

Delegated Cabinet Member Decision Report

Decision Maker and Portfolio area: Cllr Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care

Date of Decision: 2nd August 2023

Subject: To seek approval to:

(a) Implement the defibrillator policy for utilising when applications are made for either funding an AED or for permissions to install in or on Council owned sites or buildings.

Report Author: Anna Tebay, Head of Service Public Health
Jonathan Downs, Corporate Policy Lead

Ward(s) Affected: All Wards

Reason for the decision:

Oldham Council and Councillors receive requests from community groups on an ad hoc basis to consider whether funding applications could be supported for the purchase and installation of AEDs. In addition to this there are requests to install devices in Council owned buildings or on Council owned land. The requests are made through various channels such as to Councillors or direct to departments. In the past this has led to inconsistent responses, with some geographical areas having a high concentration of AEDs, and other areas a lower concentration. Should a community

device be installed in a Council building or on a Council site and the community group disband, responsibility for regular maintenance checks and repairs may fall to the Council, which is not without cost or resource implication. There is also the potential for an increased risk of vandalism which the Council may not wish to accept relating to their building or site where an installed device is located.

The Council defibrillator policy has been approved the Management board 19th July 2023.

Summary:

What are the alternative option(s) to be considered? Please give the reason(s) for recommendation(s):

- a) To not approve the Council defibrillator policy and continue responding to requests in an inconsistent way.
- b) To approve the policy and support full implementation for utilising it when applications are made for either funding an AED or for permissions to install in or on Council owned sites or buildings.

Recommendation(s):

To approve option B - To approve the policy and support full implementation for utilising it when applications are made for either funding an AED or for permissions to install in or on Council owned sites or buildings.

Implications:

What are the financial implications?

The preferred option is to approve the defibrillation Policy. The policy outlines the process for approving the installation of new AED's either in the community or on Council owed land and buildings.

Applications from community groups should be made via the Districts Teams and successful applications will be funded from the Councillors ward budgets. There is, however, no specific budget

for the installation of AED's on Council owned land and buildings and funding would have to be identified from within existing Council resources by the requesting Department.

Nicola Harrop – Finance Manager, 7th July 2023

What are the **procurement** implications?

There are no procurement implications.

What are the **legal** implications?

An open, transparent and consistent approach to applications for consent to install an AED in or on Council land and to applications for funding is essential.

Sarah Orrell – Commercial and Procurement Solicitor, 13th July 2023

What are the **Human Resources** implications?

No HR/Workforce Implications

Vikki Morris, Assistant Director of HR& organisational development, 12th July 2023 No HR/Workforce Implications

Vikki Morris, Assistant Director of HR& organisational development, 12th July 2023

Equality and Diversity Impact Assessment attached or not required because (please give reason)

No: an EIA has not been undertaken as it is not a cabinet decision and will not negatively impact on those protected with a equality characteristics.

What are the **property** implications

Facilities Management and Environmental Services were involved in the development of the policy and have been consulted on the final version.

Risks:

N/A

Co-operative agenda


This policy aligns to the Co-operative Values as the principles set out within the document seek to work with residents and sets out the role of the Council and the responsibility of residents applying for grants. This policy is focused on 'helping people improve their lives' as outlined within the cooperative values.

Has the relevant Legal Officer confirmed that the recommendations within this report are lawful and comply with the Council's Constitution? Yes

Has the relevant Finance Officer confirmed that any expenditure referred to within this report is consistent with the Council's budget? Yes

Are any of the recommendations within this report contrary to the Policy Framework of the Council? No

List of Background Papers under Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972:

Title	Papers
Oldham Council Defibrillator Policy	 Oldham Council Defibrillator Policy .docx

Report Author Sign-off:	Anna Tebay, Head of Service Public Health
Date:	26 th July 2023

Please list any appendices:-

Appendix number or letter	Description
N/A	N/A

1. Background:

An Automated External Defibrillator (AED) is an essential part of the chain of survival during the response to sudden cardiac arrest, restoring a normal heart rhythm¹. Defibrillators have the potential to save lives with some evidence showing that accessing devices within 3-5 minutes of a cardiac arrest increases the chance of survival by over 40%. An increase in the number of AEDs locally will give members of the community/community groups a safe, effective and prompt tool in the vital delivery of potential lifesaving treatment. Premature deaths from cardiovascular disease in Oldham is significantly higher than the England average. In 2021 Oldham had an under 75 mortality

rate from all cardiovascular diseases at 101.5 per 100,000, compared to England at 76 per 100,000¹.

Oldham Council and Councillors receive requests from community groups on an ad hoc basis to consider whether funding applications could be supported for the purchase and installation of AEDs. In addition to this there are requests to install devices in Council owned buildings or on Council owned land. The requests are made through various channels such as to Councillors or direct to departments. In the past this has led to inconsistent responses, with some geographical areas having a high concentration of AEDs, and other areas a lower concentration. Should a community device be installed in a Council building or on a Council site and the community group disband, responsibility for regular maintenance checks and repairs may fall to the Council, which is not without cost or resource implication. There is also the potential for an increased risk of vandalism which the Council may not wish to accept relating to their building or site where an installed device is located.

The aims of the community defibrillator policy are:

- To provide evidence-based information on helping an individual suspected of having an out of hospital cardiac arrest;
- To promote national guidance regarding automated external defibrillators;
- To provide guidance with decision making when applications are made for funding to Council departments or individual Councillors;
- To set the parameters in which the Council would consider supporting installation of an AED on a Council owned building or site.

2. Current Position

2.1 The policy has been developed with colleagues from across Public Health, Policy, Districts team, Environmental Services and Facilities Management.

2.2 The Policy has been approved at the Council Management board on the 19th July 2023.

2.3 Using nationally available mapping tools, it is possible to conservatively estimate that Oldham has over 70 AEDs across the borough.

<https://www.defibfinder.uk/>

<https://www.heartsafe.org.uk/AED-Locations/>

<https://www.thecircuit.uk/> .

The AEDs are at a variety of public, private and community venues. There is no mapping tool that covers the entirety of the borough as a whole, this is because the tools are designed to locate AED within a close proximity during an emergency. Appendix A shows coverage in smaller geographical areas within Oldham. The mapping tools have limitations, and it is not always possible to differentiate between those available during business hours only and those accessible 24hours 7days a week.

¹ [Public health profiles - OHID \(phe.org.uk\)](https://publichealthprofiles.org.uk/)

[Every school will have a life-saving defibrillator by 22/23 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/every-school-will-have-a-life-saving-defibrillator-by-22-23)

2.4 Any AED on the outside of buildings or located in exposed areas such as parks have the advantage of being more accessible, but this is not without challenge, namely a greater risk of vandalism. There are costs associated with this. The risk of vandalism also increases the possibility that the device is not in full working order should it be needed in the event of an emergency.

2.5 The highest footfall and therefore increased likelihood of a cardiac arrest, is during site operating hours and not 'after hours'. Increasing AED provision in areas of low footfall and potentially higher rates of vandalism is not encouraged. It is also worth noting that some of the AEDs are portable, for example those belonging to sports clubs that may take their device to away games, therefore not accessible to the general public at all times but would serve the needs of a particular community.

2.6 In 2022, the government made an announcement of its intention to roll out AED across all state funded schools in England. On completion of this roll out, Oldham will have a much higher provision of AEDs in the borough, with good geographical coverage that may serve areas that currently have a lower concentration of AEDs. A slight caveat should be made that it is likely that these are only available during school operating hours.

2.7 The Council has no centrally allocated budget to financially support the purchase or installation of a community defibrillator. Should a Council department or Councillor feel there is strong justification and available budgetary provision the policy sets out a number of considerations before agreements should be made.

2.8 Next Steps

- To ensure that the policy is accessible to the public via the Council website.
- Cascade the policy to key stakeholders and implement with immediate effect.
- Share the policy with Action Together to consider wide application for assessing funding applications for AED and to support the approach for not over concentrating provision of AED in some areas whilst other areas remain under served.

3. Recommendation:

Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care is asked to:

To approve the policy and support full implementation for utilising it when applications are made for either funding an AED or for permissions to install in or on Council owned sites or buildings.

In consultation with

(Cllr Barbara Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Health & Social Care)

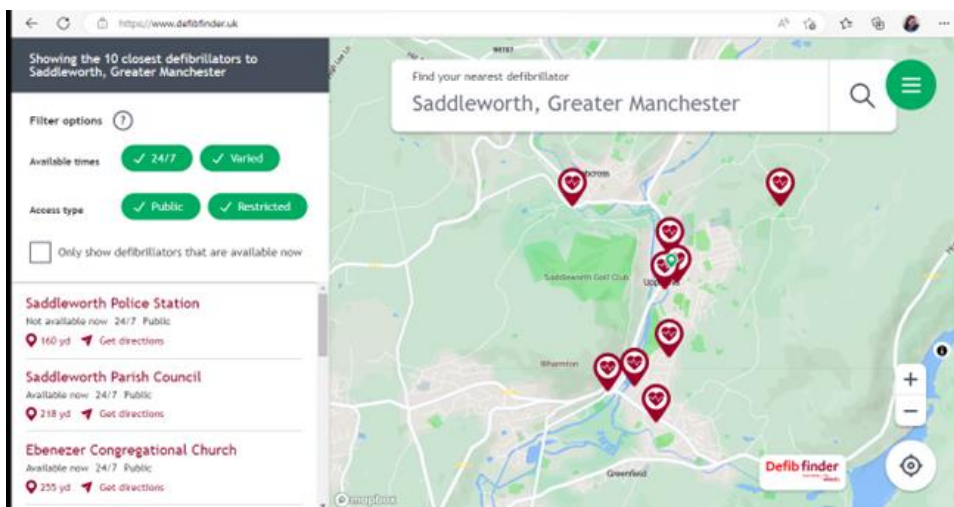
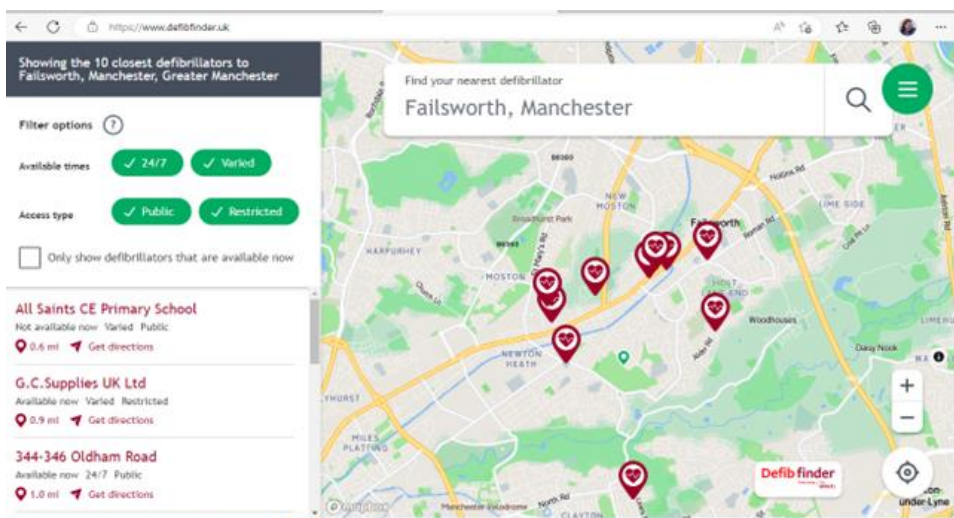
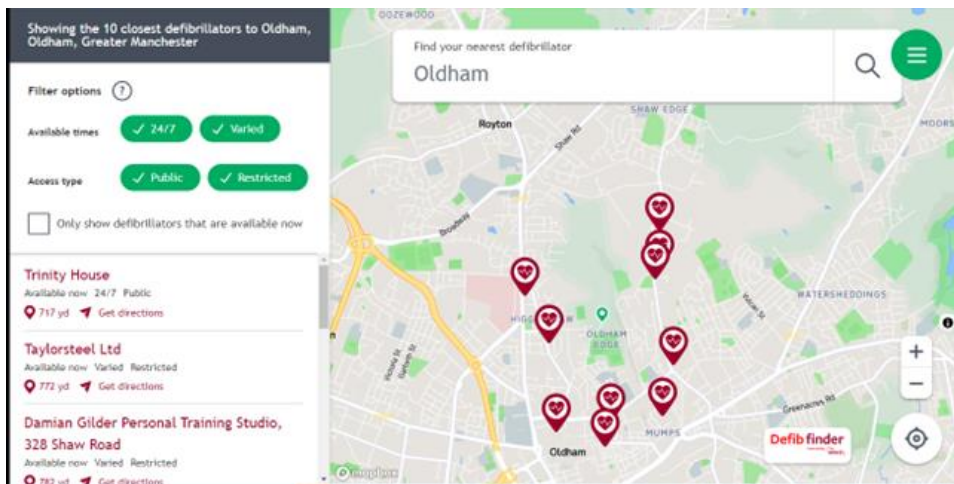


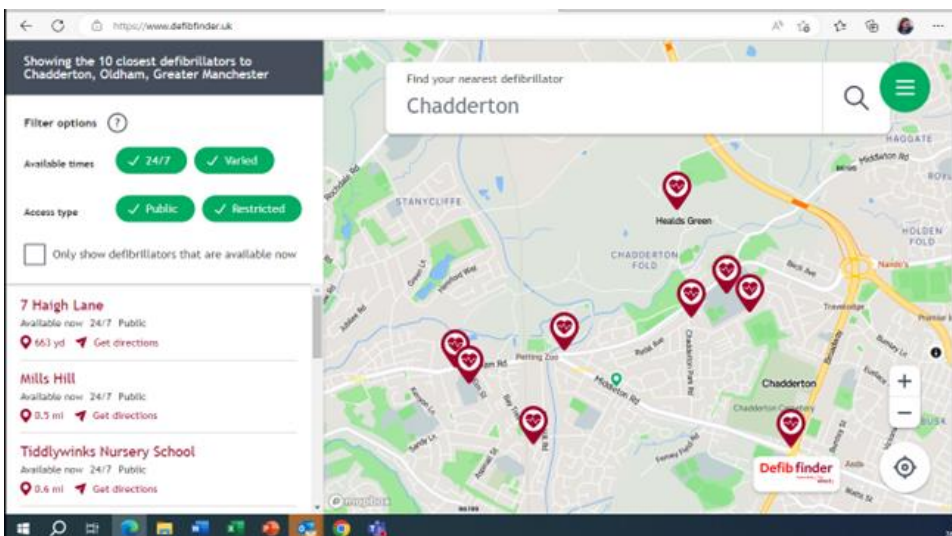
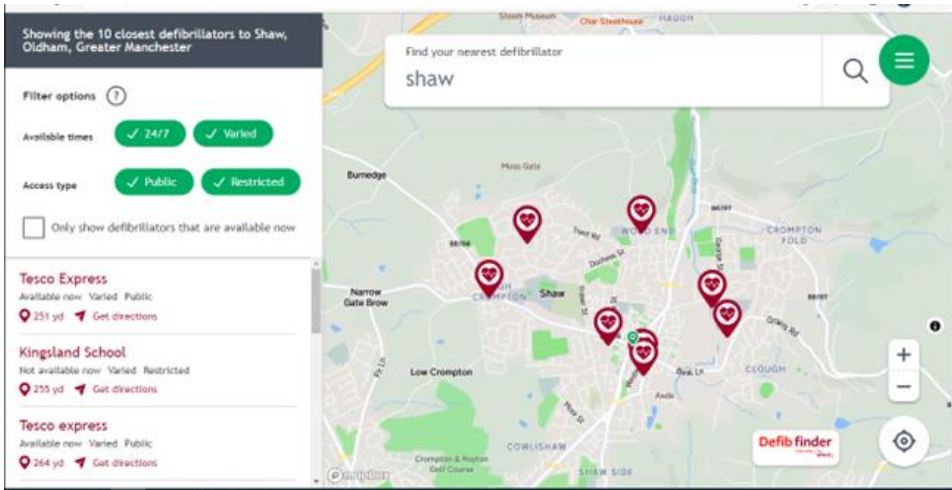
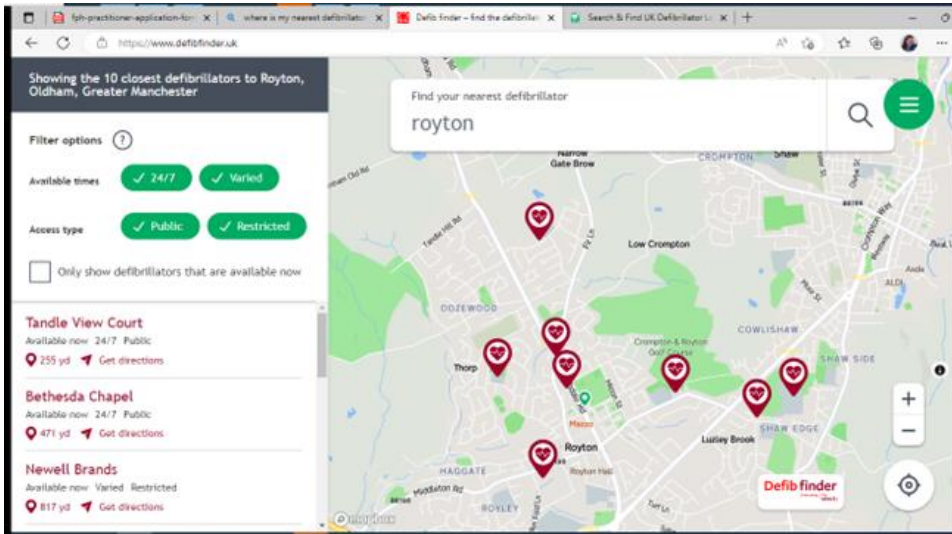
Date: 29th August 2023

Appendices

Appendix A

The below is one mapping exercise undertaken to show geographical locations of the AED in the borough of Oldham.





Showing the 10 closest defibrillators to Werneth, Oldham, Greater Manchester

Find your nearest defibrillator
werneth

Filter options ⓘ

Available times: 24/7 Varied

Access type: Public Restricted

Only show defibrillators that are available now

Arkright St TLS
Available now 24/7 Public
877 yd [Get directions](#)

Primrose Place
Not available now Varied Restricted
0.6 mi [Get directions](#)

The Primrose Centre
Available now 24/7 Public
0.7 mi [Get directions](#)

Showing the 10 closest defibrillators to Lees, Oldham, Greater Manchester

Find your nearest defibrillator
Lees

Filter options ⓘ

Available times: 24/7 Varied

Access type: Public Restricted

Only show defibrillators that are available now

Stream Measurement Limited
Available now Varied Restricted
799 yd [Get directions](#)

Springhead Sports and Social Club
Not available now 24/7 Public
776 yd [Get directions](#)

10 Stamford Road
Available now 24/7 Public
807 yd [Get directions](#)