

REPORT TO: Grants Advisory Committee

07 September 2020

LEAD CABINET MEMBER: Cllr John Williams

LEAD OFFICER: Jeff Membery

Mobile Warden Scheme (MWS) Expansion, Grant Applications

Executive Summary

1. In the financial year 2020/21, Cabinet agreed to invest £200,000 per annum for 2 years to expand delivery of the Mobile Warden schemes to improve coverage across the District providing more equitable access for residents.
2. £140,000 was set aside for applications via a procurement exercise, this was to cover parishes which had been identified as a *priority.
3. £60,000 was set aside for parishes, which had not been identified as a priority area, but which wanted to provide such a scheme for their residents.
4. This paper reports on the outcomes of the Grant applications. A separate paper has been submitted to report on the outcomes of the procurement exercise.
5. The additional funding for grant schemes was promoted via the normal social media channels, South Cambridgeshire DC website and verbally with some parishes which had shown a prior interest.
6. Three parishes applied for grant funding to set up schemes in their villages.
7. Applications were received from Gamlingay and Longstanton and a joint submission from the parishes of Fen Drayton & Lolworth.
8. Gamlingay will administer their own scheme. Longstanton and Fen Drayton & Lolworth will employ the help of Age UK to administer their schemes.

**Priority area is one which has a high proportion of residents aged 70+ per head of population or one which is geographically isolated*

Key Decision

9. No

This is not a key decision because it reviews expenditure within current budgets.

Recommendations

10. The Grants Advisory Committee is asked to review the report and agree to award grant funding to the parishes of Gamlingay, Longstanton and the joint scheme for Lolworth and Fen Drayton.

Reasons for Recommendations

11. To improve equity of access to schemes for vulnerable residents across the District and support the implementation of new schemes in the Parishes of Gamlingay, Longstanton and Lolworth and Fen Drayton.

Details

12. Between 2016-2026 the older age groups, particularly the over 75-year age group, are expected to have the greatest population growth across the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough area ⁽¹⁾.
13. Life expectancy in South Cambridgeshire is higher than the national and county averages, however, we now live in a society that is living longer, but with fewer years of life lived healthily ⁽¹⁾.
14. The older population across South Cambridgeshire is set to rise over the period 2017-2035 by 49%. Over the same period the over 90's will increase by 137% ⁽¹⁾.
15. Following the Covid-19 pandemic, the need to support our most vulnerable residents has never been more widely recognised or needed.
16. In the financial year 2020/21, Cabinet agreed to invest £200,000 per annum for 2 years to expand the Mobile Warden schemes and provide full funding for new schemes to improve coverage across the District and provide a more equitable service.
17. Several Parishes identified as priority (details in separate paper) were allocated funds of £140,000/annum and applications were invited via procurement. The outcomes are covered in a separate report.
18. The remaining £60,000/annum was set aside to enable parishes which had not been identified as a priority to apply for full funding via a grants scheme for a maximum of 2 years. Thereafter, all new schemes would need to apply for part-funding from SCDC via the normal grant application process and to seek other funding from external sources.
19. The Grant was promoted via the normal social media channels and the South Cambridgeshire DC website and by discussions with Parishes.
20. Three applications were received totalling a funding commitment of £48,018 per annum.

21. Applications were as follows:

Table 1

Parish	Type of Scheme	Amount Applied for:
Gamlingay PC	Independent	£14,656
* Fen Drayton/ Lolworth	Age UK	£18,841
Longstanton	Age UK	£14,521

*The Fen Drayton/Lolworth application is a joint application together with Fenstanton PC which falls within Huntingdonshire DC. The village of Fenstanton has applied for funding from the Innovate and Cultivate fund At Cambridgeshire County Council to support their application. An Officer has spoken to the I&C funding officer at CCC to ascertain the likelihood of funding being approved and is confident that this will be granted. A condition that this be the case could be applied to the SCDC grant when awarded.

22. A surplus of £11,982 per annum remains in Grants funding, in addition to the surplus from the procurement exercise of approximately £45,000 per annum.

Options

With regard to the grant awards, Grants Advisory Committee could:

1. recommend the awards to each of the parishes in full as per table 1 above;
2. recommend that different grant amounts are offered, or that grants are deferred, giving reasons.

With regard to the surplus grant funding, Grants Advisory Committee could:

3. recommend a second round of grant funding to attract additional parishes to set up new schemes;
4. recommend the surplus funding be used to increase the grant sum available to existing mobile warden schemes in the next financial year;
5. recommend that the surplus be used in other areas of the District Council's business.

Implications

In the writing of this report, taking into account financial, legal, staffing, risk, equality and diversity and climate change, there are no implications to report.

Legal

23. Arrangements are in place with grant recipients, which should be followed, if a variation or discontinuation of funding is agreed.

Consultation responses

24. With Members and Parishes.

Prior to the procurement process a series of presentations was given to parish councils to explain the need for the expansion of Mobile Warden Scheme coverage and the various delivery options. District council members were often present and were supportive of the proposal to expand coverage.

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 mobile warden schemes promote a good quality of life for vulnerable residents, assisting directly in supporting independent living, addressing social isolation and loneliness and a wrap around service, connecting residents to other sources of help and advice within the community and health service.

Appendices

None

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