

**REPORT TO:** Grants Advisory Committee

29/09/2023

**LEAD CABINET MEMBER:** Cllr John Williams

**LEAD OFFICER:** Gareth Bell

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## Care Together Seed Funding for Mobile and Community Warden Schemes

### Executive Summary

1. £28,500 of funding from Cambridgeshire County Council has been provided to enable individual Mobile and Community Warden Schemes across South Cambs to seek innovative ways to promote and expand their service at a very local level. This funding, known as 'Seed Funding', is part of Cambridgeshire County Council's Care Together Programme, which was approved by the Adult Social Care Community Board on 6 April 2023. Its key objective is to support older adults to live independently in their own homes for longer.
2. The purpose of this report is to consider the applications for funding received from Mobile and Community Warden Schemes between 7 August 2023 and 31 August as agreed at the June and July meetings of the Grants Advisory Committee.

### Key Decision

3. No. This is not a key decision because it relates to external funding and does not impact on the expenditure within the 2023-2024 budget for this Council.

### Recommendations

4. The Grants Advisory Committee may consider all applications for funding that are set out in **Appendix A** of this report and recommend to the Lead Cabinet Member for Resources to:
  - A) award the amount of funding requested,
  - B) award an alternative amount of funding, including zero funding, giving reasons,
  - C) defer a decision, if further information is required from grant applicants, or
  - D) reject an application giving the reasons for this.

## Reasons for Recommendations

5. A decision was made on 30 June 2023 to accept the recommendation of the Grants Advisory Committee (GAC) to administer a direct grant of £7,500 to Melbourn Mobile Warden Scheme (MMWS) for taking over the management of the Harston & District Village Warden Trust (HVWT). A decision was made on 27 July 2023 to accept the recommendation to administer £21,000 of funding through a one-off grant scheme for Mobile Warden Schemes in South Cambridgeshire.
6. The Grants Advisory Committee's role is to consider and make recommendations to the Lead Cabinet Member responsible for grants, or Cabinet as appropriate, including, but not limited to:
  - A) Reviewing the Council's grants schemes to ensure they reflect Council priorities.
  - B) Designing any new or revised grants schemes, including consideration of criteria and guidance applicable in respect of each scheme.
  - C) Considering applications made under the Council's grants schemes.

## Details

### General

7. Mobile Warden Schemes were developed in recognition that there was a need to provide a service to support and take care of older, more vulnerable members of society. Schemes within some parishes of South Cambridgeshire have been in existence for over 20 years.
8. Currently there are 19 funded schemes covering 50 parishes across the district; 13 are run by Age UK and 6 are independent community schemes (5 are charities and 1 is run by the Parish Council). Some schemes operate to support one parish whereas others provide support to multiple parishes.
9. Enabling older and/or vulnerable people to have greater access to a local warden scheme is a key priority of this Council's Business Plan 2019-2024. This priority is aligned to the predicted high growth in the over 65-year-old population over the next 20 years. It recognises that with age comes increased risk of deteriorating physical and mental health, including feelings of loneliness and isolation, as well as a desire on the part of the majority of older people to live independently in their own homes.
10. Providing this financial support will help Cambridgeshire County Council and SCDC align to two of the priorities outlined by the Integrated Care System Health Strategy published in December 2022:
  - Creating an environment to give people the opportunities to be as healthy as they can be.
  - Promoting early intervention and prevention measures to improve mental health and wellbeing.
11. On 24 August 2023 the Grants Advisory Committee also agreed to

- approve the sum of £100,000 to provide a one-year extension in funding for 2024-25 to Mobile and Community Warden Schemes operating in the district currently in receipt of funding (to include a contingency fund for any new schemes expressing an interest in setting up in the 2024-25 period).
- approve the principle of offering a three-year grant scheme from April 2025 to March 2028, which will include adapted criteria and the requirement for an annual report at the end of each year detailing outputs and outcomes.
- agree that further development work is required to support the sustainability of the schemes and that this work will include an in-depth review in advance of a decision on funding allocation for the next three-year funding cycle.

12. Officers at this Council (and in the Care Together team) are continuing to play a role in promoting and supporting schemes (with training opportunities, for example) and, where appropriate, will facilitate opportunities for district-wide promotion and discussion with other potential funders of the schemes. Officers will also aim to attend any Warden-led sessions that are funded through the grant.

13. SCDC officers are already working to update flyers for the promotion of all Community Warden Schemes, and to increase promotion to those organisations with a direct link to elderly people. For example, the Council's Service Support Grant recipients, Community transport schemes, Social Prescribers, GP's, Primary Care Networks, the Home Improvement Agency, as well as through the Council's visiting support team, lifeline service and the sheltered housing team. An online toolkit for the setting up of new schemes is also currently being developed.

14. The Council commissioned an independent organisation to evaluate the social value and costs that could be avoided in other parts of the health and social care system by providing Mobile and Community Warden Schemes. Results of this evaluation will hopefully also provide further insights on how schemes can increase numbers of service users.

15. Almost all Mobile and Community Warden Schemes have felt an impact on client numbers following the Covid pandemic and as a result of the current cost of living crisis. This has, in many cases, adversely affected their finances. Additional funding of this nature will help to ensure the sustainability of the schemes at a reasonable cost to the client.

16. Promotion of the grant was through emails to the schemes currently operating in the district and to ward members whose parishes operate schemes.

17. Schemes were allowed to bid for up to £2,000 provided they could demonstrate a genuine need for funding and an intention to expand and promote. Full Guidance notes and full eligibility criteria can be found at **Appendix B**

18. A summary of the applications can be found at **Appendix A** (copies of the applications forms are available from the Communities Team upon request).

19. When assessing the grant applications, officers also took the following into account:

- The amount of grant funding requested.
- The fees charged to the client.
- The number of clients supported in the previous year.
- Income and expenditure for the previous year.
- The financial position of the scheme.

20. A total of two applications were received totalling £15,092.

- The Mordens & Litlington Mobile Warden Scheme- £1,710
- AGE UK Cambridgeshire and Peterborough (11 schemes)- £13,382

21. If approved, the £5,908 in unspent funds will be returned to Cambridgeshire County Council and the two grants will be paid as soon as possible after 7 October 2023. Schemes will have from October 2023 to 31 April 2024 to spend their grant. End of Project Reports will need to be received by the end of June 2024.

### **Options**

22. The Grants Advisory Committee may consider all applications for funding that are set out in **Appendix A** of this report and recommend to the Lead Cabinet Member for Resources to:

- A) award the amount of funding requested,
- B) award an alternative amount of funding, including zero funding, giving reasons,
- C) defer a decision, if further information is required from grant applicants, or
- D) reject an application stating the reason for this.

### **Implications**

23. In the writing of this report, taking into account financial, legal, staffing, risk, equality and diversity, climate change, and any other key issues, the following implications have been considered:-

### **Legal**

24. An agreement is in place with Cambridgeshire County Council for the management of the total £28,500 fund. Any unallocated funding after this round of applications must be returned to the County Council. Agreements will be put in place with all grant recipients, which should be followed should a variation or discontinuation of funding be proposed and agreed.

### **Alignment with Council Priority Areas**

#### **A modern and caring Council**

Ensure that South Cambridgeshire continues to offer an outstanding quality of life for our residents: the grant programmes promote a good quality of life for all residents, assisting directly or indirectly through voluntary organisations schemes which help

overcome the challenges faced by residents imposed by age, infirmity, disability, low income or rurality.

## **Appendices**

Appendix A: Care Together Applications received

Appendix B: Care Together Seed Fund criteria

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