

FEES AND CHARGES REPORT

APPENDIX 14 – COMMUNITIES – DEFIBRILLATOR MAINTENANCE SCHEME

1. Service description

On 23rd April 2020, a Community Defibrillator Scheme was approved by Delegated Decision to include the provision of a maintenance service provided by the Council.

The Delegated Decision Notice requested that Full Council be presented with a recommendation to approve the new annual maintenance fee of £100 (incl. VAT).

Council subsequently approved the introduction of the service and fee on the 9th September 2020, for immediate implementation.

Automated External Defibrillators (AED's) are portable devices that can be used on someone having a cardiac arrest. They check the heart rhythm and send an electric shock to the heart to try and restore a normal rhythm. They have been in wide use for many years and form part of the standard equipment that paramedics, ambulances and first responders carry. In the event of someone suffering a cardiac arrest, the time it takes to administer aid is critical.

Having access to a nearby defibrillator can greatly reduce the amount of time it takes to administer lifesaving support. They give the best possible chance for someone to survive until medical services arrive.

For a set annual fee of £100 (incl. VAT) per device, each defibrillator guardian would receive:

- Replacement battery and pads when activated.
- Replacement battery and pads when expired.
- Online reporting tool.
- Out of hours contact.
- Annual check.
- Access for First Aid Roadshows around the District.

2. Prior years analysis, current financial year projections

The introduction of the defibrillator maintenance was approved by Council 07.09.20 and as such there is no data available for the current financial year.

Cost recovery will be monitored through monthly budget monitoring. There are currently 80 defibrillators in the community, if 60 (75%) were to sign up to the scheme this would result in a small surplus of £300 pa.

After Council approved the maintenance fee 07.09.20 it was made automatic for new installations of defibrillators to sign up to the scheme. There has been one new

installation since the fee was implemented and five more scheduled in for autumn 2020.

Marketing of the scheme is underway and all communities with defibrillators will be informed of the service.

3. Impact of Covid-19

Installations were continuing throughout 'lockdown' in a COVID safe manner. However, there was a decreased amount of applications received due to the lack of community meetings and activities. The maintenance scheme will not be impacted by COVID-19.

4. Pricing

The fee has been set on the basis of cost recovery being achieved if 75% of communities with defibrillators (i.e. 60 out of the 80 communities who currently have a defibrillator) signed up to the scheme.

Cost recovery analysis will be undertaken as the scheme is rolled out and will inform the fees and charges review for this service for 2022/23.

5. Understanding Customers and Markets

The market has capacity for approximately 100-120 defibrillators, of which 80 communities currently have defibrillators installed by West Lindsey District Council.

All new installations from September 2020 are automatically signed up to the annual maintenance scheme.

There were 79 defibrillators installed prior to September 2020.

6. Proposed Charges

In light of the implementation of the fee being effective from September 2020, it is proposed that the fee is maintained at the current level of £100 (incl. VAT) for 2021/22.

An analysis of cost recovery and service take up will inform a review of the fee for the year 2022/23.

7. Recommendation

Members are requested to recommend to Council the charges for 2021/22 as illustrated in the schedule below:

Prosperous Communities Committee		Communities						
2020/21 Excl. VAT	2020/21 Inc. VAT	Proposed Increase/decrease		2021/22	VAT Amount	2021/22 Charge Inc. VAT	VAT Rate	
£	£	% Type	or £	£	£	£		
Defibrillator maintenance service (annual charge)	£83.33	£100.00	0%	£0.00	£83.33	£16.67	£100.00	S