



Report to:	Grants Advisory Committee	30 June 2023
Lead Cabinet Member:	Councillor John Williams Lead Cabinet Member for Resources	
Lead Officer:	Gareth Bell, Communications and Communities Service Manager	

Harston & District Village Warden Trust – Status Update

Executive Summary

1. Grants advisory committee (GAC) is asked to review the report and make recommendations to the Lead Member for Resources regarding the re-allocation of monies from the Harston & District Village Warden Trust (HVWT)

Key Decision

2. No. This report to GAC seeks to make recommendations to the Lead Member for Resources regarding the re-allocation of funds from the HVWT.

Recommendations

3. It is proposed that GAC recommends to the Lead Member for Resources, to allocate all remaining unspent funds from the HVWT to the Melbourn Mobile Warden Scheme (MMWS) to provide continued support until March 2024.

Reasons for Recommendations

4. The Grants Advisory Committee's role is to consider options and make recommendations regarding grants to the Lead Cabinet Member for Resources (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

5. HVWT is a local charity that provides support to 14 clients (with another 2 clients joining imminently) in Barrington, Grantchester, Harston, Hauxton, and, until recently, Orwell and Newton. From 2021-2024 the Council provided a total of £5,500 to this scheme.
6. MMWS is also a local charity and it provides support to 48 clients in the neighbouring parishes of Melbourn, Meldreth, Shepreth and, more recently, Whaddon. From 2021-2024 the Council provided a total of £12,000 to this scheme.
7. Age UK Cambridgeshire and Peterborough also run 13 community warden schemes in the district. These schemes operate in a different way to independent schemes by employing the wardens and providing the management that is required for them to operate.
8. In 2022 the HVWT approached both Age UK and MMWS to see if either would be in a position to take over their scheme. The reasons given by HVWT were:
 - Age of current trustee board – many wanting to stand down.
 - Inability to attract younger or new trustees.
9. At a first meeting of representatives of the MMWS and HVWT, MMWS was informed that Age UK had indicated they would not seek to take over the running of HVWT.
10. MMWS agreed to take over HVWT and has already entered into a formal negotiation process which is nearing completion (in approximately 6 weeks' time). The final stages are as follows:
 - A Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) is nearly completed (the schemes created the MOU together in a bid to demonstrate a transparent process, which both schemes believe has been achieved).
 - Each trustee board is to meet individually to formally agree hand over
 - Both boards are then to meet together, formally to complete the hand over
 - HVWT wardens will visit and brief/inform their clients of the transfer (they have already been informed the discussions were taking place and why).
 - Both boards will issue via HVWT Wardens a Welcome Pack (MMWS already does this with all new clients) that will inform both clients and client family members of the transfer. The pack will contain all the usual documents MMWS issue such as contact details, complaints and compliments process, details of community transport groups, payment instructions etc, and a letter from both trusts saying goodbye and hello!

The above processes will include necessary formal notification to the Charity Commission of the changes.

11. MMWS are requesting that the current 3-year funding award for HVWT be transferred back to South Cambridgeshire District Council to be re-allocated to the MMWS to extend their support services to clients of the HVWT for the remainder of the 2023-24 period.

12. It has been arranged that HVWT will continue to maintain their current bank account so that any imminent donations can be transferred easily to the MMWS bank account. It is expected that the HVWT scheme including bank accounts will be fully closed by the end of 2023.
13. All previous funding by parish councils has been agreed to continue. MMWS will be contacting all parish councils towards the end of August/September to discuss future funding for 2024 onwards. MMWS will do this with all parish council funders, to both schemes.
14. There will be minor changes to the delivery of the scheme for HVWT in that weekend calls will end. MMWS will re-employ the HVWT wardens who have elected to become contractors with the same arrangements as MMWS contracted wardens. They will continue to serve their existing clients so that clients remain secure. The HVWT wardens will also take part in training sessions in the coming weeks with the MMWS wardens. This has been planned as part of the amalgamation to the two warden teams into one warden team.

Options

15. The Committee is asked to recommend that SCDC grant funding to HVWT is returned to SCDC for reallocation to MMWS who will continue to use the funding for its original purpose, i.e., to support older people to live independently in their own homes. This will continue for the duration of the funding, until 31 March 2024.
Alternative options:
 - a) Allocate the remaining funds from the HVWT elsewhere following closure of the scheme (giving details and reasons).
 - b) Defer a decision if further information is required.

Implications

16. There are no significant implications

Background Papers

Grants Advisory Committee Meetings
<https://scambs.moderngov.co.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=1096&Year=0>

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