



## Calstock Parish Council

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### Defibrillator Requests: Provision, Maintenance and Support of Community Defibrillators

#### 1. Purpose

This policy sets out the Council's approach to supporting the provision and maintenance Defibrillators (AEDs) within the parish. Its aim is to ensure that publicly accessible defibrillators are safe, reliable and available for use in an emergency.

#### 2. Scope

This policy applies to:

- Defibrillators located on land or buildings owned, leased or managed by the Council and
- Defibrillators installed by community groups, charities or residents where the Council has agreed to provide support.

#### 3. Principles

- The Council recognises the public health benefits of accessible defibrillators.
- The Council encourages community-led initiatives to install AEDs in suitable locations.

#### 4. Initial Purchase of Defibrillators

- Community groups, charities or residents may fundraise or apply for grants to purchase defibrillators and cabinets.
- The Council may, at its discretion, contribute to the purchase cost where a clear community benefit is demonstrated and budget allows.
- All equipment must meet recognised standards and be installed in accordance with manufacturer guidance and relevant electrical regulations.

#### 5. Ongoing Maintenance and Servicing

- Where a defibrillator has been initially purchased by a community group, the Council will **usually** take responsibility for the ongoing maintenance, servicing and replacement of consumables (e.g., pads and batteries), subject to annual budget approval: this may be in the form of contracting out the service to an external party.
- The council retains discretion to decline or limit support where:
  - the equipment is not compliant with recognised standards,
  - the location is unsuitable or unsafe or has restricted public access,
  - the ongoing cost is disproportionate to available resources,
  - or the original agreement with the community group has not been met.

Maintenance includes:

- regular visual checks,
- replacement of pads and batteries,
- servicing or software updates as required by the manufacturer,
- ensuring the cabinet and access arrangements remain safe and functional.
- ensuring The Circuit (or equivalent register) is updated on a monthly basis for all supported defibrillators.

## **6. Responsibilities**

### Council Responsibilities

- Ensure an up-to-date register is maintained of all supported defibrillators.
- Ensure maintenance tasks are carried out in accordance with manufacturer guidance.
- Budget annually for expected maintenance costs.
- Report faults to the relevant manufacturer or service provider.

The council will find the best option to carry out its responsibilities, recognising staffing expertise and resources and that an external contractor may offer the more viable option.

### Community Responsibilities

For communities purchasing a unit but requesting ongoing support from the Council, they will liaise with the council and seek agreement that:

- the units meet the required standards
- the units will be easily accessible to all at all times
- a suitable location is agreed
- the unit will pass into the ownership of the Parish Council once installed.

## **7. Insurance and Liability**

- Defibrillators located on Council property and/or being maintained by the Parish Council will be covered under the Council's insurance arrangements.

## **8. Review**

This policy will be reviewed every three years, or sooner if legislation, best practice or operational requirements change.

**Approved 14-04-2026.**