

Report for Communities and Local services Committee 2.09.24.**Proposal to purchase up to 7 tree planters subject to agreement of NCC on location**

Does the decision involve new expenditure?	Yes
Is there an existing budget for the expenditure?	Not earmarked but in reserves.
Are the equalities impacts/an equalities assessment required?	No
Does this require a full Council decision?	No

1. Background

BTC has bought 7 planters and trees in each of the last 2 years. They have been located in Marygate with 2 on Castlegate. There have been no issues raised by the public and the trees have been respected. The planters have not been used for rubbish and no trees have been damaged. It is assumed they are generally approved of and anecdotal evidence suggests they are much appreciated as contributing the general appearance of the town centre.

2. Proposal

To purchase up to 7 new planters in the same style as the current ones and plant with trees suitable for planters as advised by the tree nursery.

3. Location

It is proposed to locate 3 planters between the existing two planters adjacent to the town centre disabled parking bays. The on site NCC Highways Department representative on site objected last time on the grounds that disabled motor scooters would be restricted but this needs further investigation. It is possibly only a problem because existing car drivers park right up to the cobbled strip when there is no need to do this.

The other 4 planters could be located on the quayside against the wall given the fierce winds which occur there. Alternatively some or all of them could be locate on the other side of Marygate at the points where the pavement is widest. It could be anticipated that NCC will object on the grounds of limiting access and possibly impairing traffic vision from the top of West Street. It is proposed that staff meet with NCC Highways Department to establish agreed locations.

4. Cost

Based on costs in January 2024 when we last bought trees, the cost (ex VAT) would be approximately as follows;

Planters x 7	9317
Trees	280
Soil/ties/stakes	200
TOTAL	£9797

At budget setting last year we did not identify funds for 'public realm works' but rather left the money in reserves so it is proposed the funding would come from reserves.

5. Recommendation

1. Members agree to the proposal subject to agreement on planter location with NCC.
2. The planter project is added to the Action Plan.

Cllr G M Brown 22.08.24