

REPORT TO: Grants Advisory Committee

24/06/2022

LEAD CABINET MEMBER: Cllr John Williams

LEAD OFFICER: Gareth Bell

Mobile Warden Scheme Grants End of Year progress report 2021/22

Executive Summary

1. There have been Mobile Warden Schemes within some parishes of South Cambridgeshire for over 20 years. The schemes have historically been community-led and this has resulted in inequitable cover across the district with large geographical areas including some of our most isolated parishes, or parishes with greater numbers of older people, without a scheme. To help remedy that a further six new schemes were introduced with full funding for 2 years, starting October 2020. These new schemes are required to transition to part funding from SCDC and to source their own top up funds from 2024 onwards.
2. This report reviews the delivery of Mobile Warden Schemes to the parishes of South Cambridgeshire both partially and fully funded by the Council in the financial year 2021/22.

Key Decision

3. No. This is not a key decision because it reviews expenditure within the 2021/22 budget.

Recommendations

4. The Grants Advisory Committee is asked to review the report and make recommendations as necessary to the Lead Cabinet Member for Finance to inform his decision-making in respect of plans for future funding of Mobile and Community Warden Schemes.

Reasons for Recommendations

- 5. All schemes receiving grants are on track to deliver the agreed outputs to time and to budget, achieving the objectives of the individual schemes.
- 6. Almost all schemes have experienced challenges following on from the Covid pandemic.

Details

- 7. The schemes serve a number of purposes, including: enabling older people to remain living at home independently for longer; avoiding earlier transfer into care; avoiding unnecessary hospital admission; enabling more expedient hospital discharge; providing daily contact to people who would otherwise live in isolation and/or away from their families.
- 8. Enabling older and / or vulnerable people to have greater access to a local scheme is a key priority of the Council’s Business Plan 2019-2024. This is aligned to the predicted high growth in the over 65 year-old population over the next 20 years and in recognition that with age comes increased risk of deteriorating health, loneliness and feelings of isolation.
- 9. Currently there are 17 schemes covering a total of 44 parishes. Many of the community-led schemes have been in existence for over 20 years, developed in recognition that there was a need to provide a service to support and take care of older, more vulnerable members.
- 10. The Mobile and Community Warden Scheme grants are administered on a 3-year cycle.
- 11. The first block of 11 schemes, as seen in the table below, are already part of the three-year part-funding cycle which runs to end March 2024.

Existing schemes – run by Age UK and independent	
Histon & Impington	Cottenham
Linton	Great Shelford
Small villages (Balsham, Castle Camps, Horseheath, Shudy Camps, West Wickham, West Wrating, Weston Colville)	Harston & District (Barrington, Grantchester, Harston, Hauxton, Newton & Orwell)
Stapleford	Melbourn (Meldreth & Shepreth)
Swavesey	Milton
Teversham	The Mordens (Guilden Morden, Steeple Morden, Litlington & Bassingbourn)
Waterbeach (+Chittering & Landbeach)	

- 12. The second block of 6 schemes, as seen in the table below, are new schemes in receipt of full funding until September 2022. They will then receive part funding until end March 2024, as agreed at the November 2020 meeting of the Grants Advisory Committee, bringing them in line with the schemes above. They will then be invited to apply to the Council’s three-year part-funding grant scheme

starting in April 2024. All schemes will be encouraged to fundraise via a range of sources to maintain their schemes moving forward.

New schemes
Fen Drayton & Lolworth
Fulbourn
Longstanton
Papworth Everard (Bourn, Caldecote, Comberton, Hardwick, Toft & Wimpole)
Sawston (Whittlesford, Pampisford, Duxford, Hinxton & Ickleton)
Willingham & Over

13. The Teversham scheme is experiencing some organisational issues and will need to be reviewed in the course of the coming year. Please see the specific Teversham update in Appendix A.

14. Almost all schemes have felt an impact following the Covid pandemic and this has, in many cases, affected client numbers. However, the tide seems to be turning. And in the case of the newer schemes, it will take time to bring local knowledge, understanding and usage of the scheme in line with the more established schemes.

15. The geographical reach has increased from 16 parishes to 34 parishes in 2021-22.

Options

The Grants Advisory Committee could:

1. Note the delivery of all grant schemes within the scope of this report, and agree that all are on track in line with officer opinion; and/or
2. Highlight any concerns for further investigation or action, giving reasons, and request that a follow up report be returned to GAC within appropriate timescales.

Implications

16. In the writing of this report, taking into account financial, legal, staffing, risk, equality and diversity, climate change, and any other key issues, the following implications have been considered:-

Legal

17. Arrangements are in place with grant recipients, which should be followed should a variation or discontinuation of funding be proposed and agreed.

Consultation responses

18. All schemes have been asked to report on service delivery over the last year.

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 grant programmes promote a good quality of life for all residents, assisting directly or indirectly through voluntary organisations schemes which help overcome the challenges faced by residents imposed by age, infirmity, disability, low income or rurality.

Appendices

Appendix A: summary report of progress for the year

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