260901 – Item 17 - Community First Aid Training

Purpose

To outline background and initial considerations regarding a suggestion from Cllr Hampton to explore offering community first aid training in Moretonhampstead.

Background

A medical emergency occurred in the town centre in July. Several members of the public intervened appropriately — calling 999, collecting the defibrillator, and briefing paramedics on arrival. The incident has prompted discussion about whether wider access to basic first aid skills could further strengthen community confidence and resilience.

Community first aid training is commonly delivered by organisations such as St John Ambulance, the British Red Cross, and South Western Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust. Typical sessions cover CPR, use of defibrillators, managing choking, bleeding control, and recognising medical emergencies.

Potential Benefits

- Increased community confidence in responding to emergencies
- Improved early intervention while awaiting professional medical help
- Opportunities for partnership with local organisations or volunteer groups
- Contribution to wider community resilience initiatives

Considerations

- Identifying suitable providers and understanding costs
- Venue availability and accessibility
- Whether the Council wishes to fund, subsidise, or simply facilitate sessions
- Likely demand and target audience
- Whether this would be a one-off session or part of a broader programme

Decision Required

Councillors are asked to consider whether they wish to explore options for providing community first aid training and, if so, to determine who should undertake further investigation and bring back costings and delivery proposals.