

DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
TECHNICAL SERVICES	ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE	29 MARCH 2022	5
HYDRATION POINTS – PHASE 1			

PUBLIC ITEM

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

SUMMARY

Prior to the Covid pandemic the committee approved a capital scheme to install public hydration points across the Borough to encourage water bottles to be used in place of single-use plastic bottles. With the easing of Covid prevention measures the committee is requested to approved £13.500 of capital to be used to install 6hydration points to test the success of installing the units with the potential to increase the number of units in future, subject to a further report to the committee.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The committee is requested to approve £13,500 of capital expenditure in 2022/23 to install 6 hydration points at the locations detailed within the report from the existing approved 2021/22 Capital Programme budget of £60,000.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

6 November 2018: That the committee agree to establish a cross party, cross committee working group: 'to investigate and consider the options to minimize the reliance on single use plastic items across the borough to become a 'plastics conscious' borough'', which would report back to the Environment, Health and Housing committee with any appropriate recommendations.

5 November 2019: To broaden the remit of the Plastic Conscious Fylde Working Group to include two members of the Planning Committee and to broaden its remit to include the development of a carbon reduction Action Plan renaming it the Carbon Neutral Working Group.

7 January 2020: To strongly support both bids for consideration by the Budget Working Group, with priority of consideration to be given to the cemetery infrastructure works. (The second capital bid for 2020/21 for the installation of hydration points/water bottle fillers plus the possible restoration of historic drinking fountains.

11 January 2022: Operational Management Committee resolved: 1. To recommend that full council award the retendered Public Convenience contract for cleansing and maintenance to Danfo UK Ltd for a period of 15 years based on the tender submission and evaluation assessment identifying Danfo as the best value for money option. 2. That Full Council approve an unfunded revenue budget increase of £52,543 per annum (plus CPI increases from year 3 onwards) to meet the additional costs of the contract covering the cleansing and maintenance of public conveniences and additional services which include maintenance, inspection of hydration points (£8,300 per annum) as well as programmed improvements and refurbishments (£33,356 per annum).

CORPORATE PRIORITIES	
Economy – To create a vibrant and healthy economy	√
Environment – To deliver services customers expect	√
Efficiency – By spending money in the most efficient way	√
Tourism – To create a great place to live and visit	√

REPORT

INTRODUCTION

1. In 2018 the committee established the cross-party and cross-committee Plastic Conscious Fylde working group which subsequently developed into the Carbon Neutral Working Group in 2019. One of the first recommendations was to install a series of hydration points so that visitors to the Borough would be able to refill water bottles with the intention that this would help to reduce the use of single-use plastic bottles and their disposal in general waste or dropped as litter especially on the beach.
2. In January 2020 a capital bid of £60,000 was supported by the committee to enable hydration points to be installed (phase 1) and to look into restoring some historic water fountains (phase 2). At the time officers intended to submit a draw-down report in Spring 2020 with the intention of installing some hydration points by early summer 2020. However the project was put on hold following the outbreak of the Covid pandemic in light of public concerns over potential transmission risks. Through 2021 public concern persisted while the Covid vaccination programme was rolled out.

PHASE 1

3. The Government has indicated that the success of the vaccination programme means that it is appropriate to remove all coronavirus restrictions and “learn to live with the virus”. It may now be appropriate to proceed with implementing phase 1 with a reduced number of locations initially and possible additional locations to be installed at a later date.
4. An initial list of potential locations where hydration points could be located, based on current available water supplies controlled by Fylde Council, are set out in Table 1. Hydration points can either be wall-mounted to existing buildings where they can be connected to the building’s water supply and drainage or, if located in an area without a building, a freestanding unit can be used.
5. To establish how well the hydration points are used by the public it is suggested that an initial trial of 6 locations be established. Should the trial be a success then it is suggested that further locations are identified, subject to a further report to the committee. The initial 6 locations, shown on table 1 highlighted yellow, have been identified to ensure a geographical spread at locations where there is high footfall to benefit key towns and strategic parks.

Table 1. Potential locations for hydration points

Area	Location	Wall-mounted or freestanding
St Annes Promenade	North Promenade WCs	Wall-mounted
	Monument WCs	Wall-mounted
	Splash Park WCs	Wall-mounted
	North Beach WCs (to be built)	Wall-mounted
St Annes Square and Ashton Gardens	On corner of St Annes Road West and Clifton Drive North, by notice board	Freestanding
	By zebra crossing outside Fresh café	Freestanding

	By footpath outside former JR Taylors	Freestanding
	Crescent WCs	Wall-mounted
	Ashton Pavilion WCs	Wall-mounted
Fairhaven Lake	Skate park pavilion	Wall-mounted
	Bowling Green WCs	Wall-mounted
	Near to the RSPB centre	Freestanding
	Stanner Bank WCs	Wall-mounted
Lytham	Pleasant St WCs	Wall-mounted
	Lytham Green by Bath St car park/RNLI shop	Freestanding
	Lowther Gardens WCs	Wall-mounted
	Lytham Institute	Wall-mounted
Kirkham	Market Sq WCs	Wall-mounted
	Memorial Gardens (no current water supply and not owned by Fylde Council)	Freestanding
Freckleton	Freckleton WCs	Wall-mounted

6. The suggested wall-mounted and freestanding hydration points are shown below.



PROCUREMENT

- The wall mounted units, in marine grade stainless steel, cost £740 per unit. The freestanding units, in marine grade steel, cost £1,850 per unit. Of the initial 6 sites, 4 are wall-mounted and 2 are freestanding. As such purchasing costs direct from the supplier will be £6,660. It should be noted that with current uncertainties around the world and the impact on raw materials, delivery times for the supply of the units, in particular the freestanding units, could be as long as 20 weeks.
- With most of the units to be attached to public toilets plus the need to clean and maintain all the units once operational by the public toilet cleaning contractor, Danfo were asked to quote for installation of these units. They have offered to install the units and provide materials (additional pipework, consumables etc...) for £640 per unit, £3,840 in total.
- In addition water sub-meters will need to be attached to each unit plus additional drainage may need to be installed on the freestanding units at an estimated cost of £3,000.

10. The committee is requested to approve the expenditure of £13,500 from the capital budget for the installation of 6 hydration points.

CLEANING, MAINTENANCE AND TESTING

11. As approved by the Operational Management Committee in January 2022, a new contract for cleaning the Council's public toilets has been granted to Danfo. As part of the tender exercise the cost quoted included an element for cleaning, maintaining and testing the water quality of the hydration units as part of their cleaning regime for the public toilets.

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	The committee is requested to approve the expenditure of £13,500 as detailed within the report in 2022/23 from the existing approved 2021/22 Capital Programme budget of £60,000.
Legal	No implications.
Community Safety	No implications.
Human Rights and Equalities	No implications.
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	Help to reduce plastic pollution by encouraging visitors to avoid single use plastic.
Health & Safety and Risk Management	Hydration units to be regularly cleaned and water quality tested under agreement with Danfo.

LEAD AUTHOR	CONTACT DETAILS	DATE
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BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
N/A		