

**REPORT TO:** Grants Advisory Committee

07 September 2020

**LEAD CABINET MEMBER:** Cllr John Williams

**LEAD OFFICER:** Jeff Membery

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## **Mobile Warden Scheme (MWS) Expansion, Procurement Exercise**

### **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 to provide more equitable access for residents.
2. £140,000 was set aside for a procurement exercise, which was to cover parishes which had been identified as a priority.
3. Priority parishes were those villages identified as having a higher proportion of older residents aged 70+ per head of population and/or being geographically isolated.
4. It was agreed that procuring the service in these parishes would guarantee delivery of schemes in villages identified as having greatest need.
5. Parishes and organisations were given the opportunity to bid for all Lots, of which there were seven, or individual Lots. This would enable parishes to apply for their own Lot should they choose.
6. Parishes not identified as a priority, but which wanted a scheme for their community were also given the opportunity to bid for funding via our grant funding portal and the remaining £60,000 per annum was ringfenced for this. The outcome of this grant funding is reported in a separate paper.
7. The Procurement opportunity was promoted via the normal social media channels, South Cambridgeshire DC website and the procurement portal.
8. Two organisations put forward bids to apply to run all schemes (Lots) within the priority areas. One parish applied to run their own scheme within the area of one of the lots, which they did via Grant funding (see separate paper).

### **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 formally recommend the decision to award the delivery of the service to Age UK.

## Reasons for Recommendations

11. Age UK's application was strong, with proven evidence of successful delivery of existing schemes across several parishes within the District and beyond. Age UK are in a position to deliver new schemes within a tight time frame based on existing infrastructure, expertise and local knowledge.

## 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 <sup>(1)</sup>.
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 <sup>(1)</sup>.
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% <sup>(1)</sup>.
15. In the financial year 2020/21, Cabinet agreed to invest £200,000 per annum for 2 years to expand the Mobile Warden schemes to improve coverage across the District and provide more equitable access to schemes for its vulnerable residents.
16. A number of parishes were identified as priority areas based on two criteria: a) a greater number of older residents per head of population within a particular parish and b) the geographical location of the parish and its relative rurality.
17. £140,000/annum was set aside to provide full financial cover for the schemes for an initial 2-year period, in order to get schemes up and running successfully. Thereafter, schemes would be expected to apply for funding from SCDC and other sources in the usual manner.
18. A further £60,000 was set aside to enable parishes, not identified as a priority, but which wanted to set up a scheme for their community. Parishes were given the opportunity to apply for finance via a grant application and the outcomes are covered in a separate paper.
19. To ensure the priority areas received a scheme, officers agreed to secure delivery via a procurement exercise. Each identified Parish (or group of parishes) was designated a Lot (7 in total); this would enable a Parish to apply to run their own scheme or for an outside organisation to apply for one or more Lots.
20. The Service was promoted via the normal social media channels, the South Cambridgeshire DC website and the procurement portal.
21. Two organisations put forward bids to apply to run all schemes (Lots) within the priority areas. The bids were reviewed, scored and appraised in accordance with procurement guidance and with the support of the SCDC procurement officer. Using the scoring matrix, Age UK received the highest score. Gamlingay parish council applied to run their own scheme via the Grants process and therefore the Lot relating to Gamlingay was withdrawn from the procurement process.
22. It is recommended that Age UK be awarded the remaining 6 Lots.

23. The sums applied for by Age UK to run the schemes (excluding Gamlingay) are as follows:
- a. Year 1 £94,327
  - b. Year 2 £93,871
24. This leaves a surplus of funds in Year 1 £45,673, and Year 2 £46,129.
25. A separate paper will be brought to GAC at a future date presenting options for the use of this surplus funding.

## **Options**

Grants Advisory Committee could:

1. formally recommend to Cabinet that all Lots (minus Gamlingay) be awarded to Age UK for the delivery of a Mobile Warden Scheme in each area.
2. formally recommend to Cabinet that the procurement process be run for a second time, giving reasons.

## **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.

## **Consultation responses**

26. 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. A launch event had been organised at the Council Chamber early in April which had to be cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

## **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.

## **Appendices**

None

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