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## Policy & Finance Committee

**Date:** 11 April 2022

**Title:** Arrangements with other authorities

**Purpose of the Report:**

As set out in Standing Orders, to review arrangements with other authorities and bodies.

**Contact Officer:**

Sarah Sandiford, Deputy Town Clerk

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<b>Corporate Objective/s</b>	n/a	
<b>Implications:</b>		
<b>Financial</b>		None
<b>Human Resources</b>		None
<b>Operational/Service delivery</b>		None
<b>Procedural/Legal</b>		Per SO 5 (k) (iii)
<b>Risk/Health and Safety</b>		None
<b>Environmental Aims</b>		None

### 1 RECOMMENDATION/S

Should the Committee be minded, the proposals are:

1.1 To note the report.

### 2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Following a review of new Model Standing Orders issued by NALC in 2010, updated Standing Orders were adopted by Council on 18 April 2011.

2.2 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.

2.3 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.

- 2.4 This provision has been retained in subsequent reviews of Standing Orders. In line with the latest NALC model and the Standing Orders review undertaken during 2020-21, Standing Order 5 (k) (iii) currently reads:

***Council will delegate to the appropriate Committee, usually the Policy and Finance Committee, the periodic review of arrangements (including legal agreements) with other local authorities, not-for-profit bodies and businesses.***

- 2.5 In accordance with this, the below formal arrangements are brought to this Committee for its information, in accordance with the annual Work Plan. This report refers only to ongoing arrangements or agreements.
- 2.6 Heads of Service advise that there are other arrangements in place with other bodies (e.g. licenses, leases) which are reviewed by the relevant standing Committee or sub-committee at the point of renewal.

### **3. CURRENT STATUS**

- 3.1 The Town Council currently has the following formal arrangements in place with other authorities, not-for-profit bodies and businesses:

(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.

For 2022-23, expenditure on Operation Dodford has been capped at £30,000, leaving £10,000 for additional community safety related initiatives.

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

Prior to Covid, 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. This has been on hold during the pandemic but a new Service Level Agreement is currently being drafted.

(c) Leighton Buzzard Music Centre

A new five-year service level agreement with Central Bedfordshire Council and the Leighton Buzzard Music School Trust was approved by the Town Council in November 2020, for the period 2021 - 2026. Annual funding is provided and is subject to an increase for RPI each year. The arrangement is reviewed through termly meetings with two appointed Town Council representatives.

(d) Leighton-Linslade Citizens Advice Bureau

The Town Council renewed its commitment to the provision of annual funding to the Citizens Advice Bureau for another five years in November 2020, for the period 2021-2026. Annual funding is provided and is subject to an increase for RPI each year.

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.

(e) Guaranteed Grants

In May 2020 the Town Council approved applications from xx local charitable and not-for-profit organisations for guaranteed grant funding over a four year period. Grant funding is subject to an increase for RPI each year. Grant recipients are required to provide an annual report and statement of accounts and to report back on grant expenditure to the Grants & Awards Sub Committee.

(f) Discounted venue hire

In 2019 the Town Council agreed a new fees and charges structure whereby a 50% discount was available to not-for-profit organisations for one session per week in a Town Council owned facility. This arrangement continues in 2022-23. Fees are reviewed annually by the Grounds & Environmental Services Committee.

**End.**