

Report of Director

WATER FEATURE

1 Purpose of report

To seek approval for £170,000 from capital budgets for installation of a water Feature at the Tithe Barn and to identify a further revenue budget of £19,000 for the ongoing maintenance.

2 Executive summary

As requested at the Resources Committee of 30 September 2020 officers have undertaken some further research which is included in the attached report on the water feature at the Tithe Barn and now seek funding of £170,000 from capital budgets further revenue budget of £19,000 for the ongoing maintenance.

3 Appendices

Appendix A – Water Feature feasibility report & appendices (1,2 and 3).

4 Proposed action the Committee is invited to consider the approval of:

4.1 Allocating a budget of £170,000 from capital budgets for installation of a water feature.

4.2 A further revenue budget of £19,000 to be added to revenue budgets if the water feature capital budget is approved.

5 Background

5.1 Following discussions at previous Development Committee meeting a report was taken to the Wellingborough Town Regeneration Working Group meeting to get feedback on the water feature proposals. The Tithe Barn area was agreed as the preferred location for a water feature and therefore it was recommended and approved by the Development Committee on 28 September 2020.

5.2 The report to Development Committee agreed the action to report to Resources Committee to request the funding for the installation of a water feature.

6 Discussion

- 6.1 As identified in previous reports the concept design at Tithe Barn showing a decorative design with interactive elements has been estimated at £160k, including the power and the services connections. This has not changed since the previous report however additional costs will need to be covered. Therefore, officers are requesting £170k to cover any design and staff costs etc.
- 6.2 The report at Appendix 1 identifies the research undertaken regarding the water feature maintenance and estimates the cost to maintain this feature. For the proposed design this is estimated at £18k per year which is a revenue cost which cannot be found from existing budgets. Accurate costs can only be provided when the design and the location have been finalised.
- 6.3 Development Committee on 28 September approved the principal and concept designs for a water feature outside the Tithe Barn and asked officers to seek funding for this. This was discussed at the Resources Committee on 30 September. Officers are therefore seeking funding of £170,000 to be added to the capital programme and £19,000 to be added to revenue budgets.

7 Legal powers

Town and Country Planning Act 1990, Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

8 Financial and value for money implications

- 8.1 The concept design at Tithe Barn showing a decorative design with interactive elements has been estimated at £160k, including the power and the services connections therefore £170k to cover design and staff costs would be needed from the capital programme.
- 8.2 Estimated maintenance costs for the proposed design is £18k per year which is a revenue cost that cannot be found from existing budgets. Accurate costs can only be provided when the design and the location have been finalised.

9 Risk analysis

Nature of risk	Consequences if realised	Likelihood of occurrence	Control measures
Failure to enhance the public realm improvements in the Tithe Barn area by not including a water feature. This may be seen as a	Public criticism.	Medium	Consider the options and if this is a viable option.

missed opportunity.			
The costs of including a water feature may be seen by some as disproportionate to the benefits.	Public criticism of spend.	Medium	Consider the full costs of a feature.
Possible vandalism increases maintenance costs. etc.			Look at the detailed designs to try and ensure that as many measures to prevent vandalism are in place.

10 Implications for resources

The property and projects team currently has the resources to deliver the required projects within this financial year.

11 Implications for stronger and safer communities

- 11.1 There are no direct implications for the safety of the community although the projects that are developed from the vision will improve the town centre environment, will have a positive impact on community safety and contribute to community wellbeing.

12 Implications for equalities

- 12.1 There are no direct equalities implications from this report, an equalities impact would be undertaken on new projects.

13 Author and contact officer

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14 Consultees

Liz Elliot, Managing Director
Shaun Darcy, Director of Resources
Vicki Jessop, Assistant Director
Eric Symons, Assistant Director
Adrian Piper, Assistant Director (Corporate Landlord)
Victoria Phillipson, Principal Property and Projects Manager
Errol Browne, Programme Manager
Denise York, Project Co-ordinator
Caroline Ridge, Project Co-ordinator

