

**REPORT TO:** Grants Advisory Committee 28 February 2020

**LEAD CABINET MEMBER:** Councillor John Williams Lead Cabinet Member for Finance

**LEAD OFFICER:** Kathryn Hawkes, Programme Manager

## Mobile Warden Scheme Grant Funding 2020/2021

### Executive Summary

- The purpose of this paper is 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 2020/21.

### Recommendations

- 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 2020/21:

<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Grant to keep in line with budget (£)</b>	<b>Grant with a 2% inflationary increase from last year (unless they have asked for less/the same as last year) (£)</b>	<b>Recommended Grant (£)</b>
Age UK Cambridgeshire & Peterborough x 7 schemes	£10,970	£12,200	£14,800
Cottenham	£1,650	£1,800	£1,800
Great Shelford	£900	£1,020	£1,500
Harston	£1,150	£1,250	£1,250
Haslingfield	£250	£255	£500
Melbourn	£2,000	£2,250	£2,500

Milton	£2,000	£2,200	£2,500
The Mordens & Litlington MWS	£2,000	£2,200	£2,500
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>£20,920</b>	<b>£23,175</b>	<b>£27,350</b>

## Reasons for Recommendations

3. 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.
4. The recommended grant levels for 2020/21 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 scheme's finances.
  - (f) Amounts of reserved and unreserved funding.
5. The recommended grant levels for 2020/21 also demonstrates the Council's commitment to existing Mobile Warden Schemes as well as new ones.

## Details

6. Mobile and Community Warden 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 will be reviewed by Grants Advisory Committee as part of the move to 3-year funding for MWS which will commence in 2021.
10. Applications were welcomed from South Cambridgeshire Mobile and Community Warden Schemes from 29 November 2019 to 24 January 2020. 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. A summary of the applications can be found at Appendix A (copies of the application forms are available from the Sustainable Communities and Wellbeing Team upon request).
12. The recommended levels of grant funding for 2020/2021 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 scheme's finances.
  - (f) Amounts of reserved and unreserved funding.
13. The recommended grant levels for 2020/21 also demonstrates the Council's commitment to existing Mobile Warden Schemes as well as new ones.
14. The total amount of funding for allocation for 2020/2021 is £20,920 subject to Council approving the budget.
15. Total amount of funding applied for by all Mobile Warden Schemes 2020/2021 was £27,350.
16. It is suggested that all schemes should be encouraged to charge at least £6.50 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 2, column 2 which keeps awards in line with the initial proposed budget; or

- (b) agree to fund, subject to Council approval of the budget, local Mobile and Community Warden Schemes to the amounts recommended in paragraph 2, column 3, which keeps awards in line with a 2% inflationary uplift or
- (c) agree to fund, subject to Council approval of the budget, local Mobile and Community Warden Schemes to the amounts recommended in paragraph 2, column 4 which provides groups with the full amount they have requested; or
- (d) 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
- (e) 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 2020/21 be amended it may be necessary for the Lead Cabinet Member to reconsider the amount of funding allocated to schemes.

## **Risks/Opportunities**

20. Applicants are required to provide supporting documents including copies of their constitution, financial accounts and quotes where applicable. Applicants must agree to the grant conditions before fund are released.

## **Consultation responses**

21. 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: Kathryn Hawkes (Programme Manager), Lesley McFarlane (Development Officer – Health Specialist) and Ellen Bridges (Project Officer).

## **Effect on Council Priority Areas**

22. 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. The older population is set to rise over the period 2017-2035 by 49% and over the same period the over 90's is predicted to increase by 137% (CCCRG 2019). Isolation and loneliness are more prevalent in people who are aged 65+, living alone and/or have a chronic health condition (Age UK). Academic

research is clear that preventing and alleviating loneliness is vital to enabling older people to remain independent for as long as possible (Holt-Lunstad, 2015).

## **Appendices**

Appendix A: Applications Summary

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