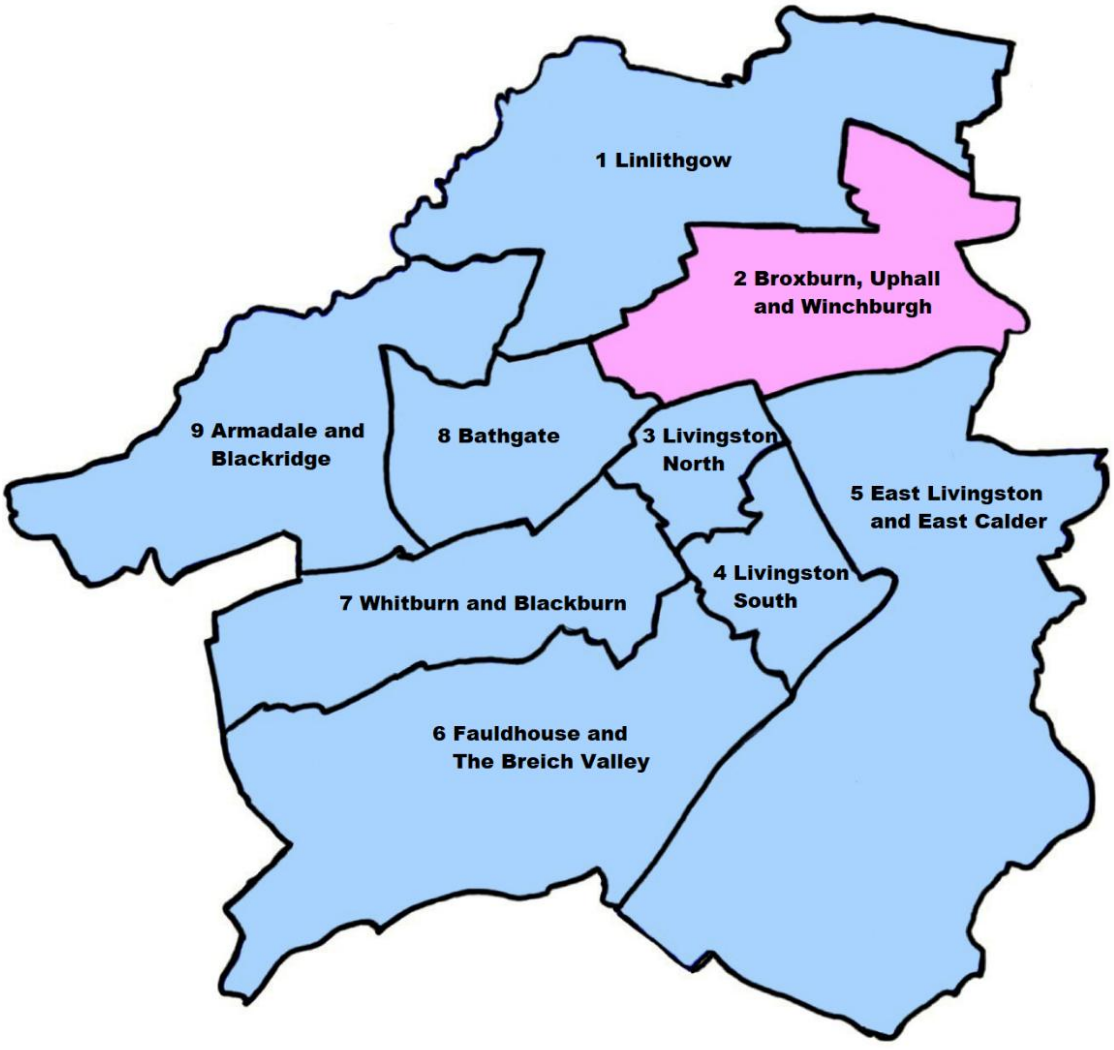
West Lothian Area Command

Lothian and Scottish Borders



Ward 2 Broxburn, Uphall & Winchburgh Multi Member Ward Report

Quarter 1 – 2025/2026

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to provide the Local Area Committee with an update on performance, activities and issues across the Ward for the period up to 30th June 2025.

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Local Area Committee notes the content of the report.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I	**Council Values**	Focusing on our customers' needs; being honest, open and accountable; making best use of our resources; and working in partnership
II	**Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)**	None.
III	**Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers**	None.
IV	**Impact on performance and performance Indicators**	Performance relative to the same period in 2021; set out in the report.
V	**Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement**	We live our lives free from crime, disorder and danger; we take pride in a strong, fair and inclusive society
VI	**Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)**	None.
VII	**Consideration at PDSP**	None.
VIII	**Other consultations**	None.

D. TERMS OF REPORT

Introduction:

This document is intended to provide a summary of the performance of West Lothian Area Command for the reporting period of Quarter 1 2025/26. The report references the police priorities within the Local Police Plan for West Lothian 2023-2026, namely:

- Protecting The Most Vulnerable People
- Reducing Violence and Anti-Social Behaviour

- Reducing Acquisitive Crime
- Improving Road Safety
- Tackling Serious and Organised Crime

The data provided in this report is for information purposes to allow Partnership Members to conduct their scrutiny responsibilities.

Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh Community Engagement Priorities:

- Violence, Disorder and Anti-Social Behaviour
- Substance Misuse
- Acquisitive Crime
- Road Safety

Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh Community Officers

PS Lee Brodie

PC Fiona Bell

Executive Summary:

Officers in West Lothian have been focused to delivering, with our key partners, our Local Policing Priorities, and meeting our commitment to Keep People Safe.

Q1 - WLC School Holiday dates:

- Easter Holidays: 05/04/2025 – 21/04/2025
- May Holidays: 03/05/2025 – 06/05/2025 & 19/05/2025
- Summer Holidays: 28/06/2025 – 12/08/2025

- **Protecting the most vulnerable people**

During Quarter 1, the Policing Together Department concluded a formal review of the Keep Safe scheme. The findings highlighted that the scheme, as well as broader societal and policing contexts, have undergone significant changes since its establishment in 2016. The review also identified limited utilisation of Keep Safe premises. In light of these findings, it has been determined that the continuation of the scheme is no longer proportionate or operationally viable.

The wellbeing and safety of disabled individuals and other vulnerable groups remain a strategic priority. Our continued commitment to these communities is clearly articulated within the Policing Together Strategy. As part of our forward approach, we will engage with key stakeholders and partner agencies to identify alternative, community-based provisions that more effectively meet the needs of vulnerable groups and ensure the efficient deployment of police resources. Indeed this is particularly evidence with the following local events this quarter:

Of particular note this quarter, several officers from the Community Team supported a Down's Syndrome Scotland community event at Winchburgh Community Centre within the ward on 25/5/26, where they engaged with multiple people and partner organisations in attendance, building positive relationships and trust with members of the Down's Syndrome Community, including families and support agencies.

Officers also attended a drop in group at Uphall Community Centre on 19 May 2025 for adults with mental health challenges,

Similarly officers also attended a session at Bield Housing's sheltered accommodation in Broxburn on 28 May to engage with and offer advise to these residents to help keep them safe.

Further to this Community Officers across West Lothian, delivered a series of educational inputs to secondary school pupils. These sessions addressed a range of key topics including online and personal safety, hate crime, antisocial behaviour, weapons, substance misuse, and county lines. Similar inputs were also delivered to selected Primary classes, including both Uphall and Winchburgh primary schools, with a particular focus on cyberbullying, internet safety, and issues relating to equality and hate crime.

- **Reducing Violence and Anti-Social behaviour**

Efforts to address Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) in all its forms continue in close collaboration with partner agencies.

In April, an incident of vandalism occurred at Livingston Football Stadium, where property was defaced with blue spray paint, including the appearance of racially offensive language on a spectator bench. Despite a joint appeal for information from Police Scotland and the football club, no further details have emerged. This act of vandalism is both disappointing and concerning for the local community and supporters alike.

In May, a serious incident took place involving petrol bombs being thrown towards Livingston Police Station, a marked police vehicle, and a serving police officer. These actions resulted in multiple small fires. A 33-year-old male was located in the vicinity, subsequently arrested, and charged with Culpable and Reckless Conduct, Vandalism, and Assault of a Police Officer.

Also in May, two local males were arrested and charged with Robbery following an incident in which a female was robbed at an ATM outside Tesco in Bathgate. This offence highlights the importance of situational awareness while using cash machines. Due to the victim's attentiveness and swift reporting, the individuals responsible were quickly identified and apprehended.

We continue to utilise social media as a vital tool for community engagement and witness appeals in relation to serious offences. In June, following the robbery of a retail premises in Armadale, a suspect was identified with the assistance of information received via social media. The male was subsequently traced, arrested, and charged with Robbery and Possession of a Knife. He was remanded in custody. We would like to formally thank the local community for their support in bringing this matter to a successful resolution.

In regards to Anti-social behaviour we have continued to work closely with West Lothian Council's safer Neighbourhoods team, carrying out joint visits to two addresses in Uphall and Broxburn respectively to residents who have been victims of repeat anti-social behaviour.

Officers have also been supporting Winchburgh Academy in dealing with disruptive behaviour of one particular pupil.

- **Reducing Acquisitive Crime**

During Quarter 1, several vehicles and properties across West Lothian were targeted in a series of housebreakings. Enquiries led to the identification of a male from Midlothian who has now been reported to COPFS for multiple offences, including Theft by Housebreaking, Attempted Housebreaking, Theft of a Motor Vehicle, and various Road Traffic Act offences.

Throughout the quarter, officers conducted proactive patrols in response to a rise in fuel thefts from local businesses during nighttime hours. With the cooperation of a local business owner, officers observed a vehicle acting suspiciously near Houston Industrial Estate. This resulted in the arrest of the driver, who was subsequently charged in connection with multiple incidents of fuel theft, housebreaking, and theft.

West Lothian has also experienced a notable increase in incidents of shoplifting across the division. In response, officers were deployed in plain clothes within key retail areas to identify and apprehend

those responsible. Between 26th of May and 2nd of July, 39 prolific offenders were traced and reported to COPFS for 172 crimes. This targeted initiative, in collaboration with local businesses, will continue into Quarter 2.

West Lothian Proactive Officers continue to progress investigations under *Operation Jetty* and *Operation Enzone*, which focus on housebreakings involving the theft of vehicles, including keyless motor vehicle thefts. Residents are reminded to regularly review their home security measures. Recommended practices include the use of functional external lighting, secure door and window locks, and ensuring that car keys and other valuables are not stored near entry points. The use of Faraday pouches is strongly advised for vehicle keys, as these prevent the key's signal from being transmitted outside the property. Faraday pouches are widely available from online retailers.

Of particular note within the ward, community officers carried out a number of initiatives throughout the quarter including a joint visit with Trading Standards to a business address in Broxburn, where a large quantity of illegal tobacco and other illicit items were recovered.

Community officers also carried out a visit to local garages in Broxburn alongside West Lothian Council, where they recovered a stolen motorbike and seized a number of other items believed to be involved in acquisitive crime.

Officers have also given crime prevention/security advice to a number of premises and businesses during the quarter, including of particular note a full Crime Prevention Survey carried out at Broxburn Football Club.

- **Improving Road Safety**

Consistent with previous reporting periods, we continue to receive regular reports concerning the antisocial and dangerous use of off-road motorcycles within local communities particularly near to the Broxburn 'Bings'. In response, Community Officers conducted dedicated off-road bike patrols across the county throughout Quarter 1. As a result of these patrols, several VRMs associated with the transport of off-road bikes were identified, including a number of people identified at East Mains Industrial Estate. Warning letters were subsequently issued to the registered keepers of the vehicles involved.

In May, officers received a report of an incident in which a male riding an off-road motorcycle struck a dog and then left the scene. Enquiries led to the identification of a 13-year-old local youth who was charged in connection with two offences under the Road Traffic Act.

Later in May, Community Officers, in partnership with Road Policing Officers, Trading Standards, and the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA), carried out a multi-agency day of action at Heartlands, Whitburn. During this initiative, 59 vehicles were stopped and inspected. This operation resulted in:

- 2 drivers being reported to COPFS
- 5 Fixed Penalty Notices being issued
- 3 formal warnings issued by police
- The DVSA issuing 12 immediate vehicle prohibitions, 8 delayed prohibitions, and referring one driver to the Traffic Commissioner
- Trading Standards officers issuing formal warnings and gathered intelligence for ongoing investigations

We thank the public for their patience and cooperation during this operation. Similar multi-agency initiatives are scheduled to continue throughout 2025.

In addition, the road safety awareness programme previously known as *Westdrive* returned to West Lothian under the new name *S6 Experience*. This event was delivered in collaboration with Police Scotland's Community and Roads Policing Teams, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, the Scottish

Ambulance Service, RUTS (Rural Urban Training Scheme), and West Lothian Drug and Alcohol Service.

Held across four West Lothian secondary schools, the programme reached approximately 1,100 students, including those from: Broxburn, Sinclair and Winchburgh Academies, as well as Oatridge College. It focused on key topics including driver safety, personal safety, and fire safety, aimed at young people preparing to become new drivers.

An outdoor component further supported the initiative, featuring emergency service vehicles, a “close pass” mat to promote cyclist safety, and interactive displays provided by the West Lothian Drug and Alcohol Service to raise awareness of substance misuse and its consequences.

Community Officers also carried out a speed check initiative on Greendykes Road Broxburn, with no offences being detected, but advice being given to a number of motorists.

Officers also carried out road safety patrols in the area, paying attention to local issues including parking, with one fixed penalty tickets being issued in Broxburn.

Tackling Serious and Organised Crime

West Lothian’s Proactive Crime Team (PCT) continues to actively target multiple Serious Organised Crime Groups (SOCGs) operating within the division, with a focus on disruption, enforcement, and the protection of vulnerable individuals and communities.

During Quarter 1, West Lothian Proactive officers delivered a number of significant results in their ongoing efforts to combat serious and organised crime:

- A property in Bathgate was searched under warrant, resulting in the seizure of controlled drugs and over £22,000 in cash. The seizure is believed to be directly connected to organised crime activity.
- MDA warrants were executed at addresses in Armadale and Whitburn. These searches resulted in the recovery of 2 kilograms of cocaine, 1.7 kilograms of cannabis, and associated drug paraphernalia. Two males were arrested and charged in connection with the supply of controlled substances.
- At the end of Quarter 4 and into Quarter 1, West Lothian PCT officers conducted further disruption activity targeting addresses linked to drug supply operations. Three properties across West Lothian were searched, resulting in the recovery of controlled substances with an estimated street value of £200,000. Multiple individuals were arrested, and investigations are continuing with the aim of dismantling the group’s operational capacity.

Continued investigations into intercepted drug consignments destined for West Lothian led to a co-ordinated enforcement activity at multiple addresses across West Lothian, Midlothian, and Edinburgh. This resulted in the following seizures:

- 54 kilograms of drugs recovered by UK Border Force (UKBF)
- 34 kilograms of drugs recovered during PCT-led enforcement
- Over £24,000 in cash and a significant quantity of drug-related paraphernalia

To date, enforcement efforts have led to the seizure of approximately 88 kilograms of controlled substances and over £700,000 in criminal assets linked to the group. Enquiries remain ongoing.

The Q1 ASB figure for the ward was 152. This includes all calls with an ASB tag. This includes Public Nuisance, Noise, Drinking in Public, Neighbour Dispute, ASBO and Damage calls. This figure will also include any youth calls, which are discussed at the weekly partnership TAC to enable capture of any youth ASB hotspots.

Broxburn, Uphall & Winchburgh	Q1 2024/25	Q1 2025/26	Change from LYTD
Common Assault	58	57	-1.7%
Serious Assault (Incl FGM, Culpable & Reckless Conduct - causing injury)	4	2	-50.0%
Housebreaking Dwelling	5	8	+60.0%
Housebreaking Non-dwelling	0	3	+300.0%
Housebreaking other premises	1	5	+400.0%
Theft of Motor Vehicle	8	4	-50.0%
Fireraising	4	3	-25.0%
Vandalism	43	38	-11.6%
Possession of Drugs	10	9	-10.0%
Hate Aggravated Conduct (Incl stirring up hatred)	0	2	+200.0%
Driving Carelessly	4	7	+75.0%
TOTAL NUMBER OF CRIMES RECORDED	**358**	**404**	**+12.8%**