



The Canterbury Beat – Edition #24: Transitioning Out of Summer

As the summer season comes to a close and the peak holiday crowd begins to wind down, our city's dynamic is shifting once again. While the sunny days brought bustling high streets, packed riverside paths, and busy green spaces, the end of the season allows us to reflect on the summer demand and adjust our policing approach as we head into autumn. Managing seasonal transitions effectively relies on balancing active problem-solving with consistent, year-round community safety.

Reflecting on Summer Demand & Changing Patrol Focus

Over the summer months, our resources were directed toward managing high footfall and maintaining a visible presence across the city's primary hotspots.

Green Spaces & Parks: Locations like Westgate Gardens and Dane John Gardens saw massive visitor numbers throughout the warm weather. Our increased foot patrols in these "green lungs" helped deter anti-social behaviour (ASB) and ensured these areas remained safe and welcoming environments for families. As autumn sets in, our focus in these spaces shifts back toward routine checks and monitoring open-space safety.

High Street Footfall: Pedestrian areas—including St George's Street and the area outside McDonald's—experienced heavy traffic from shoppers and visitors. Using tactics like "stationary vigilance," officers maintained static presences at key junctions to monitor crowd flow, tackle shoplifting, and remain fully accessible to the public. With summer crowds subsiding, we are refocusing on everyday retail protection and persistent ASB issues.

Long-Term Problem Solving

The end of the busy summer period allows us to build on our long-term safety strategies rather than just managing high-volume incidents day-to-day. Working alongside partners like Whitefriars Security—who assist through radio communication, shared intelligence, and early interventions—remains vital.

Rather than relying on short-term fixes, we remain dedicated to problem-solving policing. By utilizing Community Protection Warnings (CPWs) and referring individuals to support services like Catching Lives, we continue addressing the root causes of ASB to keep our city centre safe as we move into the next season.

You may have seen a heavy police presence last week in the city centre as our team, alongside Trading Standards officers, carried out high-visibility visits to multiple stores around underage vape sales. We seized thousands of non-compliant items. These targeted operations send a clear message: the safety and health of our young people are non-negotiable. We will continue to keep the pressure on and take swift action against any business putting profits ahead of the law and our community's wellbeing.

 DID YOU KNOW?

Question: How do shop staff and police know when a known shoplifter or troublemaker has entered the city centre?

The Answer: It relies on the District Watch radio network. When a store security guard or a member of the BID Street Team spots a known offender entering a shop near Westgate, a quick radio broadcast alerts over 100 businesses all the way down the High Street in under 30 seconds. By the time that person reaches the next shop, staff are already aware and our officers are moving into position. It turns the entire retail core into one connected team looking out for each other.

Over to You

As we transition out of summer, what are your main safety priorities for the city centre this autumn?

Whether you have concerns about pedestrian zones, lighting, or specific patrol areas, please hit 'Reply' or contact us through the portal.