

## Police and Crime Panel update – January 2026

**Operation Shield** – our Safer Streets Summer initiative, led by Gloucestershire Constabulary to combat anti-social behaviour (ASB) and crime, to improve town centre safety, has proved a success with a 5% drop in reported crimes within our designated hot spot areas, along with 21 arrests for retail and street crime and 37 fines issued. To compliment this the OPCC has thanked CBC for our outstanding partnership work by ensuring timely data returns and the submission of three successful Home Office funded bids via the OPCC to tackle crime and ASB in the town centre. We have been awarded funds to install additional CCTV at the Brewery Quarter, sensitive tree down-lighting within The Minsters and support for our town centre Youth Café pilot addressing the voices of young people.

**Gloucestershire Constabulary Safer Streets Winter** – The multi-agency Glos Police led campaign kicked off on 1<sup>st</sup> December with additional police patrols during the festive season to tackle the normal seasonal uplift in crime and ASB such as shop lifting and drink/drug driving.

**Technology investments** – Major long-overdue technology investments are now taking place that will significantly improve workforce efficiencies in the years to come with the ability to respond to crime and track crime data faster.

**Financial update** - The constabulary are still facing huge financial challenges, so I have chased up the outcomes of the Asset Management strategy review and financial efficiency workstreams that have not been forthcoming. I have since been promised by the OPCC that this will be presented to panel members in January 2026.

**Government's Police Reform** - The OPCC are obviously struggling with the recent government announcement to abolish commissioners and what that means for the force more widely considering the many strategic roles of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner such as holding the Chief Constable to account, Domestic Abuse action and Volunteer Custody Suite Inspections etc. The transition of roles is due in 2028, when the new unitary authorities will be storming not forming which is not an ideal situation and I foresee additional challenges on the newly formed administrations which is a cause for great concern.

**OPCC panel briefing at Waterwells (Glos Police HQ)** – In support of the overall national crisis of school non-attendance, the OPCC are investing £50k to support a three-month pilot in 2026 for young boys aged 14-16 attending Altus schools in Gloucestershire, back into mainstream education, which is brilliant. Their project delivery plan is strong, and I have invited them to brief the NCLB Strategic Board to share the pilot outcomes. According to local crime data, boys aged 14-16, especially those excluded from mainstream education, are sadly most at risk of being exploited into crime by OCGs.

**Additional crime hot spot area** – Through additional Home Office funds Gloucestershire Constabulary and the OPCC have unfortunately identified another crime and ASB hotspot in Cheltenham, Kingsditch Retail Park. I asked what support has already been offered and inclusion into the police radio support scheme, has not yet been accepted. I plan to visit the retailers with CBC officers in early 2026 to see how collectively we can better support them.