

REPORT TO: CITY GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE - 10 JUNE 2024

REPORT ON: PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE DEFIBRILLATORS

REPORT BY: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES

REPORT NO: 96-2024

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update Committee on work done to assess the distribution of publicly accessible defibrillators across Dundee and to recommend ways in which the Council can continue to support the installation of, and sharing of information about, defibrillators within Dundee's communities.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Committee:

- (i) note the work carried out to date and agree in principle that communities across Dundee should receive support and guidance to ensure that an equitable distribution of publicly accessible defibrillators is in place;
- (ii) agree to provide guidance on the maintenance of defibrillators to host organisations and encourage them to register their publicly accessible defibrillators on CIRCUIT;
- (iii) agree that this data set be included on the Council's GIS mapping system; and
- (iv) agree that a publicly accessible defibrillator unit should be installed in City Square, for the benefit of Dundee residents and visitors, and employees.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 It is anticipated that the initial cost of procuring units will normally be managed via charitable funding applications and through community benefit clauses in capital projects.
- 3.2 The cost of installing a defibrillator in City Square is estimates at £2k and this cost will be met from within Corporate Services revenue budget.
- 3.3 It is anticipated that ad hoc requests by community and voluntary groups to install a unit which they have procured independently onto a Dundee City Council building will continue to be assessed and supported, where appropriate, by the City Development Property Team as the maintenance costs will require to be met from within existing revenue budgets.
- 3.4 Staffing costs to support this programme will be met from existing staffing budgets.

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Following enquiries from elected members and contact from charities (St Andrew's First Aid, St John's First Aid and the British Heart Foundation), it was agreed that the provision of defibrillator units across Dundee should be appraised. This appraisal started with accessing information held on the CIRCUIT register of publicly accessible defibrillators. The CIRCUIT register is held and maintained by the emergency services and is used to direct 999 callers to the nearest available unit in the event of an emergency. The CIRCUIT register is most effective when guardians of publicly accessible defibrillators register the units under their control on the CIRCUIT as soon as they come into use, ensuring that available coverage in Dundee at any time is identified. The information gathered through the appraisal indicated a wide spread of units across different areas

of Dundee, but that there was no provision in the North East ward. The focus of the initial work was therefore on the North East Ward.

- 4.2 Discussions were held with the Communities Team for the North East and a decision was taken to move the emphasis from the traditional approach of covering only sporting facilities and areas of high footfall to providing coverage for localities, with an aim of supporting the communities within those localities and helping to address health inequalities. Partnership working was carried out with Safe A Life for Scotland, St Andrew's First Aid and a research team at Edinburgh University who provided advice around coverage and locations of units. Each of these partners reinforced the importance of the CIRCUIT register being up to date. [Defib finder – find the defibrillators nearest you.](#)
- 4.3 The Communities Team in the North East Ward worked with community groups to bid for available funding, which supported the procurement of 7 units for the North East Ward. Similar work was then carried out in the East End Ward as there was crossover between the Communities teams in these wards at that time. This work supported the procurement of 4 additional units by community groups in this ward. These units were installed over Spring/Summer 2023.
- 4.4 In addition to the units procured and installed by community groups in the North East and East End wards, support has been given to instal additional units, which have been procured or donated by voluntary groups, charities or individuals, on Dundee City Council buildings. It is anticipated that this support will continue to be delivered through City Development.
- 4.5 Community cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and defib training sessions were provided in the North East and East End wards, organised by the Communities teams and delivered by St Andrew's First Aid in Summer 2023. Delivery of this training can be arranged for other wards – the next priority is Lochee, with other wards to follow.
- 4.6 Following the collaborative work with Edinburgh University, Dundee City Council was invited to become one of the first two local authority partners on the Save A Life for Scotland working group. This is a useful forum to ensure the Council is keeping up with current Scottish Government thinking and good practice from partners. The group are keen to profile the approach which Dundee and East Ayrshire are taking, with a view to creating a national best practice model.
- 4.7 In the course of this work, it has become apparent that there are 24/7 publicly accessible defibrillators in Dundee which do not appear on the CIRCUIT register. It has also become apparent that there are units within public buildings which, although not 24/7 accessible, would still be available for use. It is important to encourage guardians (public, private and third sector) to record all units and include them in any future planning.

The current distribution of publicly accessible defibrillators across the city is set out below:

Postcode	Available 24 hours	Available for variable hours
DD1	9	11
DD2	7	12
DD3	11	6
DD4	22	6
DD5	6	2

- 4.8 All of the work set out above has helped to inform the recommendations within this report. This work will be taken forward by The Council's Health and Safety team in conjunction with the Communities teams from Neighbourhood Services and colleagues in City Development.

- 4.9 A further area which has been identified as part of this work is the City Centre. It is therefore proposed that a publicly accessible defibrillator unit should be installed in City Square, for the benefit of Dundee residents and visitors, and employees.
- 4.10 Having installed defibrillators, it is vital that arrangements are put in place for routine checking, maintenance, replacement of consumables and eventual replacement of units. It is proposed that the Council provides guidance to host organisations on best practice in this regard.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This report has been subject to the Pre-IIA Screening Tool and does not make any recommendations for change to strategy, policy, procedures, services or funding and so has not been subject to an Integrated Impact Assessment. An appropriate senior manager has reviewed and agreed with this assessment.

6.0 CONSULTATIONS

- 6.1 The Council Leadership Team have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 None

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27 MAY 2024

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