



Title of meeting:	Cabinet
Date of meeting:	25 October 2022
Subject:	Defibrillators in Portsmouth
Report by:	Director of Culture, Leisure and Regulatory Services; Director of Housing, Neighbourhood and Building Services; and Director of Public Health
Wards affected:	All
Key decision:	No
Full Council decision:	No

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1. To update Cabinet regarding existing defibrillator locations in Portsmouth as requested at Full Council on 15 March 2022.
- 1.2. To propose a corporate standard procedure (via Health and Safety Team) for requesting defibrillators, including instructions on their guardianship.
- 1.3. To recommend a corporate funding process to request Ward CIL for the installation and replacement of defibrillators where such defibrillators are initiated by Portsmouth City Council.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. It is recommended that Ward CIL applications are made on a case by case basis for the purchase, installation, and replacement of defibrillators where such defibrillators are initiated by the Council and maintenance costs are to be met from revenue budgets.
- 2.2. It is recommended that the current City Council external webpage listings for defibrillators is replaced with the up to date defibrillator listings obtained from South Central Ambulance Service ("SCAS"), Culture, Leisure and Regulatory Services directorate and Housing directorate (see appendices).
- 2.3. It is recommended that the standard procedure at appendix 3 is adopted as the corporate policy for defibrillators and all directorates are instructed to follow this procedure.



2.4. It is recommended that Cabinet note the considerations for future defibrillators at Appendix 2.

3. Background

- 3.1. There are a number of defibrillators across Portsmouth and these are listed in appendices 4 and 5. To date the installation and location of defibrillators has been largely piecemeal and funding for such life saving infrastructure has been available through Ward CIL for the purchase and installation. The network has grown and there remains a desire to see the current network expanded with additional defibrillators added to the council's assets, where appropriate. A corporate co-ordinated approach (via Health & Safety Team) will ensure a consistent method is taken across the Council to install and maintain the network.
- 3.2. Defibrillators can be either Publicly Accessible Defibrillators (PADs) or defibrillators situated inside buildings. All Portsmouth City Council installed defibrillators are fully automatic to reduce operator error.
- 3.3. Outside of hospitals, 10.8% of people are now able to survive cardiac arrest and the use of a defibrillator increases the survival rate to 57.1%. Half of cardiac arrests are witnessed by a bystander.¹
- 3.4. SCAS 'Save A Life' application is a free mobile application that is downloadable onto personal devices. The app informs the recipient where the nearest defibrillator is located and whether it is an external (publicly accessible) or internal (inside building) defibrillator.
- 3.5. The 'Circuit' is a website hosted by the British Heart Foundation. The 'Circuit' information feeds into SCAS and Save A Life app, so that the app displays up to date information. It allows owners of defibrillators to register the details of the defibrillator. The details registered include the post code and serial number for the equipment. An example registration form is included at Appendix 6.
- 3.6. Registration allows the owner 'guardian' to receive notification directly when the pads to the defibrillator need replacing. Battery replacement is usually required every 4 years from installation and chest pads replacement every 2 years. Testing is required to be carried out approximately every 3 months. The 'Circuit' will email the registered guardian to request that testing is carried out and test dates reported back, so that the equipment is confirmed to be in good working order. If the guardian does not reply to the email prompting, further email notifications will be sent until confirmation is received or, the unit is noted as 'removed from service' on the 'Circuit' and will no longer appear on the Save a Life app.
- 3.7. The cost of a defibrillator is currently in the region of £2500 - £3000 depending on the model and distance from the nearest electricity supply unit². These costs

¹ [London Ambulance Service NHS Trust](#)

² September 2022 costs



cannot be met by current cash limits within portfolios and funding via Ward CIL application process is required. The costs break down as follows:

Defibrillator model: £1500

External heated cabinet to house external defibrillator: £450

Installation cost: £750

The costs above do not include the cost of electricity (see paragraph 3.10 below).

The external cabinet has a steel digital lock. Registration of the equipment includes the key code to this lock. When using a defibrillator, the first action is to call the emergency services, their call receivers will have instant access to the key code, based on the registration of the cabinet.

- 3.8. For external wall mounted cabinets, a serial number, together with lock code, is within the cabinet when it is purchased. The serial number, together with post code, should be affixed by a permanent label to the outside and inside of the external cabinet. Labelling is not required for defibrillators inside buildings.
- 3.9. As fully sealed units, defibrillators are serviceable by the guardian. Chest pad replacement cost is £30.00 and battery replacement cost is £250.00.³ There are no other serviceable parts other than general cleaning with a mild detergent.
- 3.10. Internal automatic defibrillators require no special storage equipment although it is recommended they are located in a populated area and in a wall mount, at a cost of £50.00. Externally mounted units are mounted in a heated cabinet to prevent the batteries from discharging due to cold weather. They need to be attached to a 250v supply. Electricity consumption is minimal as the heating element only operates when the temperature drops to 5 degrees and stops when 15 degrees is reached. The cabinet is guaranteed for 10 years and the heating element for 5 years.
- 3.11. There is a preference for publicly accessible defibrillators, as these are available to be used 24/7, 365 days a year. Defibrillators should be placed in a prominent position, in well lit areas, adjacent to the entrance points of buildings, so that they are easily identifiable and at minimal risk from damage or theft. There have been two known instances of damage/vandalism to publicly accessible defibrillators in Portsmouth.
- 3.12. The current placement of defibrillators across the city is shown in the maps referred to at appendix 2. The maps show the position at this point in time. The SCAS app will show new defibrillators as and when they are registered on The Circuit.

4. Reasons for recommendations

³ September 2022 costs



- 4.1. A corporate centralised process for defibrillators will allow replacements to be managed in a co-ordinated way and will allow the Council's information on defibrillators to be kept up to date by the corporate Health & Safety Team. The proposed corporate procedure is set out at Appendix 3. It will avoid the need for separate cash limit adjustments to be made to several portfolios as installation costs could be requested via Ward CIL on a case by case basis, subject to individual applications being submitted and being assessed in line with the Draft CIL Neighbourhood Portion Spend Guidance Note (Appendix 8). Replacement parts (batteries and chest pads) will need to be funded by service revenue and consideration will need to be made by the budget holder.
- 4.2. The defibrillator webpage is due review and up to date information has been obtained for this purpose from SCAS.
- 4.3. To increase the provision of defibrillators across the city (where appropriate), considerations for new sites are set out in Appendix 2 and reflected by the GIS maps. All directorates of the Council are asked to consider future defibrillator placements in accordance with the corporate procedure set out in this report and appendices.

5. Integrated impact assessment

- 5.1. An integrated impact assessment is included at appendix 1.

6. Legal implications

- 6.1. The Authority is under no legal or statutory obligation to provide any equipment and the Authority is not obliged to either co-ordinate the process or fund it. This said the usage of CIL to fund and augment the current network is a decision that is within the general scope of competency and something that has a clear social benefit attached to it.
- 6.2. The additional point to note is that having taken on the responsibility the Authority will need to remember that there is potential liability if the equipment is not maintained, inspected and regularly upgraded so that the provision is functioning upon an ongoing basis.

7. Director of Finance's comments

- 7.1. Funding the cost of defibrillator equipment and installation set out in paragraph 3.7 will be subject to individual CIL applications on a case by case basis.
- 7.2. Revenue costs for maintenance and replacement parts outlined in paragraph 3.9 will be met from existing revenue budgets.

Signed by:
Stephen Baily
Director of Culture, Leisure and Regulatory Services

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Signed by:
James Hill
Director of Housing, Neighbourhood and Buildings

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Signed by:
Helen Atkinson
Director of Public Health

Appendices:

- Appendix 1: Integrated Impact Assessment
- Appendix 2: Considerations for future council defibrillators and GIS maps
- Appendix 3: Proposed corporate procedure for council defibrillators
- Appendix 4: Current listing of publicly accessible defibrillators
- Appendix 5: Current listing of defibrillators in buildings
- Appendix 6: Defibrillator Registration Form
- Appendix 7: Draft CIL Neighbourhood Portion Spend Guidance Note

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/ rejected by on ...25 October 2022.....

Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson.