

Appendix 3

Area Committee Well Being Fund **Commissioning of Service**

Project Name: Operation Argus

Lead Organisation: North West Leeds Division – NPT West Inner & West Outer

Project Summary:

To deploy a Thermal Image Camera in the West Inner and Outer area of Leeds to detect cannabis farms which are set up in domestic-dwellings and to assist in apprehending suspects .

Outcomes (please summarise the main outcome / output / benefit the project will achieve):

The vast heat required by the lamps used in the process of cultivating cannabis, is easily detectable from the exterior of the building where the “Farm” is operating. The deployment of a thermal image camera is facilitated to this aim. The camera detects the highest temperature in any specific area that it is pointed in, & can also take thermal snapshots which in turn can be downloaded & used in evidence.

NPT Officer's have trialled such a device in all wards of the NWL Division, during the latter months of 2008. This had much success, several farms were detected which led to numerous arrests, and criminal proceedings.

The camera was also deployed during search warrants as it can detect where someone has been stood/sat etc for up to 1 hour afterwards, or if they are hiding in cupboards. It was also successful in tracing an escaped criminal who had hid in foliage during the night.

We are currently trialling a covert thermal camera in the West Leeds inner/outer ward.

Project Cost (please indicate how much the project will cost, how much Well Being Funding is sought and breakdown between capital and revenue):

The cost of each unit is £4,500 (excluding VAT). An application for 50% of the cost is going to the Outer Area Committee.

Total Cost from Inner West Area Committee £2,250 (excluding VAT)

The continuing costs thereafter will be met by NWL Division, I.E. deployment, maintenance & the battery charging.

Identify which geographic areas will benefit and which Area Committee (Inner or Outer) you are applying to:

West Leeds Inner and Outer Area

State who will receive the funding for this project:

West Yorkshire Police, Crime Reduction Office, NWL Division.