

Subject:	Provision of drinking water fountains and bottle filling points in high footfall areas of the City.		
Date of Meeting:	20th June 2019		
Report of:	Executive Director of Environment, Economy & Culture		
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Ward(s) affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT

- 1.1 A petition on water fountains was considered at the Tourism, Development & Culture Committee at its meeting on the 16th November 2017 and the Policy, Resources & Growth Committee on the 30th November 2017 which led to a feasibility study into the practicalities and possible cost associated with the provision of water fountains in 6 high footfall areas within the City.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Policy, Resources & Growth Committee approve option 1, to provide drinking water fountains and bottle filling points in 6 x high footfall areas of the City for a trial period of 3 years when the success of the project will be reviewed and consideration given to increasing the water fountain provision across the City.

3 CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The petition on water fountains that was considered at the Tourism, Development & Culture Committee at its meeting on the 16th November 2017 and the Policy, Resources & Growth Committee on the 30th November 2017 led to a feasibility study into the practicalities and possible cost associated with the provision of water fountains in 6 high footfall areas within the city.
- 3.2 The “added value” benefits of providing the refilling/water fountains are:-
- i. Prevents plastic pollution at source.
 - ii. Encourages healthy hydration (especially important by the beach in summer time)

- iii. Provides alternative to sugary drinks. Supports sugar smart campaign and obesity reduction.
- iv. Cleaner streets and beach - decreases litter and “clean up” costs, especially important with influx of tourists in the summer.
- v. Refilling saves money - supports low income people and families.
- vi. Adaptation to climate change and increasingly hot summers.
- vii. Reduces carbon footprint compared to using bottled water.
- viii. Provides access to water for homeless people.

3.3 The proposal to provide the fountains in the City has synergies with other projects under consideration by the International & Sustainability Team regarding Single Use Plastics (SUP), the City to Sea organisation and the “Refill Brighton and Hove” (run by Brighton Peace and Environment Centre), all of whom have participated in the feasibility study and the preparation of this business case.

3.4 During the course of the feasibility study several councillors and residents associations had been in contact to request that consideration be given to including the feasibility of several existing Victorian water fountains, within parks, recreation grounds and other public areas, being restored to a safe and hygienic working condition. These have been surveyed, costed and included under feasibility study outcomes,3.5.

3.5 Feasibility Study Outcomes

3.5.1 Provision of new drinking water fountains.

The 6 locations below have been consulted on with the council’s Sustainability team, the Environmental Health team, Southern Water, the “refill” local coordinators, the City to Sea and Sustain organisations.

The locations that have been identified are recognised as high volume pedestrian footfall areas, travel hubs and exercising routes, all spaces where a fountain can reduce bottled water purchases...They are:-

- Queens Road adjacent the Brighton station bus stops.
- Churchill Square adjacent the westbound bus stops.
- Above Shelter Hall on the Kingsway junction with West street.
- On the Plaza in front of the Palace pier.
- Midway point of Hove lawns.
- Adjacent to the Eastbound bus stop in front of Hove Town Hall.

3.5.2 Several types of robust and vandal resistant combined drinking water fountain and bottle filling points were considered and visits made to view and speak to the organisations responsible for the ongoing servicing, cleaning, H&S water sampling and water consumption of the fountains. The recommended fountain is the Halsey Taylor 4420-BF1U - Endura II Tubular Outdoor Bottle Filling Station as installed at Borough Market in London who confirmed their use at the Market has demonstrated that they are highly resistant to customer abuse and very easy to maintain and service with minimal ongoing maintenance costs.

3.5.3 Following lengthy discussions with the Southern Water Authority, they confirmed that the provision of an unmetered supply and non-chargeable connection of the fountains would not be achievable as, being a commercial organisation, they would have to recover the installation and water usage costs.

3.5.4 The statutory requirements for water quality, safety and hygiene are very stringent and labour intensive with a daily cleaning regime and monthly sampling essential to prevent bacteria growth regulated by the Code of Practice ; Legionnaire's Disease: The control of Legionella bacteria in water systems.(L8) and costly to maintain.

3.5.5 The capital and operational revenue costs for the initial provision of the 6 x drinking water fountains and bottle filling points, the connection to the water supply and the ongoing servicing, cleaning, H&S water sampling and water consumption of each fountain are as follows:-

The Capital cost of purchasing the combined drinking water fountain and bottle filling point would be £3,200 + Vat each. (Total for 6 x fountains = £19,200).

The Capital cost of installing and connecting the fountains would be £3,900 + Vat each (Total for 6 x fountains = £23,400).

Therefore the total capital cost for the 6 x fountains would be £42,600.

The operational revenue cost of water consumption, the statutory requirement of servicing the fountains, cleaning them daily and the monthly H&S water quality sampling for each of the fountains would be £2,610 + Vat per year.

Therefore the total revenue cost for the 6 x fountains would be £15,660 per year).

3.5.6 **Additional Requests**

There have been further requests to consider the reinstatement of existing Victorian water fountains in Parks and Public Squares.

The requests to consider either including the renovation and reconnection of existing fountains located in parks and public squares within this proposal, or providing new combined drinking water fountain and bottle filling points, have been submitted by individual council members, members of the public and residents associations / friends of the parks. They will be considered following the trial period of 3 years when the success of the project will be reviewed and consideration given to increasing the water fountain provision across the City.

ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF OPTIONS

4.1 **Option 1-** To procure, install and connect the 6 x combined drinking water fountain and bottle filling points in the high footfall locations identified possibly utilising capital funding from the Sustainability & Carbon Reduction Investment Fund but with full revenue costs absorbed by the council.

Benefits –

- Supports the aim of reducing the Single Use Plastic usage in Brighton and Hove
- Prevents plastic pollution at source.
- Encourages healthy hydration (especially important by the beach in summer time).

- Provides alternative to sugary drinks. Supports sugar smart campaign and obesity reduction.
- Cleaner streets and beach - decreases litter and “clean up” costs, especially important with influx of tourists in the summer.
- Refilling saves money - so supports low income people and families.
- Adaptation to climate change and increasingly hot summers.
- Reduces carbon footprint compared to using bottled water.

4.2 Option 2 -

To procure, install and connect the 6 x combined drinking water fountain and bottle filling points in the high footfall locations identified and recover the revenue costs through sponsorship and / or advertising.

Benefits –

All as Option 1 but with revenue costs fully or partially recovered through sponsorship or advertising.

Drawback –

Contains risks as it may be difficult to obtain the sponsorship or sell the advertising space.

4.3 Option 3 –

To procure, install and connect the 6 x combined drinking water fountain and bottle filling points in the high footfall locations identified and refurbish, reconnect and operate the Victorian water fountains in Parks and Public Squares.

Benefits –

All as Option 1 but with costs fully or partially recovered through sponsorship, funding from public groups who have requested the reinstatement, fund through the “refill” project or through selling advertising space.

Drawback –

Contains risks as the Sustainability & Carbon Reduction Investment Fund support may not be available and it may be difficult to obtain the sponsorship or sell the advertising space.

4.4 Option 4 –

Do nothing and increase council support for the Refill, City to Sea and the Sustain Projects.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The proposal has been done in consultation with stakeholders, Southern Water, the internal sustainability team and individual BHCC members.
- 5.2 Consultation has also taken place with Southwark, Camden, Islington, the GLA and the Vale of Glamorgan Local Authorities where they are already in operation, all feedback has been very positive and the GLA, who trialled 30 combined drinking water fountain and bottle filling points, have now authorised the installation of another 140 fountains across the GLA area.

- 5.3 Feedback from members are that the locations selected for the new drinking water fountains are too “centre focussed” and that outlying wards should be included for consideration.
- 5.4 It is proposed that the option1 above be considered as trial. If the trial proves successful a review can be instigated to see if it is viable and feasible to look at the additional proposal to reinstate the 6 Victorian fountains in parks and public square and extend the provision of combined drinking water fountain and bottle filling points across the City based on demand and need in wards and neighbourhoods.
- 5.5 It is proposed to monitor the trail and consult further with the Local Authorities who have these in operation to understand their measures of success and customer surveys.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The preferred option is Option 1 to provide the drinking water fountains and bottle filling points in 6 x high footfall areas of the City for a trial period of 3 years when the success of the project will be reviewed and consideration given to increasing the water fountain provision across the City.
- 6.2 To enable the success of the project to be reviewed over the course of the 3 years, each of the fountains will be fitted with a flow meter to measure both usage and water consumption; this data will also be converted by a formula to indicate the exact number of 0.5L SUV bottles of water may have been purchased if the fountain had not been available.
- 6.3 We will not be able to monitor and identify the type of individual user but we will seek feedback through citizen surveys and social media communication as other Local Authorities’s have done.

7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

7.1. Financial Implications:

It is proposed that the capital funding for the new fountains amounting to £42,600 could be covered by the Sustainability & Carbon Reduction Investment Fund subject to this committee’s approval of the proposed allocations from this fund. The ongoing revenue costs, estimated to be £15,660 per annum will be included in the general fund revenue budget from 2020/21 for an initial period of 3 years as a commitment.

Finance Officer consulted: James Hengeveld Date 03/06/19

7.2 Legal implications

The proposal is that the Council procures a contractor to supply the fountains. The value of this contract is £42,600. The Council will add the fountains maintenance to the corporate legionella contract for maintenance and monitoring. The value of the supply and installation contract £42,600 and the revenue costs of £15,660 per annum. are below the threshold at which the Council is required to conduct a procurement which complies with the European public procurement

regime but the Council is required to comply with its Contract Standing Orders. The Council may also need to grant licences to the contractor to enable it to place the fountains on Council land. Orbis Public Law will advise on this as the project progresses.

Under the Health and Social Care Act 2012, local authorities are under a duty to improve the health of their local population. This is a measure which supports that obligation by providing a healthy alternative to sugary drinks.

Legal Officer consulted: Alice Rowland Date 03/06/19

7.3 Equality Implications

Increasing access to water fountains in the City creates health benefits for everybody, including older and disabled people, as well as children and young people, as noted. The design of the new fountains and potential refurbishment of the Victorian fountains will need to consider accessibility, to ensure that disabled people (especially those with mobility or sensory impairments and people of short stature) are able to reach and use the facilities.

Equalities Officer consulted: Sarah Tighe-Ford Date 12/06/19

7.4. Sustainability Implications:

7.4.1 Sustainability will be improved by the following:

- i. Prevents plastic pollution at source.
- ii. Encourages healthy hydration (especially important by the beach in summer time).
- iii. Provides alternative to sugary drinks. Supports sugar smart campaign and obesity reduction.
- iv. Cleaner streets and beach - decreases litter and “clean up” costs, especially important with influx of tourists in the summer.
- v. Refilling saves money - so supports low income people and families.
- vi. Adaptation to climate change and increasingly hot summers.
- vii. Reduces carbon footprint compared to using bottled water.
- viii. Provides access to water for homeless people.

7.5 Crime & Disorder Implications:

7.51 There are no direct implications in respect of the prevention of crime and disorder within this report although the recommended drinking water fountains and bottle filling points will minimise vandalism through design and the use of relevant materials.

7.6 Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

7.6.1 The risks and opportunities are dependent on the successful procurement of the drinking water fountains and bottle filling points. Specialist contractors are used for installation and compliance maintenance and robust contract and financial management to ensure that works are completed safely within budget and

programme. Corporate risk is reduced through the Corporate Landlord model, ensuring consistency of approach for statutory and other legal requirements.

7.7 Public Health Implications:

7.7.1 The revenue element includes funding the Water Management statutory compliance and corporate water management and servicing contracts (L8). Failure to have robust processes to manage these risks could lead to significant public health implications e.g. proliferation of Legionella Bacteria, etc.

7.8 Communication to the Citizens of Brighton and Hove:

7.8.1 Once authorised, the communications team will communicate the details of the combined drinking water fountain and bottle filling point's provision and locations to the citizens of Brighton and Hove.

7.8.2 The BHCC education team will also be engaging with schools to communicate and promote the provision of the fountains and determine the best way to collect data on behaviour change among school pupils.

