

Report to Portfolio Holder for Public Protection

Subject: Issuing Public Protection Enforcement Staff with Body Worn Video Cameras.

Date: 5 June 2019

Author: Community Protection Manager

Wards Affected

All Wards

Purpose

To seek approval to allow officers in the Council's Public Protection Service to use Body Worn Video Cameras whilst working across the Borough.

Key Decision

This is not a Key Decision.

Recommendation(s)

THAT:

- 1) Authorisation is given to issue Body Worn Video Cameras to officers for use whilst working across the Borough.**
- 2) To note the accompanying operational protocol and procedure.**

Background

1. Recent improvements in digital camera technology have meant that Body Worn Video Cameras (BWVC) are now reasonably priced and readily available to a variety of officers who work in the community.
- 1.2 The use of BWVC can provide a number of benefits which include a deterrent to acts of aggression or verbal and physical abuse toward employees and providing evidence to support investigations.
- 1.3 There is evidence to suggest that the use of BWVC can deescalate confrontational situations and reduce attacks and verbal abuse of those wearing them.
- 1.4 It is also anticipated that the use of the BWVC will reduce complaints against officers and act as a deterrent measure. It will also provide greater transparency and encourage professionalism from officers at all times.

Proposal

- 2.1 It is proposed to issue officers in the Council's Public Protection Service (initially trialling the project with the Neighbourhood Warden Service and Licensing Enforcement Officer) (referred to in the enclosed guidance as Public Protection Enforcement Staff) with digital BWVC, so images can be obtained for the purpose of preventing and detecting crime and to ensure consistency of service across the Borough.
- 2.2 Gedling Borough Council will ensure that the use of BWVC equipment by its Public Protection Enforcement Staff is widely advertised prior to commencement. The Council will issue a formal press release in addition to publishing information on its web site.

Alternative Options

2. To not issue the Body Worn Video Cameras and therefore not gather images for the purpose of preventing and detecting crime.

Financial Implications

3. The cost of purchasing the Body Worn Video Cameras and associated equipment will be £5,545.50 as a one off payment. The purchase is accommodated within the existing approved budget.

Appendices

4. Appendix A Gedling Borough Council's Protocol for the use of Body Worn Video Cameras by Public Protection Enforcement Staff.

Appendix B Gedling Borough Council's Procedure for the use of Body Worn Video Cameras by Public Protection Enforcement Staff.

Appendix C DPIA – Body Worn Video Cameras

Background Papers

5. None.

Reasons for Recommendations

To act as a deterrent to acts of aggression or verbal and physical abuse towards employees, to provide evidence to support investigations and to provide greater transparency and encourage professionalism from officers at all times