

<b>Item No.</b> 12.	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 12 March 2019	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Cabinet
<b>Report title:</b>		Introduce Water Fountains throughout Southwark	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>Cabinet Member:</b>		Councillor Richard Livingstone, Environment, Transport Management and Air Quality	

## **FOREWORD - COUNCILLOR RICHARD LIVINGSTONE, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT AND AIR QUALITY**

In our Fairer Future promises, Southwark Council has promised to introduce water fountains throughout the borough to help reduce the number of single use plastic bottles. As Blue Planet 2 highlighted, it is vital that we reduce the quantities of single use plastic. This council has pledged to eliminate its own reliance on this, and to work to halve single use plastic across the borough.

We also want to encourage more people to walk and cycle more: to stay healthy and improve air quality. More drinking fountains can help make walking a more pleasant way of getting around.

This report sets out our strategy to deliver that promise. It sets out how the council will ensure that we have 50 drinking fountains by 2022, spread so that there is at least one in each of the borough's wards.

I am therefore asking the cabinet, after consideration of this report, to approve the recommendations set out below.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **Recommendations for the Cabinet**

1. To approve the target to increase the number of water fountains within Southwark to a total of 50 by 2021-22 and to ensure each ward has provision of at least one water fountain.
2. To note the funding bid to Greater London Authority (GLA) and Thames Water Oneless scheme, which if successful will fund five of the new fountains.
3. To approve the approach to identifying water fountain locations in Southwark.
4. To approve the funding strategy set out the in report in respect of water fountains not delivered under GLA and Thames Water's Oneless scheme.

#### **Recommendation for the Leader of the Council**

5. That the leader of the council delegates authority to the cabinet member for environment, transport management and air quality to approve the final

approach and strategy of introducing water fountains throughout Southwark.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

6. Southwark Council Plan 2018-19 to 2021-22 sets out 'A Greener Borough' and 'A healthier life' as two of the Fair Future themes. The purpose of the Southwark Water Fountain project is to increase the number of drinking fountains within the borough to encourage people to drink less high-sugar drinks and discourage use of single-use plastic bottles. This is set out in the council plan priority to: "introduce water fountains throughout Southwark to reduce plastic bottles and to end single use plastic in the council and halve single use plastic bottles in the borough".

7. Current water fountain locations:

There are a total of 36 operational water fountains in Southwark. The majority of the water fountains are located in parks and leisure centres; the others are located in libraries and other sports facilities as listed in Table 1 below.

With approved funding from London Major's water fountain scheme, one additional fountain has been installed at Camberwell Green last year, another one will be installed at Guy's hospital this year, which brings the total number of drinking fountains within the borough to 38.

Table 1: Existing Water Fountains in Southwark

Location category	Number of Drinking fountains	Comments
Parks	14	Under LBS Management
Leisure Centres	18	Under LBS Management
Libraries	2	Under LBS Management
Other Sports Facilities	2	Under LBS Management
Camberwell Green and Guy's Hospital	2	Under Thames Water Management
Total	38	

*\*Please see Appendix 1: Southwark Drinking Fountain Map for how existing and potential water fountains distributed across the borough.*

8. The council approached the Greater London Authority (GLA) in August 2018 for external funding and partnership options to deliver this project. The GLA asked Southwark Council to join the Mayor of London's Oneless scheme working in partnership with the GLA and Thames Water to establish a new network of water fountain and bottle-refill stations across the capital in order to help reduce single-use packaging. Southwark's new council plan target fits the scheme perfectly.
9. In December 2018, we submitted applications of the five locations below as potential sites for water fountains:

- Potters Field Park ( Opposite City Hall)
  - St Mary's Newington ( Outside The Castle Leisure Centre)
  - Nunhead Green Park
  - Brimmington Park
  - Dulwich Village Ward (Calton Avenue at junction with Court Lane).
10. GLA has yet to announce the results of the location submissions due to the large number of applications received and extended assessment period. We expect the announcement to be made before March 2019 and to install the first fountain in April 2019 if successful.
11. We are seeking to install an additional seven water fountains from council funds throughout the borough by 2021-22, and explore the feasibilities of relocating existing water fountains in our leisure centres.

## **KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION**

### **Partnership approach**

12. We have been working in partnership with both the GLA and Thames Water on the scheme since last year and submitted a funding bid to the Oneless scheme for five potential water fountain locations in the borough in December 2018. If successfully, the five drinking fountains will be funded jointly by the GLA and Thames Water, in which Thames Water will have the ownership of the fountains and take the responsibility for all maintenance and management.
13. We are also going to put a proposal forward to the current leisure management contractor Everyone Active. The proposal is to ask Everyone Active to fund the relocation of some existing drinking fountains to the reception area or install an additional one at the reception area of each leisure centre to increase accessibility for members of public who are not gym members.

### **Water fountain location priorities**

14. The recommended priorities of potential fountain locations are based on the following:
- a. High Footfall
  - b. Accessibility and visibility (priority will be given to sites with 24hr access)
  - c. Number of water fountains nearby
  - d. Health Benefit
  - e. Protection from vandalism.

### **Signage**

15. Existing signage such as map boards, entrance signs, directional finger posts, and public noticeboards will be updated to ensure fountain locations are clearly marked. New signs will be installed at locations without adequate signage
16. A map of drinking water locations will be available on the council's website.

### **Future development**

17. We will work together with the public health, regeneration and highways

department to identify more detailed locations for potential water fountains throughout the borough including all council buildings.

18. The ambition is to deliver an additional twelve drinking fountains in Southwark, which will bring total number of drinking fountains to 50 by 2021-22. The project will delivered in three phases, five drinking fountains (funded by One less scheme) by 2019-20, four drinking fountains by 2020-21, and further three more by 2021-22.

### **Funding strategy for the council funded water fountains**

19. The average cost to supply and install a drinking fountain is £8,000 and as such a capital bid of circa £60,000 will be submitted as part of the council's budget setting process.

### **20. Risk and mitigation**

<b>Risk Description</b>	<b>Mitigation Actions</b>
Unsuccessful GLA funding bid	Prior communication and engagement with GLA and Thames Water to consider potential drinking fountain locations
Land contamination found	Survey to be completed
Locations not feasible due to water supply and drainage system	Site investigations to be completed and alternative list of potential water fountain locations identified

### **Policy implications**

21. Childhood Obesity is a prevalent issue within Southwark. The National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) data for 2017-18 indicates that reception, 11.4% of children are obese (7th highest London borough) and by year 6 increases to 24.5% of pupil are obese (12th highest London borough).
22. Energy drink consumption by children in the UK is higher than in any other European country. Energy drinks are associated with negative health, behavioral and dietary effects. Low price of calorific and sugary drinks influence consumption and make such drinks the easy option (NHS – 'effects of a fizzy drink tax on obesity rates estimate' November 2013).
23. A third of primary and secondary school pupils in Southwark report having sugary fizzy drinks most days. Sugary drinks are the main source of sugar in the diet of children (gov.uk – 'PHE urges parents to cut sugary drinks from children's diets' July 2015).
24. The positive health outcomes of placing a water fountain at these locations include:
  - Water fountains are free and accessible to all, addressing health inequalities

- In terms of reducing Childhood Obesity – no sugar/calories contained and the presence of free hydration can support and encourage more physical activity. It can suppress appetite and to an extent increase a metabolism
  - Water is good for concentration and in turn may help with educational attainment.
25. The provision of water fountains will also help feed into Southwark's wider ambition to prioritise the provision of tap water/water fountains to help tackle childhood obesity, in partnership with Thames Water, and is one way to help deliver the council's commitments help support its residents to lead a healthier life and have a great start in life.
26. A new environmental sustainability strategy is under development and to be completed in spring 2019. The provision of water fountain will help Southwark's wider ambition to reduce usage of single used plastic.

### **Community impact statement**

27. As set out under the Equality Act 2010 and the Public Sector Equality duty (PSED) an equalities impact assessment was carried out during the development of the project (see background document Appendix II for details). The overall aims of the project are broadly inclusive, and should foster good relations between people from different communities as well as advancing equality of opportunity.
28. This project will support the council's commitment to meet the needs of Southwark's diverse communities.
29. The recommendations are not considered to have a disproportionate effect on any community or groups.

### **Resource implications**

#### **Financial issues**

30. There will be no capital and revenue pressure associated with the five water fountains delivered through the GLA/Thames Water partnership funding.
31. The average cost to supply and install a drinking fountain is approximately £8,000 and as such a capital budget of circa £60k will be needed. This will be funded from the Parks Infrastructure and Investments Project.
32. Currently, the cost of maintaining 36 water fountains is approximately £64,000 per annum. With the proposed plan to install four more water fountains in 2020-21, we estimate the cost to increase to £71,000 in year 2020-21, and after the installation of three more in year 2021-22, it will be £79,000 in year 2021/22 and onwards.

33. Staffing and any revenue associated with future operating and maintenance costs of the council funded water fountains will be funded from within existing Parks and Leisure business unit's revenue.
34. We will look to work with Everyone Active for them to fund the relocation of the drinking fountains in leisure centres.

### **Staffing issues**

35. There is no implication for staffing connected with this project as this will be provided by the parks and leisure from its own resources.

### **Consultation**

36. Ward councillors and the cabinet members for finance, resources and community safety and parks and leisure shall be kept fully informed of the progress on the project.
37. Internal key stakeholders and external partner of the following will be consulted during the development of the project to ensure that the need of all sections of Southwark' diverse community continue to be met.
  - LBS Parks & Leisure Team
  - LBS Regeneration Team
  - LBS Public Health Team
  - LBS Highways Team
  - LBS Legal Services, Finance and Governance
  - LBS H&S Compliance Team, Regulatory Services, Environment & Leisure
  - Everyone Active.

### **Legal implications**

38. Please refer to the concurrent report of the director of law and democracy below.

### **SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS**

#### **Head of Procurement**

39. Not required as there are no contractual or procurement issues involved with this decision

#### **Director of Law and Democracy**

40. None.

#### **Strategic Director of Finance and Governance (FC18/036)**

41. This report seeks cabinet to approve the target to increase the number of water fountains within Southwark to a total of 50 by 2021-22 and to ensure each ward has provision of at least one water fountain. The report is also requesting cabinet to approve other related recommendations as detailed in paragraphs 1 to 4 in the report.
42. The strategic director of finance and governance notes that the capital and

revenue costs associated with this report will be fully contained within the Parks and Leisure Services' respective capital and revenue budgets as detailed in the financial implication section.

43. The strategic director of finance and governance notes that there will be no capital and revenue pressure associated with the five water fountains delivered through the GLA/Thames Water partnership funding.
44. Staffing and any other contract monitoring costs connected with this report will need to be contained within existing departmental revenue budgets.

## BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Water Fountains EQIA	Parks and Leisure, Southwark Council, 160 Tooley Street	Rebecca Towers, Head of Parks and Leisure 020 525 0771
<b>Link:</b> <a href="http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=302&amp;MId=6088&amp;Ver=4">http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=302&amp;MId=6088&amp;Ver=4</a>		

## APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Southwark Drinking Fountains Map

## AUDIT TRAIL

<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Councillor Richard Livingstone, Environment, Transport Management and Air Quality		
<b>Lead Officer</b>	Fiona Dean, Director of Leisure		
<b>Report Author</b>	Emily Xi, Programme Management Officer		
<b>Version</b>	Final		
<b>Dated</b>	28 February 2019		
<b>Key Decision?</b>	Yes		
<b>CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER</b>			
	<b>Officer Title</b>	<b>Comments Sought</b>	<b>Comments Included</b>
	Director of Law and Democracy	Yes	No
	Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	Yes	Yes
	<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Yes	Yes
	<b>Date final report sent to Constitutional Team</b>		28 February 2019