



LEIGHTON-LINSLADE TOWN COUNCIL

Community Safety Sub-Committee

Date: 14th January 2019

Title: Operation Dodford Underspend

Purposes of the Report: To seek Member Endorsement in respects of the use of any Operation Dodford underspend for the purposes of providing community-based initiatives that will help address the fear of crime.

Contact Officer: Mark Saccoccio, Town Clerk

Corporate Objective/s		To promote and develop a vibrant town through partnership working and initiatives including management of the street market, provision of town and community promotions, town centre enhancements, tourism and practical support for local businesses.
Implications:		
Financial	√	The adoption of a 5 Year Plan has financial implications as new projects may well have a capital as well as staffing cost implications
Human Resources		It is likely that as the parish expands together with the devolution of more services down to the town council, this will have human resource implications
Operational/Service delivery	√	For the reasons set out above,
Procedural/Legal	√	Public engagement legitimises and add greater weight to the 5 Year Plan

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

Should members be minded:

- 1.1 To seek member endorsement to the use of Operation Dodford underspend to provide community-based initiatives that will help combat the fear of crime within the Parish.

- 1.2 **In consultation with the Chair of the Community Safety Sub-Committee, that delegated powers be afforded to the Town Clerk to make decisions on any community-based project(s) to a maximum value of £2,500.**
- 1.3 **That enhanced CCTV signage be provided within the parks to be met from the Operation Dodford budget**

2. PURPOSE

- 2.1 As Members are minded, the Town Council financially supports additional policing within the Parish by way of the Operation Dodford Agreement it has with Bedfordshire Police. The present annual budget for additional policing stands at £40,000. For this, the Town Council can request that policing resource is provided for events and activities which wouldn't otherwise receive police presence. Examples include the twice weekly market, community events as well as targeted patrols. Whilst Bedfordshire Police will make every reasonable endeavour to provide police presence in accordance with the Agreement, Members are minded that the scheme is voluntary to police officers and only available to those who are not on duty.
- 2.2 Based on invoicing to date and mindful of likely policing activity for the remainder of the financial year, it is highly unlikely that the Operation Dodford Budget will be spent in its entirety. To date (September invoice), only 16% of Dodford monies have so far been committed meaning that there presently is a £33,600 underspend. With the Christmas weekend representing the most significant policing activity, it is anticipated that underspend come the end of the financial year would be approximately 40% of the total Dodford budget. As a council, any likely underspend could be carried forward or moved into general reserves. Whilst both activities are legitimate, this does little to help combat the fear of crime within the Parish.
- 2.3 From the discussions held with police colleagues, there are numerous projects the Town Council could support in the common interests of residents. One potential project being the purchase of engraving kit that would allow tools to be embossed with the postcode of the owner thereby increasing traceability should tools be stolen.
- 2.4 Beyond the fear of crime initiatives, Officers also seek to improve signage within the parks. For the purposes of raising awareness that CCTV cameras operate within our parks, a recent audit carried out on behalf of Central Bedfordshire Council arrived at this conclusion. Presently, Officers are seeking quotes to this end. In accordance with the recommendations, the Sub-Committee is asked to consider funding additional signage from the available Community Safety budget.