

Policy and Finance Committee

Date: 15 April 2019

Title: Annual review of arrangements with local authorities

Purpose of the Report: To review, as required in Standing Orders, the existing arrangements with local authorities.

Contact Officer: Sarah Sandiford, Head of Democratic and Central Services

Corporate Objective/s	To consolidate processes and procedures, ensuring operational efficiency.	
Implications:		
Financial		
Human Resources		
Operational/Service delivery	√	

1. RECOMMENDATION

To note the review of existing arrangements with local authorities.

2. BACKGROUND

- a. Following a review of new Model Standing Orders issued by NALC in 2010, updated Standing Orders were adopted by Council on 18 April 2011.
- b. The NALC model suggested that a number of items be reviewed by Council at each Annual Meeting. This included a review of arrangements, including any charters, with other local authorities and review of contributions made to expenditure incurred by other local authorities.
- c. A further review in July 2012 resulted in amendments to the Standing Orders, whereby (amongst other changes) a number of items were deemed unnecessary for review at the Annual Meeting and should instead be reviewed annually by the Policy and Finance Committee as part of its work plan.
- d. In light of this, the following formal arrangements are brought to this Committee for its information, in accordance with the annual Work Plan. The outlined arrangements have already been endorsed or will be considered by the relevant standing Committees at the point of renewal.

3. CURRENT STATUS

3.1 The Town Council currently has the following formal arrangements in place with other authorities:

(a) Operation Dodford with Bedfordshire Police

An annual budget of £40,000 is allocated for Community Safety and for a number of years the primary mechanism for delivery has been the annual Operation Dodford agreement with Bedfordshire Police, which provides a framework within which the Town Council has been able to request additional policing activity in particular areas, subject to availability of police officers. Activity is agreed and monitored through the Community Safety Sub-Committee.

(b) Central Bedfordshire Council (Movies for the More Mature)

An annual agreement has been in place with a four month notice period. A contribution of £300 per film towards the costs incurred for each showing, up to a maximum of £4,500 annually. Reduced ticket prices for citizens aged 55 years and over.

(c) Central Bedfordshire Council (Youth Film Club) 2019/20 pilot project

A project in its infancy running as a pilot for 2019/20, running in the same vein as the Movies for the More Mature yet targeting young people aged between 12 and 17 years. Eight films will be shown between the month July to October to assess take-up and interest.

(d) Leighton Buzzard Music Centre

A new five-year agreement with Central Bedfordshire Council and the Leighton Buzzard Music School Trust was approved by the Town Council in January 2016. The service level agreement will run for the period April 2016 – March 2021. Funding for the year 2016-2017 was set at £8,000 and this will be increased by the September RPI in subsequent years. Reviewed through termly meetings with two appointed Town Council representatives.

(e) Leighton-Linslade Citizens Advice

At the Policy and Finance Committee meeting held on 23 November 2015, it was agreed to provide funding to the Citizens Advice for a further five financial years (2016-17 to 2020-21). Funding for the year 2016-2017 was set at £15,000 and this would be increased by the September RPI in subsequent years. The agreed funding would be reviewed during the five-year period, should the financial position of the Leighton-Linslade Citizens Advice change during that time.

At the Policy and Finance Committee meeting held on 16 January 2017, it was agreed to increase funding to £20,000 (+ RPI) per year to protect services. Reviewed through meetings with two appointed Town Council representatives, as well as the provision of an annual report and statement of accounts to the Town Council.