

Grounds and Environmental Services Committee

Date: 2nd March 2020

Title: Drinking Water Fountains

Purpose of the Report: To request permission to invite quotations for the supply and installation of external drinking water fountains in our larger parks.

Contact Officers: Ian Haynes, Head of Grounds and Environmental Services.

Corporate Objective/s		Objective #41 - To install drinking water fountains in the larger parks
Implications:		
Financial		Funded through approved capital programme.
Risk management		None
Operational/service delivery		None
Legal/compliance		Classed as permitted development

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

Should members be minded, the recommendation is:

- 1.1 To note the report.
- 1.2 To endorse that quotations be invited for the supply and installation of external drinking water fountains in our larger parks and the final decision be taken by the Policy and Finance Committee at its meeting on the 20th April 2020.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Initial investigations indicate that the supply and installation of water fountains in a town park location would cost in the region of £5,000 each, subject to a straightforward connection to a consistent supply of water.
- 2.2 In addition to the above capital outlay, consideration should be given maintenance charges, and costs for a recommended weekly clean. Water

supply costs (dependant on usage) are likely to amount to £500-£750 per year. For information only, the installation of a water fountain inside a building would be in the order of £1,000 to £1,500.

- 2.3 The installation, operation and maintenance of public drinking fountains is closely regulated to ensure hygiene and the minimisation of health risks. It is believed all on going costs associated with on-going maintenance will be met by the Grounds revenue budget.
- 2.4 It is recommended that the water drinking fountain should have the function to re-fill water bottles as well as allow drinking direct from a fountain.
- 2.5 Anglian Water have confirmed the responsibility for water quality and water quality testing, including the frequency of testing on the private plumbing system, would sit with the Town Council as owner of the drinking fountains. It is the intention to use mains water only, so the quality remains of an appropriate standard of quality and would negate the need for water testing.
- 2.6 A possible legal implication is if someone were to do something to the fountain that may cause someone coming after them who drinks from it to become ill. This could be mitigated through visual daily inspection by the Grounds and Environmental services team.
- 2.7 It should be noted that the installation of a drinking water fountain by the Town Council is 'permitted development' under the terms of Schedule 2 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 and as such, would not require the submission of a planning application.

3. CONCLUSION

- 3.1 Officers are currently reviewing a number of suitable suppliers and Members will be given a choice of suppliers for operational reasons. It is anticipated that a paper will be presented to the Policy and Finance Committee at its meeting on 20th April 2020 with a recommendation in terms of how the project may well be taken forward should Members be minded.

End.