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Your Ref 13/01056/OUT

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Rebecca Horley
Senior Planning Officer
Cherwell District Council
Bodicote House
Bodicote
BANBURY
OX15 4AA

Dear Ms Horley

**UP TO 200 RESIDENTIAL UNITS, ACCESS, AMENITY SPACE AND ASSOCIATED WORKS
SOUTH LODGE FRINGFORD ROAD CAVERSFIELD BICESTER – 13/01056/OUT**

I write on behalf of Thames Valley Police (TVP) with regard to the above application which seeks to deliver this new housing scheme in Caversfield near Bicester. Whilst acknowledging that the scheme is relatively modest in terms of scale and numbers it should be borne in mind that the impact of development is proportionate to the scale and size of the settlement within which it lies.

I have now had an opportunity to carefully examine the proposals having regard to the implications of the development upon the infrastructure requirements of TVP and the impact the scheme will have upon the day to day policing of the area. TVP acknowledge and welcome the applicants acceptance that

TVP has undertaken an assessment of the implications of growth and the delivery of housing upon the policing of Cherwell District and established that in order to maintain the current level of policing, developer contributions towards the provision of infrastructure will be required. The proposed development will have an impact upon the ability of TVP to police the new development and surrounding area by placing an additional unplanned demand upon the existing police service.

Having undertaken a qualitative examination of the scheme and the impact of the policing the Local Police Area Commander has requested a contribution of **£32,100** which is broken down as follows;

ANPR Camera x 2 - £22,000

Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) Cameras and CCTV is an increasingly important tool in the prevention and detection of crime, in particular serious offences such as burglary, drug offences and physical and sexual assaults.

Bicycles x 2 (including necessary kit) - £1,600

The provision of two dedicated bicycles will assist in enabling PCSO's and PC's to access the site and surrounding area and also provide a visible presence. Bicycles are viewed as a sustainable means of transport and neighbourhood officers (i.e. those that patrol a specific area) are encouraged to utilise bicycles where appropriate.

Mobile IT x 2 - £8500

Provision of mobile IT equipment is increasingly being promoted by TVP. This enables officers to connect directly with central IT facilities thus aiding the ability to respond to incidents whilst out on patrol. This is also particularly useful in rural areas where members of the public may find it difficult to visit police stations to make statements or other such matters. Crucially the provision of these remote IT facilities enables more officers to be out and about, providing a visible police presence, the mobile IT enables officers to remotely carry out tasks that otherwise would have to be undertaken back at a Police station.

Turning to the specific tests set out in Regulation 122.

1. Necessary to make the proposed development acceptable in planning terms

The creation of safe and accessible environments where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion is fundamental to planning for sustainable development as confirmed in the NPPF.

There is no dedicated Government funding to comprehensively cover the capital costs associated with policing associated new development. Unless contributions from developments are secured then TVP would be unable to maintain the current levels of policing with resources diverted and stretched, inevitably leading to increased incidents of crime and disorder within the local area.

Developer contributions are therefore necessary to ensure development is in line with the wider objectives of sustainable development as set out in national and local planning policy.

2. Directly related to the proposed development

There is a functional link between the new development and the contributions requested. Put simply without the development taking place and the subsequent population growth there would be no requirement for the additional infrastructure. The additional population growth will lead to an increase in incidents, which will require a Police response.

The infrastructure identified above has been specifically identified as infrastructure required to deal with the likely form, scale and intensity of incidents that the development will generate.

3. Fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the proposed development.

The proposed developer contribution is proposed to help achieve a proportionate increase in police infrastructure to enable TVP to maintain its current level of service in the area. As stated the contribution would assist in the provision of necessary infrastructure which have been identified by the Local Area Commander as necessary to provide an appropriate level of policing to serve the proposed development and maintain an appropriate level of community safety.

The Council's own document; *Cherwell Sustainable Community Strategy – Our District, Our Future* identifies as a key objective the need to reduce the number of people who fear crime and feel unsafe in their community, the strategy goes on to promote the tackling of incidences anti-social behaviour and building confidence in the police and local authority.

I trust this sets out sufficiently TVP's request for infrastructure contributions to mitigate against the impact of the development.

For clarification this response is solely linked to the impact of the development upon TVP's infrastructure requirements. You may receive a separate response from TVP's Secure by Design advisor relating to detailed matters of the design and layout of the proposals.

As always I am more than happy to discuss the content of this submission with yourself and the applicant.

Yours sincerely

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