



RECOMMENDATION REPORT

DECISION: 57/2025

DATE: 17/11/2025

TITLE: SAFER TOWN CENTRES

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Executive Summary

The OPCC, in partnership with Lancashire Constabulary and LANPAC, is proposing a targeted initiative to reduce retail crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) across Lancashire.

This project will focus on high-risk retail environments and public spaces where ASB is prevalent. It aligns with the Police and Crime Plan priorities, supports Operation Vulture, and complements the Government's Winter of Action campaign.

The proposal includes:

- Deployment of 15 Safer Pods to provide visible deterrence and reassurance.
- Enhanced partnership working between police, local businesses, and community safety partners.
- Innovative approaches to improve public confidence and reduce crime.

Recommendation

The Police and Crime Commissioner is asked to approve the allocation of **£17,920** from the Business and Retail Crime fund to implement this initiative.

PART I

1. Background and Advice

Retail crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) remain persistent challenges across Lancashire, impacting businesses and undermining community confidence. Under Operation Vulture, Lancashire Constabulary has identified retail hotspots that require targeted intervention.

To address this, the Commissioner has allocated £50,000 through the Business and Retail Crime funding offer, aimed at supporting innovative solutions that reduce crime and enhance public reassurance.

This proposal utilises that funding to deploy 15 Safer Pod Units in high-risk retail areas and open spaces associated with ASB and the night-time economy. These units provide:

- Visible deterrence to discourage offending behaviour
- Intelligent monitoring for real-time oversight
- 24/7 surveillance with rapid deployment capability
- No requirement for onsite power, ensuring flexibility

This approach complements existing policing activity and aligns with OPCC priorities for crime prevention and safer communities.

2. Links to the Police and Crime Plan

Tackle Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour
Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls (NTE)

3. Consultations

Engagement with Lancashire Constabulary, LANPAC and Community Safety Partners.

4. Implications:

a. Legal

Funding will be issued directly to LANPAC under a Grant Agreement. LANPAC will be contributing £5,000 towards the project.

The recommendation for signing includes delegated powers, and the 151 Officer has agreed to sign the Grant Agreement thereafter.

b. Financial

£17,920 exc. VAT (£22,504 inc. VAT) to be allocated from the POCA Reserves.

c. Equality Impact Assessment

Subject to the Equality Impact Assessment across all community funding.

d. Data Protection Assessment

There are no direct Data protection implications in the making of this decision.

5 Risk Management

Subject to Community Fund Risk Management matrix.

6. Background Papers

Appendix A.

7. Public access to information

Information in this form is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and other legislation. Part 1 of this form will be made available on the PCC website within 3 working days of approval. Any facts/advice/recommendations that should not be made available on request should not be included in Part 1 but instead on the separate Part 2 form.

