

Re-commissioning of Speakers' Corner and Assembly Rooms Water Features

SUMMARY

- 1.1 Carrying out a deep clean of the city centre is a key priority of the new Conservative administration. The event is scheduled for Wednesday 18 July 2018.
- 1.2 This event is the first in what will be a city-wide programme of deep cleans, with the aim of encouraging people to feel pride in their city. From those who live in Derby, to people who visit or work in the city, this work should help everyone to feel uplifted and inspired by their environment.
- 1.3 The report seeks approval by the Council Leader for the additional expenditure required to carry out this work as part of the city centre event.
- 1.4 The majority of expenditure for the Deep Clean will be covered through current service budgets as the coordinated activities represent planned work that has been brought forward. However, there is not enough service budget to be able to reinstate these two water features.
- 1.5 During the planning stages of the event, it was unclear if Cabinet approval was required for the additional expenditure needed to reinstate the water features. It has since been confirmed that, because decommissioning the water features was an executive decision, reinstatement will require another executive decision.
- 1.6 The next Council Cabinet is scheduled to take place on the same day as the Deep Clean event. In order for the reinstatement work to be formally approved and undertaken in time for the event, it is therefore necessary to trigger the Urgent Leader Decision process.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To agree to fund the cost of £34,495 associated with the reinstatement of the Speakers' Corner and Assembly Rooms roundabout water features and the associated running costs for the remainder of this financial year.
- 2.2 To note that budget provision will need to be approved from 2019/20 onwards and will be included within the 2019/20 – 2022/23 medium term financial planning process.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 There is a need for an Urgent Leader Decision to be taken in order to obtain the necessary approvals prior to the Deep Clean event.
- 3.2 The delivery of the Deep Clean event planned for Wednesday 18 July will make a positive difference to the appearance of the city. This will enhance the city's appeal as a welcoming, attractive and safe place to live, work and visit.
- 3.3 The turning on of two water features has been highlighted as an essential element of the event and will be welcomed by the residents and businesses of Derby.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 The city centre is an area where the Council strives to attain the highest possible standards of attractiveness and cleanliness. The Deep Clean event will complement the existing resources committed to enhancing Streetpride services within the city centre.
- 4.2 The event will focus on five key zones around the Market Place, the Assembly Rooms Car Park area, Lock Up Yard, the Peter Hilton Gardens and The Morledge. A number of external partners, volunteers and internal services are participating in the event.
- 4.3 A number of planned works to enhance and clean the five key zones have been identified as part of the Deep Clean event. Following this event, further Deep Cleans are planned in other areas of Derby (within and outside of the city centre) to encourage all residents to feel pride in their city.
- 4.4 The reinstatement of the water features requires the allocation of additional funds. Discussions had been taking place with a potential sponsor who, unfortunately, withdrew from the discussions. This has resulted in additional unforeseen costs to complete the reinstatement works.
- 4.5 The one-off cost for the reinstatement of the Speakers' Corner water feature is £5,900. The one-off cost for the reinstatement of the Assembly Rooms roundabout water feature is £22,095. The associated maintenance costs for the remainder of the 2018/19 period for both water features is £6,500. This is a total cost of £34,495 which will be funded from the Council's Budget Risk Reserve.
- 4.6 A further budget provision for ongoing maintenance costs will need to be approved from 2019/20 onwards and will be included within the 2019/20 – 2022/23 medium term financial planning process.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 Do not approve the costs associated with the reinstatement of the water features, leaving them redundant.

5.2 To defer approval of the costs associated with the reinstatement of the water features until such time as a constituted meeting can be convened, within statutory timescales.

This is not considered a desirable option, given the high profile of the Deep Clean event, which represents an ideal opportunity to promote the Council's stated objective to enhance the city centre and promote Derby as an attractive place to live, work and visit.

This report has been approved by the following officers:

Legal officer Financial officer Human Resources officer Estates/Property officer Service Director(s) Other(s)	Olu Idowu Azim Qureshi n/a Richard Roper Michael Kay, Mags Young Andy Thomas
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IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money

- 1.1 The cost for the reinstatement of the water features is £34,495. The budget for these works will be funded from the Council's Budget Risk Reserve.
- 1.2 A further report to Cabinet will be required to approve a budget commitment from 2019/20 onwards for continued operation of the water features in future years. This will be included within the 2019/20 – 2022/23 medium term financial planning process.

Legal

- 2.1 Following a Cabinet decision on Wednesday 20 January 2016 to decommission all Council-wide water features, Cabinet authority is required to authorise the aspects of the Deep Clean initiative that relate to the re-commissioning of the two water features that form part of the event planned for Wednesday 18 July.

Personnel

- 3.1 None directly arising from the report.

IT

- 4.1 None.

Equalities Impact

- 5.1 None.

Health and Safety

- 6.1 Once reinstated and operational, appropriate assessments will need to be undertaken to ensure any operational risks are identified and appropriate measures are put in place.

Environmental Sustainability

- 7.1 An on-going monitoring and maintenance regime will be implemented to ensure the water features run effectively and efficiently. Both water features circulate water to reduce consumption, and are turned off between 10.00pm and 6.00am every day. Should the national 'heatwave' situation necessitate water usage regulations, all of Derby's water features will be turned off.

Property and Asset Management

- 8.1 The cost of the works and the first year running costs are set out in the report. An appropriate monitoring and maintenance regime will need to be implemented to ensure the continued operation of the reinstated water features.

Risk Management and Safeguarding

- 9.1 None directly arising from the report.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 10.1 The event will contribute towards a vibrant city centre:
- through physical improvements to the environment
 - by partnering with communities to create places that make people feel 'Proud of Derby'
 - by investing and improving the public realm, contributing to the City Centre Masterplan.