



## The 2005-2008 Strategy: Development of Priorities

The process of identifying priorities for the coming three years follows on from the analysis of the crimes that took place during the audit. In order to correctly identify the priorities for Gloucester, consideration has been given not only to establishing what are the most common crimes, but also which areas have seen increases over the last three years. Just as important are the results of the consultation where residents had the opportunity to specify what were their greatest sources of concern. Three thousand surveys were distributed to residents and efforts have been made to ensure that views were sought from a representative sample of the local population.

By analysing the geographical distribution of different crimes across the area the Partnership will seek to direct action to where it is most needed. The neighbourhoods that experience highest levels of crime correlate to a large extent with those that suffer the greatest levels of deprivation so priorities must also consider links to neighbourhood renewal and liveability. This is reflected in previously separate government funding streams being combined under the heading of Safer and Stronger Communities, and the enactment of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Bill to give extra powers to deal with anti-social activity.

As well as the identification of local issues there are also a number of national initiatives and legislation that have been considered when formulating priorities for the coming three years. The National Drugs Strategy will include key performance indicators and the Partnership will be duty-bound to incorporate these indicators into its work on drug misuse. Similarly, the National Policing Plan sets out a process for setting targets that are to be achieved by 2007/08 in support of the Public Service Agreement Targets (PSA). The Partnership has carefully considered the requirement to meet the target of PSA 1; To reduce crime within the city by 22.5% by 2008. Having said this, whilst focusing where relevant on nationally defined priorities, the strategy will retain a strong local emphasis to ensure that the diverse characteristics and needs of Gloucester are reflected.

To aid this process, the Partnership has considered the existing targets and priorities of the Community Strategy for Gloucestershire, the Gloucestershire Policing Plan and the Divisional Control Strategy, as well as plans of other partners.

The crime areas that have been identified as the most significant to Gloucester as a result of the audit and consultation process are discussed below.

- **Burglary:**

Comprises over 14% of the district's overall crime  
Non-dwelling burglary is the second most common type of crime in Gloucester  
Considered to be the second most important issue in the audit consultation survey

- **Vehicle Crime:**

Theft from vehicles is the most common crime type in Gloucester  
Theft of vehicles has increased significantly in last three years

- **Theft:**

Theft by shoplifting accounts for over 8% of the city's crime  
Thefts of pedal cycles are considerably higher in Gloucester than similar districts



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- **Robbery:**

Crime level rose by 11.9% between 2001 and 2004  
The offence is a significant indicator of chaotic drug use

- **Drugs:**

Over 40% of the county's Class 'A' drug offences are committed in Gloucester  
Drugs have proven links to acquisitive crime  
The number of detected offences of supplying drugs fell in 2003/04

- **Alcohol:**

A fifth of violent crime offenders had been drinking when committing the crime  
24% more people consider alcohol to be a problem locally than in 2002

- **Violent Crime:**

Recorded violent crime has risen sharply, particularly domestic violence

- **Hate Crime:**

Nearly 30% of residents see hate crime as an important issue, above the county average  
Low numbers of homophobic incidents are reported, suggesting under-reporting

- **Criminal Damage:**

Damage offences have increased by 40% between 2001 and 2004  
Consistently rated the most common problem in the district in 'Perceptions of Crime' survey

- **Arson:**

Recorded crimes of arson rose by 34% over three years  
Fire Service figures suggest the problem may be greater than crime data suggests

- **Anti-Social Behaviour:**

Anti-social behaviour ranks third in local people's concerns  
Road safety, including dangerous and anti-social driving, is seen as a priority by the public

- **Fear of Crime:**

8% more people feel that their lives are slightly restricted by crime than in 2001  
People's perception of their safety is almost as important as how safe they really are

The above have been identified after a thorough audit and consultation process and represent a considerable challenge for the Partnership. However, the Partnership is much stronger than it was three years ago and is well placed to deliver tangible results. Recorded levels of several crimes have continued to fall over the three year period since the last Crime Reduction Strategy was implemented and the city is one of the safest in the country.



## Performance Management of Priority Areas

The findings of the crime audit revealed a number of crimes and concerns that are significant issues to the people of Gloucester, and to the Partnership. In order to tackle these identified priorities in a co-ordinated way, various themes have been identified which encompass the relevant issues. This will give greater direction to agencies contributing to the crime reduction effort, and also ensure that the necessary links are made between different issues in a joined-up approach that attacks both the causes and the symptoms of crime. These themes are as follows:

- Reducing Anti-Social Behaviour
- Reducing Hate Crime
- Reducing Property Crime
- Reducing Substance Misuse
- Reducing Violent Crime

Within each thematic area, individual crimes and sources of concern will be considered and aims established. Within these aims, specific objectives will be set and then targets agreed for achievement by a certain date. The baseline against which progress will be measured will be the crime levels in Gloucester in 2003/04. Each theme will now be considered in turn, in alphabetical order.

### Reducing Anti-Social Behaviour

**Aim: To reduce anti-social behaviour in Gloucester**

Objectives:

- To reduce levels of criminal damage and arson
- To tackle all anti-social behaviour in the city, including environmental crime and the anti-social use of vehicles
- To reduce the involvement of young people in crime, both as victims and offenders
- To contribute to the reduction of the fear of crime

Targets:

- To reduce the number of criminal damage offences by 26% by 2008
- To reduce the number of fires that have a doubtful cause by 25% by 2008
- To establish a baseline figure for speed in targeted residential areas of the city in Year One and then reduce that figure thereafter.
- To bring at least four offenders to justice for fly-tipping each year until 2008
- To reduce victimisation of young people by 15% by 2008
- To engage 175 young people as part of the Prevent and Deter initiative by 2008
- To reduce the percentage of people who see anti-social behaviour as a problem in their area by 5% by 2008
- To increase the number of people who feel their lives are not at all restricted by crime to 60% by 2008