

## **Cabinet – 8 February 2023**

### **Recommendations from Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee regarding drone surveillance.**

<b>Portfolio:</b>	Councillor Perry – Deputy Leader & Resilient Communities
<b>Related Portfolios:</b>	None
<b>Service:</b>	Economy, Environment and Communities
<b>Wards:</b>	All
<b>Key decision:</b>	No
<b>Forward plan:</b>	No

#### **1. Aim**

To receive a recommendation from the Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee made on 24 November 2022 regarding drone surveillance.

#### **2. Recommendations**

That Cabinet considers the recommendations of the Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee regarding drone surveillance.

#### **3. Report detail – know**

At its meeting of 24 November 2022 the Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee received a presentation on the use of off-road bikes in the borough.

It was highlighted that Walsall had a particular issue with the use of off-road bikes both on green and open spaces and on the roads around the borough, although some areas were more heavily affected than others. Chief Superintendent Dolby of West Midlands Police was in attendance and advised the Committee that the use of these bikes was illegal but the police themselves had limited resources so could not be fully responsive to all reports of incidents. He also re-iterated that other potential tactics such as tactical pursuits and stingers were of limited use for this particular crime.

The Committee agreed that, following the successful trial of drone surveillance by Community Protection, it would be prudent for the Council to investigate the potential acquisition of an in-house drone service which could be shared with

West Midlands Police. Following the discussion the following recommendations were made:

**Resolved:**

**That:**

- 1. The Committee notes the presentation and its contents;**
- 2. The Committee recommends Cabinet to investigate the acquisition of a drone or drone service for community protection to use in conjunction with West Midlands Police.**

**4. Decide**

The recommendations are asking Cabinet to investigate the acquisition of a drone or drone service for community protection. Cabinet could choose to:

1. undertake the recommendation as set out;
2. reject them;
3. choose to receive a report in more depth at a future Cabinet meeting.

**5. Respond**

Following the decision of Cabinet the Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be advised of the outcome of their recommendation.

**6. Review**

Subject to the decision of Cabinet further reports at Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings or Cabinet meetings may be required.

**Background papers**

None

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