

REPORT TO: Grants Advisory Committee

25th March 2022

LEAD CABINET MEMBER: Cllr John Williams

LEAD OFFICER: Jeff Mambery

Gamlingay Guardians Community Warden Scheme Update and ongoing support for newly created schemes

Executive Summary

1. Grants advisory committee (GAC) is asked to review the report and make recommendations to the Lead Member for Finance regarding the re-allocation of refunded monies from the Gamlingay Guardians Community Warden Scheme (£5439.87) following cessation of the scheme in November 2021.
2. The report references the decision already made on 31 January 2021 to provide £40,000 of unspent funding from the Mobile Warden Scheme procurement exercise in 2020, to part-fund the new schemes as they come to the end of the period of full funding (in September 2022).
3. Thereafter, all new schemes will be asked to apply for part funding under 3-year grant agreements from April 2024 together with the existing mobile warden schemes across the district.

Key Decision

4. No. This report to GAC seeks to make recommendations to the Lead Member for Finance regarding the re-allocation of funds that have been returned to the Council

Recommendations

5. It is proposed that GAC recommends to the Lead Member for Finance, the following:
 - i. to combine the amounts stated above (£40,000 and £5,439.87) to provide continued financial support over an 18-month period (Oct 2022-March 2024) to help sustain the new schemes until such time as they are synchronised with the funding cycle and terms of the existing Mobile Warden Grant Scheme.

Reasons for Recommendations

9. The Grants Advisory Committee's role is to consider options and make recommendations regarding grants to the Lead Cabinet Member for Finance (or to Cabinet as appropriate), including, but not limited to:
 - a) Reviewing the Council's grants schemes to ensure they reflect Council priorities;
 - b) Designing new or revising existing grants schemes, including consideration of criteria;
 - c) Consideration of applications made under the Council's grants schemes.

Details

18. The Lead Member for Finance agreed following a meeting of the Grants Advisory Committee on 31 Jan 2021 to ring-fence £40,000 of unspent mobile warden scheme procurement funds. (see Appendix A: Decision Notice).
19. This was in recognition that there was a gap in financial support of 18 months until the Mobile Warden Scheme 3-year grant funding cycle became available for new applications, creating a potential risk to the sustainment of newly created schemes.
20. Since that time, Gamlingay Guardians Community Warden Scheme decided to close and they have returned their unspent funds, amounting to £5,439.87, to the Council.
21. Combining the funding allocated for Mobile Warden Schemes with the amount returned from Gamlingay would provide the opportunity for continued financial security for the newly launched schemes until such time they could apply for part funding together with existing schemes across the district in 18 months' time. The schemes will need to work with communities and other voluntary organisations to raise additional funds to sustain them through to, and beyond, March 2024.
22. The funding cycle for the existing schemes is from April 2021- March 2024 and will run again from April 2024 – March 2027.
23. At this time, all schemes (new and existing) will be invited to apply to the Mobile Warden Scheme grant fund, which offers part funding with a 3-year agreement.

Options

24. The Committee is asked to recommend that these funds are secured for their original purpose, i.e. to support older people by part funding the new warden schemes for the described 18th month period.
25. Alternative options:
- a) Allocate the returned £5,439.87 from Gamlingay Guardians Community Warden Scheme elsewhere (giving details and reasons).
 - b) Defer a decision if further information is required.

Appendices

Appendix A: Decision Notice, 31 January 2021.

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