

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Name of Committee Nuneaton and Bedworth Area Committee

Date of Committee 28 March 2007

Report Title Nuneaton and Bedworth Well-being Fund

Summary This report outlines a proposed commission to support a project to reduce the fear of crime in town centres related to traffic offences and to match fund this proposal with Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council and Warwickshire Police.

For further information please contact:

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Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework? No.

Background papers None

CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:- Details to be specified

- Other Committees
- Local Member(s) Cllr Longden, Chair of Area Committee
- Other Elected Members Nuneaton and Bedworth Area Committee Funding Sub-Group
- Cabinet Member
- Strategic Director David Carter, Strategic Director of Performance & Development
- Legal Sarah Duxbury
- Finance Nicola Cumberledge
- Other Chief Officers

- District Councils Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council – supportive of the project
- Health Authority
- Police Warwickshire Police
- Other Bodies/Individuals

FINAL DECISION YES

SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS:

Details to be specified

- Further consideration by this Committee
- To Council
- To Cabinet
- To an O & S Committee
- To an Area Committee
- Further Consultation

Agenda No

Nuneaton and Bedworth Area Committee - 28 March 2007

Nuneaton and Bedworth Well-being Fund

Report of the Strategic Director of Performance & Development

Recommendation

That the Area Committee agrees to match fund Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council and Warwickshire Police to provide an Enforcement Officer for a period of approximately one year, prior to the introduction of Decriminalisation of Parking, by contributing the remainder of its Well-being Fund 2006/07 (£11,945.62) to this project.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Nuneaton and Bedworth town centres have seen a substantial rise in illegal and thoughtless parking in restricted areas, which has been the subject of concern for Members and local Police for sometime and which has been demonstrated in recent press coverage.
- 1.2 Decriminalisation of Parking Enforcement has been delayed following the previous consultation on proposals and although a new consultation is planned it is unlikely that it will be introduced until at least the latter part of 2008.
- 1.3 In an effort to alleviate these problems in the short term, consultation on a proposed area for the loading/unloading ban through a Traffic Order within Nuneaton Town Centre has been proposed and Police Officers have issued tickets to offenders at a number of locations when resources have been available.
- 1.4 The County Council and the Borough Council have also invested substantial resources in improving the Town Centres for pedestrians and motorists. Additionally, adapted kerbs in bus lanes have been established to enable easy access for bus users but these lanes are often in accessible because of inconsiderate parking.
- 1.5 Both Councils and the Police wish to eliminate this problem to ensure the safety of pedestrians and to prevent a further decline in the standards of

footpaths and other facilities. Whilst most visitors to the Town Centres are law abiding and considerate, there seems to be a regular element who prefer to park illegally and often dangerously rather than pay a small fee to use the many car parking facilities provided. In order to remove this inconvenience it has been decided to develop a partnership project to provide an Enforcement Officer who will be used to support the Police in issuing fines to anyone parking outside the regulations in force. This post will be in place until Decriminalisation of Parking Enforcement becomes a power delegated from the Police to the Borough Council.

- 1.6 From a social perspective, non-compliance with the requirements of the law as in parking anti-social behaviour leads to local dissatisfaction and an increased perception of lawlessness and perceptions of the fear of crime. It is therefore important to remove this potential element and increase guardianship of local amenities for local people and visitors. Removing the visible signs of this through a low tolerance of these minor offences will create a greater confidence in the area, which will benefit all residents and visitors and have a wider impact within the community.

2. Partnership Proposals

- 2.1 Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council have earmarked a contribution of £12,500 towards the provision of the salary and on costs of an Enforcement officer subject to match funding of the same amount. Warwickshire County Council's Community Safety Budget (North) has identified a contribution of £1,000 and Warwickshire Police have agreed to undertake the recruitment, employment and line management of the post including provision of all equipment as their financial contribution.

3. Recommendation

- 3.1 Match funding is therefore sought from the Well-being Fund. Currently, Fear of Crime is an Area Committee priority for relevant commissions and the end of year balance of funding for 2006/07 is £11,945.62. It is therefore requested that this contribution is made to support the project and that all the partners involved develop a media campaign to support the introduction of the post for the benefit of local road safety and town centre users.

DAVID CARTER
Strategic Director of
Performance & Development

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09 March 2007