](https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKLBH/bulletins/3748b00/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.yellowad.co.uk/councillor-calls-for-cctv-funding-after-teen-attacked-in-romford/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=councillor-calls-for-cctv-funding-after-teen-attacked-in-romford), [[2]](https://www.havering.gov.uk/news/article/1522/where-we-live-cctv-%E2%80%93-the-eyes-of-the-borough), [[4]](https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKLBH/bulletins/3748b00/)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.yellowad.co.uk/councillor-calls-for-cctv-funding-after-teen-attacked-in-romford/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=councillor-calls-for-cctv-funding-after-teen-attacked-in-romford), [[7]](https://www.romfordrecorder.co.uk/news/23535468.havering-people-asked-crime-community-safety-views/)
* Paragraph 5 – [[3]](https://thehaveringdaily.co.uk/2025/02/14/romford-councillor-launches-petition-for-safer-parks-and-closing-gates/), [[5]](https://www.rosindell.com/news/havering-daily-poorly-thought-out-council-cost-cutting-has-enabled-serious-crimes-occur-within), [[6]](https://www.rosindell.com/news/andrew-rosindell-calls-more-funding-havering)
* Paragraph 6 – [[4]](https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKLBH/bulletins/3748b00/), [[7]](https://www.romfordrecorder.co.uk/news/23535468.havering-people-asked-crime-community-safety-views/)
* Paragraph 7 – [[1]](https://www.yellowad.co.uk/councillor-calls-for-cctv-funding-after-teen-attacked-in-romford/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=councillor-calls-for-cctv-funding-after-teen-attacked-in-romford), [[7]](https://www.romfordrecorder.co.uk/news/23535468.havering-people-asked-crime-community-safety-views/)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.yellowad.co.uk/councillor-calls-for-cctv-funding-after-teen-attacked-in-romford/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=councillor-calls-for-cctv-funding-after-teen-attacked-in-romford> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.havering.gov.uk/news/article/1522/where-we-live-cctv-%E2%80%93-the-eyes-of-the-borough> - Havering Council has invested nearly £3 million in upgrading its CCTV network, including a new state-of-the-art control room near the Town Hall in Romford. This initiative aims to enhance support for police and community safety officers, with the upgraded system already assisting in crime prevention and successful prosecutions. The funding primarily comes from the Housing Revenue Account, supplemented by the Community Infrastructure Levy and the General Fund. The project is part of the 'Where We Live' campaign, which seeks to empower residents to feel proud and safe in the borough.
3. <https://thehaveringdaily.co.uk/2025/02/14/romford-councillor-launches-petition-for-safer-parks-and-closing-gates/> - Councillor David Taylor has launched a petition calling for Havering Council to enhance safety in the borough's parks by locking gates after hours and installing CCTV at entrances and exits. This move follows debates on anti-social behaviour in parks, particularly in Romford, where incidents have occurred both during the day and at night. Councillor Taylor emphasizes the need for immediate action to ensure parks are safe for all residents, highlighting the importance of these green spaces to the community's character.
4. <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKLBH/bulletins/3748b00/> - The 'Safer Havering Autumn/Winter 2023' newsletter highlights collaborative efforts between Havering Council's CCTV team and the Romford Town Centre Police Team to enhance public safety. Notably, CCTV monitoring led to the seizure of a dangerous weapon from the streets. Additionally, the council's environmental enforcement teams, in partnership with the CCTV team, have targeted fly-tipping, resulting in over 50 reported incidents and £3,600 in Fixed Penalty Notices over a six-week period. The 'Ask Angela' initiative is also introduced to help residents feel safe when out in the borough's venues.
5. <https://www.rosindell.com/news/havering-daily-poorly-thought-out-council-cost-cutting-has-enabled-serious-crimes-occur-within> - Andrew Rosindell M.P. criticizes Havering Council's cost-cutting measures, arguing they have led to serious crimes occurring within public spaces. He calls for the council to change its policy and start locking park gates after hours, a simple solution that could address many issues affecting parks. Rosindell also expresses concern over the lack of police resources in Havering and outer London boroughs, stating that residents are not receiving the police coverage they pay for, with resources often diverted to inner London areas.
6. <https://www.rosindell.com/news/andrew-rosindell-calls-more-funding-havering> - Andrew Rosindell M.P. has called for a fairer funding settlement for Havering to ensure basic services can operate effectively. He highlights the borough's unique demographic, with both one of the oldest and youngest populations in London, and argues that current funding does not reflect these factors. Rosindell urges the government to consider the needs of outer London boroughs like Havering, which often receive less funding compared to inner London areas, impacting the quality of services provided to residents.
7. <https://www.romfordrecorder.co.uk/news/23535468.havering-people-asked-crime-community-safety-views/> - Havering Council has launched a survey to gather residents' views on crime and safety in the borough. Conducted by the Havering Community Safety Partnership, the survey aims to identify issues that need prioritisation and find effective means to prevent crime. Questions cover topics such as anti-social behaviour and vehicle crime. The initiative follows a spate of knife attacks in Romford, including a stabbing in South Street in February 2025, highlighting the community's concerns about safety.