

Public Report
Improving Places Select Commission

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Improving Places Select Commission – 13 December 2022

Report Title

Update on the Council's position regarding the management of Defibrillators for which the Council are responsible for.

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?

No

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Paul Woodcock, Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment

Report Author(s)

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Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

1.0 Report Summary

The Improving Places Select Commission has requested an update on defibrillators and especially to address the aspects of locations, owners, maintenance and responsibilities.

- 1.1 Over the past few years, defibrillators have been deployed across the borough. Some of them were supplied directly by the Council on several Council buildings and others have been donated by Councillors, charitable organisations, Parish Councils, and other community groups. Examples include All Saints Square Toilets, the Town Hall, Clifton Park, various libraries and customer service centres and a number of neighbourhood centres across the borough.
- 1.2 Where defibrillators have been commissioned, they are usually housed within a metal casing and fixed to the outside of a building. There is an ID location and telephone number on the case which in the event of an incident the caller telephones the Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust who gives them the number of the coded lock so that the defibrillator can be deployed.
- 1.3 For each defibrillator there is usually a nominated guardian who is advised by the ambulance service via e-mail when a unit has been used. The guardian responsibility is to check the defibrillator and ensure it is returned after use and that it is emergency ready. Defibrillators should be checked on a weekly basis which includes ensuring that batteries remain in good condition, pads are replaced and in date and or a unit is replaced if it goes missing.

- 1.4 Originally the process of inspection was managed by the Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust who administered the service. However, in July 2022 the Council was advised to register the defibrillator with a national organisation called "The Circuit". On their web site the location, dates, and time of availability of the defibrillator are registered with the name of the nominated guardian and whether it is emergency ready. This information is available on a national website www.defibfinder.uk.
- 1.5 The main issues identified for the Council since defibrillators have been introduced are:
- The Asset Management Service have not been made aware of all locations. For example, where a unit has been donated and installed at a community building or neighbourhood centre.
 - The Council are not responsible for all the defibrators deployed throughout the borough particularly some of those which are registered on The Circuit national database.
 - The Asset Management Service is not always aware of who the nominated guardian for the defibrator is when provided by a charitable organisation, Parish Council, and other community groups. Consequently, the Council is not advised when a unit has been used or if any weekly checks have taken place.
 - Where defibrillators have been deployed and then not returned after use. It is not always possible to track who or where a defibrator has been used. This means that units have gone missing and as a result the Council have a responsibility to replace these units which cost in the region of £1500- £2000 per defibrillator depending upon the manufacturer. It can take up to 4 weeks to get a replacement delivered and reinstalled.
 - Ensuring the Council have sufficient consumable spares for the defibrillators such as batteries and pads for all the different makes.
- 1.6 The Asset Management Service have now assumed responsibility for defibrillators on Council buildings and carryout a weekly check of their condition. The service has registered the location of the defibrillators on The Circuit website and now receive updates from the ambulance service when a unit has been used so that a check can be made, and the national data base updated accordingly. Checks will be made the next working day after a unit has been deployed and any appropriate action taken to ensure they are emergency ready, and The Circuit website updated.
- 1.7 A register of Council defibrillator locations has been created by the Asset Management Service and a note is kept of the weekly checks, dates when a unit has been deployed and any periods when a unit may not be available for any reason. A list of the locations is attached in Appendix 1.
- 1.8 Where the Asset Management Service do not know who the guardian is, they are making enquiries to the Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust to establish who the guardians are and making a note on the date base.
- 1.9 It is intended that a staff briefing will be issued to ensure that Council staff are made aware of the issues and report any problems to the Asset Management Service and for the service to reconcile the location of all defibrillators located on Council buildings.

Recommendations

1. That the Improving Places Select Committee note the position and the actions taken by the Asset Management Service to address the issues raised.
2. That a staff briefing is prepared to advise Council staff about the process for management and reporting issues with defibrillators back to Asset Management Service for action.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Schedule of Council Defibrators locations.

Background Papers

None.

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

None

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

