



Berwick upon Tweed Town Council

Local Services Committee

03 August 2021

Appendix C

Report of Finance Officer

Floral Displays – hanging baskets

Access public

Background

1. Each year, the Town Council provides hanging baskets for both the town centre and the station car park. These are watered twice weekly by Northumberland County Council [NCC].
2. In total, there are 76 baskets provided. Most [64] at 16" diameter with 10 being slightly larger [18"] and two smaller [12"].

Issues

3. Although regular, the interval between watering can lead to the baskets drying out, especially in hot weather, and this will have a consequential effect on how the plants perform. There is also an issue of wasting water as water runs through the dry compost before it is adequately re-wet.
4. Further, the baskets themselves are beginning to fail and will need replacing soon.

Options

5. It would be possible to improve the performance of the hanging baskets by investing in ones with an in-built reservoir which stores water and releases it gradually in the intervals between watering. This both reduces water waste and improves the performance of the plants in the basket.
6. Where used, for example in Kelso, the improvements seen in the quality of the floral display are considered significant.
7. The typical cost of a conventional 16" basket is £15-20 compared to £34 for one with a reservoir.
8. To replace 74 baskets with baskets with reservoirs would cost £2516 compared to replacement with conventional baskets that would cost between £1110 and £1480, an extra cost of between £1036 and £1404.
9. The Town Council could choose to replace all baskets in a single year or spread the investment over two.

Recommendation

1. Committee indicates if they wish officers to research further the replacement of the existing hanging baskets with ones that utilise reservoirs.

Author	RPL	Town Clerk sign off (if required)	GD
Checked by	SC	Finance Officer sign off (if required)	RPL