

BOROUGH COUNCIL OF KING'S LYNN AND WEST NORFOLK

RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY OFFICERS UNDER DELEGATED POWERS

This is a record of a decision taken by an officer under delegated powers and where necessary taken in consultation with members and officers.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE SCHEME – DEFIBRILLATOR SCHEME

Delegated Power

Council Constitution:

Part 3 - Responsibilities for Council Functions, Section 2 – Functions Delegated to Cabinet Members and Officers – Scheme of Delegation.

Functions:

7.12 – Health improvement and promotion including public health and community care. The Chief Executive/Executive Director in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for People and Communities: day to day management.

Decision Taken

To utilise £50,000 from the Corporate Initiatives Reserve to provide a fund to help west Norfolk communities purchase life-saving defibrillators. Norfolk Community Foundation to provide the administrative support for this Scheme, with defibrillators and advice and support around their use, to be provided by London Hearts.

Reasons for the Decision

Central government has recently published a scheme to introduce 1,000 more life-saving defibrillators across the UK alongside data which demonstrates the importance of these items.

Whilst many communities have already installed defibrillators, West Norfolk covers 550 square miles and is the fifth largest district in England and proximity to a defibrillator in a medical emergency can sadly be the difference between life and death.

Providing communities with financial assistance to purchase more defibrillators will help give greater coverage and support our partners in the emergency services who are facing unprecedented demand.

By way of example, a defibrillator installed at the Princess Theatre in Hunstanton in 2021, partly funded by the borough council, has already saved one life after an audience member suffered a heart attack whilst attending a performance there.

The borough council will not provide funding for any ongoing maintenance or training support costs – the grant is simply for the capital purchase of the unit. Local communities will need to ensure they have the means available to fund annual costs associated with a defibrillator. These are expected to be approximately £50 per annum.

Applicants to the Scheme will need to identify a suitable location, which is well lit, accessible and has the appropriate permissions in place to be able to use the location put forward.

Options considered

Utilising the skills, experience and knowledge of London Hearts means that communities will have access to the best defibrillator for their needs, and as much support, advice and training that they require. The borough council does not have the knowledge and expertise to provide west Norfolk communities with the specialist advice and support required for a defibrillator scheme. London Hearts have provided over 24,000 defibrillators across the UK and trained over 200,000 people in how to use them. They have 2,800 partnerships across the country.

Norfolk Community Foundation have administered several schemes on the council's behalf and are fully conversant with the council's corporate objectives and due diligence checks. They charge a minimal fee for this work. For council officers to administer the Scheme would be extremely time consuming, and constraints in resources would make this difficult.

Any declarations of interest and details of any dispensations granted in respect of interests.


None.

List of Background papers

None.

Authorisation: Lorraine Gore

Post Held: Chief Executive

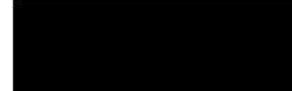
Signature: 

Date: 25th January 2023

Consultation with members/officers

If the decision is taken following consultation with the members/officers, please give details:

Cllr Sam Sandell - Portfolio Holder for People and Communities



Cllr Angie Dickinson – Portfolio Holder for Finance



Signed by Member as consulted:

Date: 25th January 2023

Pre-Screening Equality Impact Assessment

Borough Council of
**King's Lynn &
West Norfolk**



Name of policy/service/function		Financial Assistance Scheme – Corporate Initiatives Reserve				
Is this a new or existing policy/ service/function?		New/ Existing (delete as appropriate)				
Brief summary/description of the main aims of the policy/service/function being screened. Please state if this policy/service rigidly constrained by statutory obligations		A budget is available for local community and voluntary groups to apply for funding, under the guidance of set criteria, to provide a defibrillator in their community. The Scheme will be administered by Norfolk Community Foundation. It is not a statutory function.				
Question		Answer				
<p>1. Is there any reason to believe that the policy/service/function could have a specific impact on people from one or more of the following groups according to their different protected characteristic, for example, because they have particular needs, experiences, issues or priorities or in terms of ability to access the service?</p> <p>Please tick the relevant box for each group.</p> <p>NB. Equality neutral means no negative impact on any group.</p>			Positive	Negative	Neutral	Unsure
		Age	X			
		Disability			X	
		Gender			X	
		Gender Re-assignment			X	
		Marriage/civil partnership			X	
		Pregnancy & maternity			X	
		Race			X	
		Religion or belief			X	
		Sexual orientation			X	
Other (eg low income) Those with health issues	X					
Question		Answer	Comments			
<p>2. Is the proposed policy/service likely to affect relations between certain equality communities or to damage relations between the equality communities and the Council, for example because it is seen as favouring a particular community or denying opportunities to another?</p>		–Yes/ No	The Financial Assistance Scheme more generally aims to assist all communities with any need they identify. This Scheme will provide a defibrillator to any community that wishes to have one.			
<p>3. Could this policy/service be perceived as impacting on communities differently?</p>		–Yes/ No	Every application has to demonstrate a clear benefit to the community so grants will only ever improve a community and its facilities.			
<p>4. Is the policy/service specifically designed to tackle evidence of disadvantage or potential discrimination?</p>		–Yes/No	Some projects will do this through their activities, but this is not a specific requirement of the Scheme.			
<p>5. Are any impacts identified above minor and if so, can these be eliminated or reduced by minor actions? If yes, please agree actions with a member of the Corporate Equalities Working Group and list agreed actions in the comments section</p>		–Yes / No	<p>Actions:</p> <p>Actions agreed by EWG member: Name</p>			
Assessment completed by: SARAH DENNIS						
Name						
Job title : Partnership & Funding Officer		Date : 25th January 2023				

Please Note: If there are any positive or negative impacts identified in question 1, or there any 'yes' responses to questions 2 – 4 a full impact assessment will be required.