



# LEIGHTON-LINSLADE TOWN COUNCIL

## Community Safety Sub-Committee

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**Date:** 21<sup>st</sup> October 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 a community-based initiative that will help address the fear of crime.

**Contact Officer:** Mark Saccoccio, Town Clerk

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<b>Corporate Objective/s</b>		<b>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.</b>
<b>Implications:</b>		
<b>Financial</b>	√	The adoption of a 5 Year Plan has financial implications as new projects may well have a capital as well as staffing cost implications
<b>Human Resources</b>		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
<b>Operational/Service delivery</b>	√	For the reasons set out above,
<b>Procedural/Legal</b>	√	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 a community-based initiative in order to help combat the fear of crime within the Parish.

- 1.2 To seek Member endorsement that further scoping work be carried out into the merits or otherwise of the Street Wise project that will be subject to future approval.**

## **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 (August invoice), £6,872.38 of Dodford monies have so far been committed meaning that there presently is a £33,127.62 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 the police and youth offending service, there is one project the Town Council could support in the common interests of residents. Founded in 2016, Streetwise Group (see attached) is a community interests' company whose objective is to improve the lives of all young people in London. Since its inception, its work has extended beyond the capital to include Bedford Borough Council. The project itself involves the repair and recycle of bicycles that have been donated via local councils and recycling centres, Network Rail and the police themselves. The 50-week programme will engage with young people by providing access to skills and opportunities that may not have been available to them elsewhere. How this would work in practice remains the subject of further engagement with in-house as well as external colleagues. Should Members be minded to support the project, the Town Council would seek the opinion of Bedford Borough Council in terms of outcomes from the project.

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