

INFORMATION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
HEAD OF TECHNICAL SERVICES	ENVIRONMENT HOUSE AND HOUSING COMMITTEE	7 MARCH 2023	10
HYDRATION POINTS UPDATE			

PUBLIC ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

The following is an update on progress to install hydration points across the Borough.

WHY IS THIS INFORMATION BEING GIVEN TO THE COMMITTEE?

To update the Committee on project progress and provide information to allow the committee to decide whether to proceed with installing further hydration points at other locations.

FURTHER INFORMATION

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1. At the Environment, Health and Housing Committee of 29 March 2022 the Committee resolved to approve £13,500 of capital expenditure to install 6 hydration points. The total approved capital programme budget for the installation of hydration points across the Borough and renovation of historic drinking fountains is £60,000.
2. Four wall-mounted hydration points were installed between May and August 2022 at Ashton Pavilion, Monument WCs (both St Annes), Lowther Gardens WCs (Lytham) and Market Square WCs (Kirkham).
3. Two freestanding hydration points were installed during Autumn 2022 at Fairhaven Lake and on Lytham Green Promenade by Bath St Car Park. As freestanding units need to be kept drained during winter months to prevent pipes freezing and bursting these will be commissioned during March 2023.
4. A further wall-mounted hydration point was included in the construction of the North Beach WCs which has recently been opened. This unit was provided free of charge by Danfo.
5. Each hydration point has a water sub-meter attached to calculate the amount of water used at each. As of December 2022 the four wall-mounted hydration points had used the amounts of water as set out in Table 1. This shows the equivalent number of 500ml water bottles that have been refilled at each location.

Table 1. Water consumption of hydration points

Location	Date installed	Water consumption up to December 2022 (in cumeecs)	Equivalent number of 500ml bottles
Ashton Pavilion	18/07/22	0.7	350
Monument	06/05/22	2.2	1,100
Lowther	20/05/22	18.5	9,250
Market Sq	01/08/22	0.3	150

6. When the water readings were taken it was noted that the Market Square meter was faulty and stuck at 0.3. This is being replaced. The Lowther reading appears to be very high. Future readings should indicate whether this is a true reflection of use or whether there are other issues that have increased this reading.
7. One of the key reasons for the hydration points to be installed was to encourage visitors to reuse water bottles and reduce the number of single use plastic bottles being discarded. This was an aim for the Plastic Free Fylde initiative which now forms part of the Council's carbon neutral ambitions. Although no definitive figure can be given as to how many single use plastic bottles were not discarded as a result of the hydration points, it is expected that their presence would have helped reduce this number.
8. Signage to help members of the public identify the hydration points is being designed which should help to increase their use. The current active hydration points are promoted through the Refill mobile app and website www.refill.org.uk which details locations of where members of the public can refill water bottles across the Country.
9. Should the committee wish to proceed with the installation of further hydration points across the Borough, potential locations where existing water supplies are located include those set out in table 2.

Table 2. Potential locations for additional hydration points

Area	Location	Wall-mounted freestanding or	Estimated cost to install
St Annes Promenade	North Promenade WCs	Wall-mounted	£1,700
	Splash Park WCs	Wall-mounted	£1,700
St Annes Square and Ashton Gardens	On corner of St Annes Road West and Clifton Drive North, by notice board	Freestanding	£4,000
	By zebra crossing outside Fresh café	Freestanding	£4,000
	By footpath outside former JR Taylors	Freestanding	£4,000
	Crescent WCs	Wall-mounted	£1,700
Fairhaven Lake	Skate park pavilion	Wall-mounted	£1,700
	Bowling Green WCs	Wall-mounted	£1,700
	Stanner Bank WCs	Wall-mounted	£1,700
Lytham	Pleasant St WCs	Wall-mounted	£1,700
	Lytham Institute	Wall-mounted	£1,700
	Memorial Gardens (no current water supply and not owned by Fylde)	Freestanding	£4,000

	Council)		
Freckleton	Freckleton WCs	Wall-mounted	£1,700

10. Estimated costs for new hydration points are based on previous units installed with a slight increase to account for inflation. This includes the cost of the units, installation, additional materials (eg water sub meters and piping), signage and, for free standing units, potential additional drainage/soakaways.