

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL13th December 2023Report by Chief ExecutiveEAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL PUBLIC ACCESS DEFIBRILLATOR STRATEGY
2022 – 2027 – UPDATE DECEMBER 2023**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. This report updates the Council on work undertaken in relation to the East Renfrewshire Council Public Access Defibrillator Strategy 2022 – 2027 and sets out proposals for future work in this area to enhance the provision of public access defibrillators within East Renfrewshire.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. It is recommended that the Council: -

- (a) Note the work undertaken to date on the East Renfrewshire Public Access Defibrillator Strategy 2022 - 2027;
- (b) Agree that capital funding of circa £40,000 is identified to allow the purchase of up to 15 additional Public Access Defibrillators (PADs) and to support replacement parts, as required, of existing East Renfrewshire Council owned PADs;
- (c) Agree the proposed general locations for up to 15 additional Public Access Defibrillators (Appendix 1);
- (d) Agree that revenue funding of a maximum of £20,000 per annum is identified from 2024/25 onwards to allow the ongoing maintenance for up to 15 additional Public Access Defibrillators (in addition to the current 28 existing PADs) which are sited on East Renfrewshire Council properties bringing the total number up to a maximum of 43;
- (e) Note the work undertaken by the Provost, as Community Defibrillator Champion, to work with local communities, faith groups, businesses and interested parties to raise funding for additional PADs, external cabinets and training and to identify suitable locations for the installation of additional PADs within East Renfrewshire.
- (f) Note the proposal with St John Scotland and ongoing work to empower community groups to purchase, install and maintain Public Access Defibrillators across East Renfrewshire.

BACKGROUND

3. On 14th December 2022, the Council unanimously approved the [East Renfrewshire Public Access Defibrillator Strategy 2022-27](#) and agreed to encourage the Scottish Government to provide additional funding to support the purchase, installation and ongoing maintenance of additional defibrillators across East Renfrewshire.

4. It is recognised that in the event of an out of hospital cardiac arrest the availability of a defibrillator prior to the arrival of professional medical help has a significant effect on the likely survival rate. The aim of the Strategy is to facilitate an increase in the number of defibrillators in

an emergency to the public by working with individuals, community groups, community planning partners, local stakeholders and private sector organisations.

REPORT

5. The East Renfrewshire Public Access Defibrillator Strategy outlined several actions to support this aim and a cross departmental working group was established to coordinate work. To date work has included:

- (i) Ensuring all 28 Council owned defibrillators are maintained and registered on “The Circuit”.
- (ii) Establishing a “Provost’s Community Defibrillator Fund” to allow donations that can support purchase of equipment, maintenance and training in CPR and using a defibrillator, as well as enabling groups to access defibrillators.
- (iii) Work to use the Provost’s Community Defibrillator Fund to support communities to move defibrillators located inside to be situated outside and therefore publicly available 24 hours has begun with one external cabinet identified and will be purchased and installed imminently.
- (iv) Encouraging registration of existing defibrillators across East Renfrewshire to “The Circuit” as part of an ongoing survey of local businesses and groups to identify defibrillators across East Renfrewshire. To date this survey has identified over 60 defibrillators. This live survey continues to enhance our understanding of the location of defibrillators within East Renfrewshire.
- (v) Working with partners to enhance CPR skills across East Renfrewshire. Scottish Fire and Rescue Service are actively involved and have already provided CPR and defibrillator awareness session to 6 staff with further work planned.
- (vi) Increasing awareness of defibrillator locations and what to do if you are a bystander when someone has a cardiac arrest. The Communications Team are actively working to support this work with key messages being developed.

LOCATION OF PUBLIC ACCESS DEFIBRILLATORS IN EAST RENFREWSHIRE

6. In December 2022 there were 80 Public Access Defibrillators (PADs) located across East Renfrewshire including 26 Council owned (and maintained) which were registered on “The Circuit”. An additional 2 Council owned and maintained PADs have been installed, with the support of the Provost’s Community Defibrillator Fund, bringing the known total and registered on “The Circuit” to 82 PADs. An additional 15 PADs would bring this number to 97 across East Renfrewshire (based on December 2022 data).

7. Save a Life For Scotland (www.savealife.scot), working closely with data from the NHS and University of Edinburgh, are working to provide statistical information on the incidence of cardiac arrest to allow mapping of this data across East Renfrewshire. It is anticipated that the data will indicate a higher likelihood of cardiac arrest occurring in the lowest Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) areas.

8. Until the formal data is received, a mapping exercise has been undertaken using known PAD locations, data from “The Circuit”, statistic SIMD data for East Renfrewshire and creating an “imaginary ring” of 200m from the known PAD location in relation to East Renfrewshire Council owned buildings. The outcome of this work has been to identify that the following areas, in no priority order, as likely to benefit from additional availability of a PAD:

- Auchenback
- Barrhead Area
- Busby
- Crookfur
- Eaglesham
- Giffnock
- Newton Mearns
- Thornliebank

9. This work has identified that up to 15 additional PADs across East Renfrewshire would significantly improve the availability of a defibrillator should anyone suffer a cardiac arrest and, importantly, increase the chance of survival. Subject to approval and the necessary funding being identified, it is proposed that these additional PADs are fitted and installed to identified Council owned buildings (including Primary and Secondary Schools in the areas identified) and bring the total number of Council owned and maintained PADs up to a maximum of 43. Further details of these proposed PAD locations are included in Appendix 1 to this report.

CURRENT COSTS AND OPTIONS

10. The current cost of each PAD including a suitable public use defibrillator, external cabinet, pads (adult and paediatric) and associated equipment is approximately £1,800 plus VAT plus the additional cost for fitting and installation.

11. It should be noted that the fitting and installation cost will vary significantly depending on the location of the external defibrillator and the distance from the nearest suitable power supply. It is estimated that installation costs are from £600 upwards and could run to £1,000s if, for example, a trench had to be created and recovered across a school playground. This is not an appropriate or good use of funds and alternative locations should be sought in this situation to ensure best value.

12. The total cost of a suitable defibrillator, external cabinet, pads (adult and paediatric) and associated equipment and allowing £600 for installation is therefore estimated to be around £2,400 + VAT per PAD. An additional 15 would therefore cost approximately £36,000.

13. Additional costs associated with PADs include regular maintenance checks and routine replacement of the battery and pads (plus additional replacement of the pads if the defibrillator is used).

14. The ongoing maintenance, or “guardianship” of a PAD does not require technical expertise. Manufacturer recommended checks include a daily check that the “active status” indicator is green (which can be observed without the need to open the external box) and monthly checks to ensure the condition of the unit and accessories are intact and that the battery and pads remain in date together with a manually initiated self-test. Additional checks are required every time the defibrillator has been used.

15. At present the 28 Council owned PADs are maintained, in line with manufacturer recommended manual monthly inspections, updating each PAD information online on “The Circuit” so it is available to the Emergency Services and providing replacement parts as required by the Property and Technical Services Team (PATS). There is currently no dedicated budget associated with this maintenance.

16. Although increasing the number of Council owned and maintained PADs by up to 15 additional units would significantly increase the coverage within East Renfrewshire, at this time there is no annual budget to support the ongoing maintenance and inspection of these PADs. It is estimated an annual maintenance cost of approximately £20,000 if the work is undertaken by

dedicated officers. Work is ongoing to investigate alternative solutions to reduce this cost and to minimise the level of work undertaken by PATS directly.

17. Many of the current 28 PADs owned and maintained by the Council will themselves be 5 years old next year. Some of the capital funding will be used to support replacement parts as required.

PROPOSED FUTURE WORK

18. In addition to proposals to increase the number of PADs owned and maintained by East Renfrewshire Council it is recognised that to increase the general number of PADS across East Renfrewshire generally will require active engagement with local communities and stakeholders which must be undertaken to ensure a sustainable model that could deliver increased defibrillator provision. The Provost, in her role as Community Defibrillator Champion, is actively working with several local charities, communities and businesses to increase the number of PADs available across East Renfrewshire.

19. Work is currently ongoing to identify if an approach, similar to that in several other local authorities, could be put in place. This would seek to work through Community Benefits and link companies working with East Renfrewshire Council with local groups seeking to have a PAD. Although initial requests and a note of interest in having a defibrillator could be taken via the Council's website, the community group would be facilitated to obtain a defibrillator and have responsibility and ownership of the device.

20. In addition to this, a formal proposal to work closely with St John Scotland has been developed. St John Scotland, a registered and well-established charity, has significant experience of working with and guiding community groups in obtaining PADs. A recent high profile and very successful project has been the "St John and the City" project in conjunction with Edinburgh City Council to install defibrillators on trams across the City.

21. St John Scotland has indicated that in addition to supporting local community groups who express an interest in obtaining and maintaining a PAD (through their network of local volunteers) they would be able to cover some of the costs associated and will provide CPR and bystander training, free of charge. Initial discussions are taking place to ascertain if there could be opportunities for young learners currently undertaking the Duke of Edinburgh Award to be actively involved in the maintenance checks of defibrillators as part of the "volunteering" element and as part of a pilot project which could, subsequently, be extended to other local authorities.

22. Both above proposals could be directly supported by the Provost's Community Defibrillator Fund where a community group is unable to raise all the money required, to provide support for CPR training or additional equipment.

23. It is recognised that access to a defibrillator is a crucial element and needs a bystander having the confidence to step in, perform CPR, and use the defibrillator if an incident occurs. Working in partnership, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service have offered to provide CPR and how to use a defibrillator awareness raising sessions which will be offered, free of charge, to our East Renfrewshire Council employees and local community groups and interested parties.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSALS

24. This report has no implications in terms of legal or ICT specifically.

25. There are financial implications arising from this report if the recommendations of this report are accepted.
26. A total one-off capital funding of £40,000 might be funded from current revenue underspends. This will resource up to 15 additional PADS and support replacement parts for existing PADS on Council owned buildings.
27. Revenue funding, of a maximum of £20,000 per annum, which would be factored into the budget for 2024/25 and thereafter, would support ongoing maintenance work.

CONCLUSION

28. Since the East Renfrewshire Council Public Access Defibrillator Strategy 2002 – 2027 was approved in December 2022 a wide range of work has been undertaken. The Strategy was a starting point of the journey to increase the number of defibrillators available to the public by working with individuals, community groups, community planning partners, local stakeholders and private organisations and the proposals outlined above would be a significant step on this journey.

RECOMMENDATIONS

29. It is recommended that the Council:
- (a) Note the work undertaken to date on the East Renfrewshire Public Access Defibrillator Strategy 2022 - 2027;
 - (b) Agree that capital funding of circa £40,000 is identified to allow the purchase of up to 15 additional Public Access Defibrillators (PADs) and to support replacement parts, as required, of existing East Renfrewshire Council owned PADs;
 - (c) Agree the proposed general locations for up to 15 additional Public Access Defibrillators (Appendix 1);
 - (d) Agree that revenue funding of a maximum of £20,000 per annum is identified from 2024/25 onwards to allow the ongoing maintenance for up to 15 additional Public Access Defibrillators (in addition to the current 28 existing PADs) which are sited on East Renfrewshire Council properties bringing the total number up to a maximum of 43;
 - (e) Note the work undertaken by the Provost, as Community Defibrillator Champion, to work with local communities, faith groups, businesses and interested parties to raise funding for additional PADs, external cabinets and training and to identify suitable locations for the installation of additional PADs within East Renfrewshire.
 - (f) Note the proposal with St John Scotland and ongoing work to empower community groups to purchase, install and maintain Public Access Defibrillators across East Renfrewshire.

7th December 2023

Report authors:

Gill Darbyshire; Chief Executive's Business Manager; gill.darbyshire@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk
07718 422 036

Anthony Jenkins; Resilience Officer; Anthony.jenkins@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk

Background Papers

- East Renfrewshire Council Public Access Strategy 2022 – 2027; East Renfrewshire Council; 14/12/2022

Appendix 1: Possible additional Public Access Defibrillator Locations (on East Renfrewshire Council owned property)

Area	Reason for additional PAD being considered	Possible Locations (ERC)
Auchenback	SIMD Area These PADs would allow additional coverage in this area.	St Mark's Primary
Barrhead Area	SIMD Area These PADs would allow additional coverage in this area.	St John Primary Carlibar Primary Dunterlie Community Centre
Busby	These PADs would allow additional coverage in this area.	Bonnyton House St Joseph's Primary Busby Early Years Centre
Crookfur	This PAD would allow additional coverage in this area.	Eastwood High School
Eaglesham	This PAD would allow additional coverage in this area.	Eaglesham Primary
Giffnock	This PAD would allow additional coverage in this area.	Braidbar Primary School
Newton Mearns	Maidenhill Primary & Kirkhill Primary PADs recently added These PADs would allow additional coverage in this area.	Hazeledean Nursery St Cadoc's Primary Albertsland Hall
Stamperland/ Williamwood	This PAD would allow additional coverage in this area.	No East Renfrewshire Council assets but the HSCP Building has been identified as a potential option.
Thornliebank	This PAD would allow additional coverage in this area.	Glen Family Centre
Windfarm	This PAD would allow additional coverage in this area.	Ranger Cabin

BLANK PAGE