

REPORT TO: Grants Advisory Committee

22 February 2019

LEAD OFFICER: Director, Health and Environmental Services

Mobile Warden Scheme Grant Funding 2019/20

Purpose

1. To agree the level of grant funding to be awarded to local Mobile and Community Warden Schemes, subject to budget approval, as part of the Council's scheme of grants to the voluntary sector for 2019/20.
2. This is not a key decision.

Recommendations

3. It is recommended that Grants Advisory Committee recommends to the Lead Cabinet Member to agree to fund, subject to Council approval of the budget, local Mobile and Community Warden Schemes to the following amounts in 2019/20:

| Scheme | Recommended Grant (£) |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Age UK Cambs & Peterboro x 7 schemes | 10,210.00 |
| Cottenham | 1,800.00 |
| Harston | 1,250.00 |
| Haslingfield | 250.00 |
| Melbourn | 2,000.00 |
| Milton | 2,000.00 |
| The Mordens & Litlington MWS | 2,000.00 |
| Great Shelford | 1,000.00 |
| TOTALS | 20,510.00 |

Reasons for Recommendations

4. 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) Review of the Council's grants schemes to ensure they reflect Council priorities.
 - (b) Design of any new or revised grants schemes, including consideration of criteria and guidance applicable in respect of each scheme.

- (c) Consideration of applications made under the Council's grants schemes.
5. The recommended grant levels for 2019/20 take into account:
- (a) The amount of grant funding requested.
 - (b) The fees charged to the client.
 - (c) The number of clients supported in the previous year.
 - (d) Income and expenditure for the previous year.
 - (e) The schemes finances.
 - (f) Amounts of reserved and unreserved funding.

Background

6. Mobile and Community Wardens Schemes (sometimes called Community Care Schemes) exist in South Cambridgeshire to support older people to live independently in their homes and in the community they know, and which knows them.
7. The warden schemes are complementary to statutory care services and do not duplicate or replace the medical or social care services that individuals may also require. They can help to combat loneliness and social isolation and can provide significant benefits to clients at relatively low cost. They are seen by clients and their families as a vital community-based service.
8. South Cambridgeshire District Council has been providing grant funding to Mobile and Community Warden Schemes for many years.
9. The grant funding scheme criteria was reviewed by Grants Advisory Committee and amendments were approved by Cabinet on 7 November 2018.

Considerations

10. Applications were welcomed from South Cambridgeshire Mobile and Community Warden Schemes from 30 November 2018 to 25 January 2019. The scheme was advertised on the Council's website, via press release, on social media, via the parish e-bulletin, via local voluntary organisations and direct to all applicants from the previous two-years.
11. Applications were received from all of the applicants that applied in the previous year. Age UK have applied for two additional schemes, Waterbeach and Stapleford. An application was also received from Great Shelford this year. Great Shelford last applied financial year 2016/17. A summary of the applications can be found at Appendix A (copies of the application forms are available from the Sustainable Communities and Partnerships Team upon request).
12. The recommended levels of grant funding for 2019/20 take the following into account:
- (a) The amount of grant funding requested.

- (b) The fees charged to the client.
 - (c) The number of clients supported in the previous year.
 - (d) Income and expenditure for the previous year.
 - (e) The schemes finances.
 - (f) Amounts of reserved and unreserved funding.
13. The total amount of funding for allocation for 2019/20 is £20,510 subject to Council approving the budget.
14. Total amount of funding applied for by all Mobile Warden Schemes 2019/20 was £31,359.00.
15. A number of the schemes will receive less funding than they received in 2018/19 due to the additional number of schemes applying for 2019/20. In order to fund all of the schemes to the level they received last year, plus fund the additional schemes to the amount they requested, the total would be £23,410.
16. It is suggested that all schemes should be encouraged to charge at least £6 per week minimum for their services, in-line with average charge across current schemes. This will help with the ongoing sustainability of the schemes.

Options

17. 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 to:
- (a) agree to fund, subject to Council approval of the budget, local Mobile and Community Warden Schemes to the amounts set out in paragraph 3, or
 - (b) award an alternative amount of funding to each scheme, including zero funding, up to the amount of funding available (subject to Council approval of the budget), or
 - (c) defer a decision if further information is required.

Implications

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

Financial

19. This Lead Cabinet Member's decision will be made subject to Council's approval of the budget. Should the amount of funding available for 2019/20 be amended it may be necessary for the Lead Cabinet Member to reconsider the amount of funding allocated to schemes.

Consultation responses

20. A small panel of officers met to discuss the applications and agree the levels of funding to recommend to the Lead Cabinet Member. The officers were: Katherine

Southwood (Project Officer), Lesley McFarlane (Development Officer - Health Specialist) and Gemma Barron (Head of Sustainable Communities and Wellbeing).

Effect on Strategic Aims

21. The Mobile Warden Scheme grants help support South Cambridgeshire communities through providing grants to community and voluntary sector groups to help them carry out projects to benefit local people..

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