

FEES AND CHARGES REPORT

APPENDIX 13 – COMMUNITIES: DEFIBRILLATOR MEMBERSHIP SCHEME

1. Service description

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 AED can 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.

All AED's contain consumable parts that need replacing either when used or expired.

Council approved the introduction of the Membership Scheme and fee on the 9th of September 2020, for immediate implementation. The scheme enables AED's to be deployable for longer and reduce the likelihood of an AED not being deployable.

For a set annual fee per device, each guardian would receive:

- Replacement battery and pads when activated.
- Replacement battery and pads when expired.
- Out of hours contact.
- Quarterly maintenance checks to compliment local checks by defibrillator champions.

The need for new AED installations has decreased, but some locations in the district still justify a newly installed device due to reduced coverage. The criterion for a new installation remains the same as previously agreed at Prosperous Communities Committee (30 Jan 2018 Continuation of Community Grants).

A budget allocation of £45k from the UK shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) Flagship Community Grants Programme was used to support new defibrillator installations across the three years 2022/2023 to 2024/2025.

Across the two years 2025/2026 and 2026/2027 £20k has been allocated from the Community Grant Programme.

Criteria:

- Constituted organisations, Parish/Town Councils, charities, social enterprises, schools and faith-based organisations are eligible.

- From 2024/2025 organisations must match fund £600 towards any new defibrillator awarded (previously £400).
- The Communities Team will review all applications on an on-going basis.

2. Prior years analysis, current financial year projections

Council approved the introduction of the Defibrillator Membership Scheme on 9 Sept 2020 and there are currently 114 customers signed up to the service, as of 15th August 2025, with a forecast of 122 by year-end 2025/2026.

It is now automatic for any new installation to be signed up to the Membership Scheme.

Marketing of the scheme is underway and all communities with AED's have been informed of the service.

3. Pricing

With consideration to the rising cost of parts and officer time, it is proposed to increase the net fee by inflation at 3.2% (rounded up to the nearest pound) from 2026/2027, increasing the gross fee by £4 from £110 to £114 pa.

The fee to be fixed for 2-years (2026/2027 and 2027/2028).

A match funding contribution of £600 towards any new installation is in place.

4. Understanding Customers and Markets

The market has capacity for 125 defibrillators, of which 114 communities currently have defibrillators installed by West Lindsey District Council.

All new installations are automatically signed up to the annual maintenance scheme. However, new installations have reduced compared to previous years because of the difficulty in finding new, suitable locations.

5. Proposed Charges

It is proposed that the net fee is increased by inflation at 3.2% for 2026/2027, rounded up to the nearest pound. This increases the gross fee payable by £4, from £110 to £114 pa (increase including rounding of 3.6%).

To assist our customers in their future budget planning, as many have limited resources to allocate, it is proposed to fix the fee for 2-years (2026/2027 and 2027/2028).

6. Impact on Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP)

There is a base budget of £2k pa to cover the cost of maintaining defibrillators attached to West Lindsey District Council buildings i.e.

- Lea Fields Crematorium
- Trinity Arts Centre
- Guildhall
- Caenby Corner Depot

Any income generated from the maintenance scheme will be used to purchase equipment to facilitate the maintenance of the defibrillators which are signed up to the scheme.

	2026/27 (£)	2027/28 (£)	2028/29 (£)	2029/30 (£)	2030/31 (£)
Current Budget in MTFP	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Proposed Budget - Equipment Maintenance	13,900	13,900	13,900	13,900	13,900
Proposed Budget - Defib Maintenance Scheme Income	(11,900)	(11,900)	(11,900)	(11,900)	(11,900)
Impact on MTFP 2025/26 Pressure/ (Saving)	0	0	0	0	0
Projected Scheme Subscription (125 Max. Market Capacity)	125	125	125	125	125

7. Recommendation

Members are requested to recommend to Council the charges for 2026/2027 as illustrated in the schedule below.

statutory/statutory range
non statutory

Prosperous Communities Committee		Communities						
	2025/26		Proposed Increase / (Decrease)		2026/27	VAT Amount	2026/27 Charge Inc. VAT	VAT Rate
	£	% Type	or £	£	£	£		
Defibrillator maintenance service (annual charge)	£91.67	3.6%	£3.33	£95.00	£19.00	£114.00	S	