



REPORT TO: Grants Advisory
Committee

**LEAD
CABINET
MEMBER:** Cllr John Williams

**LEAD
OFFICER:** Jeff Membery

30 October 2020

Mobile Warden Scheme (MWS) Expansion, allocation of underspend. Paper 2.

Executive Summary

1. For the financial years 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 the Council agreed a budget of £200,000 to expand the number of Mobile Warden Schemes across the District to fully fund any new schemes within this 2-year period.
2. A procurement exercise was undertaken over the period of July/August 2020.
3. £140,000 was allocated by the Council to cover 'priority' parishes, i.e. those identified as having greater numbers of older/vulnerable people per head of population.
4. A further £60,000 was set aside for grant applications to encourage other parishes or voluntary organisations to apply to set up schemes for their residents.
5. Age UK successfully won the procurement contract to the value of £94,327 in Year 1 and £93,871 in year 2.
6. Three applications were received via the grant application process totalling a funding commitment of £48,018 per annum.
7. This leaves an underspend of £57,655 in Year 1 and £58,111 in Year 2.

Key Decision

8. No

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

Recommendations

9. The Grants Advisory Committee is asked to review the report and decide how they wish to allocate the surplus funding remaining for Year 1 and 2.

Reasons for Recommendations

10. The recent procurement exercise and grant application funding has extended the coverage to an additional 10 schemes covering an additional 20 villages across the District. This has extended reach by 66% and increased coverage of 29 villages to 49 villages. However, this will increase the financial contributions to support all the Mobile Warden schemes in the longer term. Careful consideration needs to be made as to whether to continue to increase the mobile warden coverage using the surplus funds or to provide greater support to the existing and new schemes, particularly in light of the additional burdens as presented by Covid-19 and highlighted in Paper 1.

Details

11. In accordance with the Council's Business Plan 2020/2021, £200,000 funding was allocated in the budget to expand the number of MWS across the District.
12. The amount was agreed following a study of the parish demographics of people aged 70+. Seventeen parishes were identified as priority areas with higher than average numbers of older residents, these were grouped into seven viable schemes/clusters.
13. It was agreed by Council to fully fund these schemes for the first two years. Thereafter, Parishes would be expected to apply for part-funding by grant application in the normal way and to seek out additional funding from other sources.
14. To ensure coverage in these seven cluster areas, £140,000 was set aside to procure a service. This would guarantee that a scheme could be set up, either by the Parish, a community group or another external provider.
15. An additional £60,000 of grant funding was set aside to enable parishes or community groups to apply for funding for a scheme within a Parish which had not been identified as a priority.
16. Both procurement exercise and grant funding application ran simultaneously throughout the period June/July 2020. Contracts were awarded in August 2020.
17. Age UK successfully won the procurement contract to the value of £94,327 in Year 1 and £93,871 in year 2.
18. Three applications were received via the grant application process totalling a funding commitment of £48,018 per annum.
19. This has left an underspend of £57,655 in Year 1 and £58,111 in Year 2 creating opportunities for the Council to consider best use of this unspent money.
20. With reference to paper 1 and the impacts of Covid-19 on existing schemes, some money could be used from this budget to help fund existing schemes to the end of this financial year or alternatively money could be drawn from the Govt covid grant.
21. Existing schemes, from April 2021 are due to move to a 3-year contract expiring in March 2024. The budget for existing schemes has not seen an increase for many years other than an inflationary uplift. Due consideration should be given to potentially increase funding to support schemes particularly in light of anticipated increased demand resulting from the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.
22. Additional part-funded schemes could be attracted to apply for funding from April 2021 to coincide with existing grant funding contracts. Any new schemes would be awarded part-funded 3-year contracts from April 2021 to expire in March 2024 to align to existing schemes.
23. Newly awarded schemes, resulting from the recent procurement and grant funding, with 2-year full funding, all have contracts which expire in September 2022, leaving an 18-

month hiatus to March 2024. Budgets need to be considered to help fund these schemes until they align to existing schemes as in point 21 above.

24. There will need to be a considerable uplift in the budget to adequately support all schemes in the future, albeit on a part-funded basis, extending from 14 schemes to 24 schemes with the potential for more, see point 21 above.

25. Given the complexity of the existing budget grant allocation, calculating exactly how much budget will be needed to adequately support all schemes in the longer term will be challenging. Existing schemes charge clients varying amounts, with variable rates of pay for their wardens and varying administration and resource structures.

Options

26. Grants Advisory Committee is asked to consider the following 2 options (either of which could be varied following discussion about the possible permutations) and make a recommendation to the Lead Member for Finance for a decision. Given the complexity of the funding landscape for MWS, these options are presented in table form (below).

Financial year	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	Comments
Budget already allocated	£27,000 existing	£27,000 existing	£27,000 existing	£27,000 existing	Given the budget has not increased other than through inflationary uplift for many years, consideration should be given to increasing the budget for existing schemes, and the anticipated additional demand on that fund once full funding for new schemes ends and the potential impacts and increased burdens resulting from Covid.
Underspend budget (new)	£57,655	£58,111	?	?	
Option 1	<p>14 existing schemes (contracts expire Mar 2021)</p> <p>Covid one off grant?</p> <p>6 months of new schemes</p>	<p>14 existing schemes (Contracts expire Mar 2024)</p> <p>Plus any additional schemes invited to apply due to increased budget. (£72K)</p> <p>12 months of new schemes (Contracts expire Sept 2022)</p>	<p>14 existing schemes plus any additional new schemes</p> <p>6 months of new schemes to Sept 2022 - additional (part) funding required to end Mar 2024 to coincide with existing contracts?</p>	<p>14 existing schemes plus any additional new schemes (Contracts expire 2024)</p> <p>10 new schemes</p>	<p>Option 1 - suggested one-off covid discretionary grant allocation of £12,655 from underspend or an amount TBC from the central govt covid grant.</p> <p>Roll forwards up to e.g. £45K (if using covid money from this budget) from 2020-2021 to increase budgets for existing schemes, increasing the total pot from £27,000 to £72,000 maximum.</p> <p>2021-2022 Roll forwards up to £58,111 plus existing budget, increasing total budget to £85,111 maximum.</p> <p>Budget still needs to be considered for 2023-2024 of the existing schemes</p> <p>In year 2022-2023 an amount needs to be found for the new schemes to provide sufficient part- funding for 18 months - Oct 2022-Mar 2024.</p> <p>In summary, rolling forward both underspends each by a year to provide sufficient funding for</p>

					existing and new schemes to the end Mar 2023. Additional funding will need to be found for April 2023-Mar 2024.
	£39,655	£72,000	£85,111+?	£27,000+??	
Option 2	14 existing schemes (contracts expire Mar 2021)				Option 2. The underspend is not used for existing budgets but absorbed into the general account but increase funding for existing schemes should be considered from April 2021 - Mar 2024 plus 18 months worth of part-funding for new schemes from Oct 2022-Mar 2024
	Covid one off grant?	14 existing schemes (contracts expire Mar 2024)	14 existing schemes (contracts expire Mar 2024)	14 existing schemes (contracts expire Mar 2024)	
	6 months of new schemes		6 months of new schemes to Sept 2022 - additional (part) funding required to end Mar 2024?	Plus 10 new schemes part funded to end Mar 2024	
	No additional new schemes	12 months of new schemes			
	Underspend is reabsorbed in general budget				
	£39,655 with grant	£27,000	£27,000+??	£27,000+??	

Implications

Financial

If Committee choose option 1, budgets will need to be agreed to ensure adequate funding is allocated to account for supporting new schemes from Oct 2022- Mar 2024. If Committee choose option 2. The budgets for the existing schemes will need to be adjusted to allow for an uplift to existing schemes from Apr 2021-Mar 2024 and to part fund new schemes from Oct 2022 to Mar 2024 to align with the existing MWS funding cycle.

27. In the writing of this report, taking into account legal, staffing, risk, equality and diversity, climate change, and any other key issues, the following implications have been considered:- NONE

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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Appendix

Income sources for the existing MWS across South Cambs:

Village	Max people benefitting last year	Funding Sources 2019/20	Funding Sum 2019/20 (£)
Cottenham	22	SCDC	1,800.00
		Parish Council	1,150.00
		CCF (Not confirmed)	2,499.00
		Rotary (TBA)	0.00
		Subtotal	5,449.00
		Service users	4,000.00
		Income Total	9,949.00
Harston	15	SCDC	1,250.00
		Parish Council	2,750.00
		Covenanted Gifts	2,000.00
		HMRC Gift Aid	1,000.00
		Subtotal	7,000.00
		Service Users	4,200.00
		Total	11,200.00
Haslingfield	20	SCDC	250.00
		Parish Council	3,000.00
		Subtotal	3,250.00
		Service Users	7,802.00
Total	11,052.00		
Melbourn	47	SCDC	2,200.00
		CCC	7,721.00
		Melbourne PC	6,500.00
		Meldreth PC	1,500.00
		Shepreth PC	600.00
		Subtotal	18,521.00
		Service users	11,626.00
Total	30,147.00		
Milton	20	SCDC	2,155.00
		Milton PC	16,385.00
		Milton Charities	2,000.00
		Subtotal	20,540.00
Service Users	7,000.00		

		Total	27,540.00
The Mordens & Litlington MWS	25	SCDC	2,155.00
		3 x Parish Councils	1,800.00
		Grants other	300.00
		Other	160.00
		Subtotal	4,415.00
		Service users	5,895.00
		Total	10,310.00
Great Shelford	36	SCDC	1,000.00
		Great Shelford PC	2,500.00
		Shelford Feast	1,000.00
		Subtotal	4,500.00
		Service users	4794.00
		Total	9,294.00
		Total excl Service User Fees	63,675.00
	185	GRAND TOTAL	109,942.00