

# Cheltenham Borough Council

## Overview and Scrutiny Committee

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### Op Switch

We see a seasonal increase in acquisitive crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) during the darker nights. Operation Switch is a proactive deployment of additional officers to patrol 'hotspots' and target persistent offenders around Halloween and bonfire night. It includes a mixture of high visibility uniform and plain clothes officers, Mounted Section, Cadets and Special Constabulary.

Excellent work by Cheltenham Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) saw a large drop in burglaries with three prolific offenders arrested.

Better working with offender management and proactive Vanguard team means that we can be more intrusive with targeting prolific offenders who are released from prison.

### VIAWG

Extra Street Safe resources provide a visible presence to deter and ensure people especially women feel safe from those seeking to cause harm or intimidate vulnerable people.

### Shoplifting / Safer business Action Week

- Increased patrols and focus on key offenders.
- Extra engagement with Shops.
- Crime Prevention Officer visits.
- In October Cheltenham Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) had a solved rate of 71%, solving 10 out of the 14 shoplifting crimes closed.
- Recently four people were arrested, charged and appeared before the courts in connection with numerous shoplifting offences. Sentences ranged between 8-36 weeks with Criminal Behaviour Orders (CBO) ranging from 1-5 years.

PC Will Hayes from the Cheltenham Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) said:

*"We are more than aware that police have been criticised for not doing enough to tackle a recent rise in shoplifting offences being committed across the country. The Town Centre team have worked tirelessly and expeditiously in bringing four of Cheltenham's most prolific shoplifters to justice over recent weeks and months. Their repeat offending and disregard for the law has caused untold stress for our local businesses along with a huge drain of resources. Whilst there is always more that can be done, along with there being a much bigger picture to the matter, we hope that all of our hard work shows local residents and partner agencies that we do take shoplifting seriously and will continue to do our best to secure convictions for the most prolific."*

## ASB ref E-Bikes

Operation Endurance 2 has been set up to tackle this emerging crime trend. There are some risks and challenges around this but all measures including covert and overt are being considered. Cheltenham NPT have had some success with locating and seizing bikes.

## Moors and St Paul's Estate

- A multi-agency - Moors operational Working Group has been set up to tackle the impact of Serious Organised Crime and embed lasting change to enhance the feelings of safety and security within the community.
- The NPT teams have been targeting the Moors and St Pauls, and working in partnership around OCG disruption, with Specialist Operations and Vanguard teams.

## Theft of Pedal Cycles

Theft of pedal cycles has been increasing over the past few months.

- Recently utilised funding from the PCCs office to buy signage, a gazebo and 1,000 QR codes, that once registered are individual to the owner.
- We ran our first marking event during Op Thunder in August and attended Fresher's week to increase awareness to the students.
- Additional patrols have been set up in 'hotspot' areas.

## Night Time Economy (NTE)

- There is a drop in incidents in Cheltenham town centre over 12 months.
- Top locations in October are mainly NTE related (Under the Prom, Home and Botanic, Moomoo and The Ridge Academy).
- Continue to work alongside the Guardians and maintain Street Safe resources.

## Op Tarlac

Cheltenham Neighbourhood Team and the Constabulary Better together Team are in contact with and have good lines of communication with both the Muslim and Jewish communities in the town.

There has been no significant incidents reported or community concerns raised.

## November Races

17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> November:

- Additional resources are in place including enhanced Street Safe.
- Licencing checks will be increased.
- Planners are working with local authority around additional measure (such as more toilets).

**T/Chief Inspector Gav Morgan**

**Cheltenham & Tewkesbury Local Policing Area, Gloucestershire Constabulary**



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