

## ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Cabinet Member for Town Centres
2.	Date:	20 September 2010
3.	Title:	Boots Fountain, Howard Street, Rotherham - Remedial Works
4.	Programme Area:	Environment and Development Services

### 5. Summary

The fountain at the junction of Howard Street and Effingham Street, known as the Boots fountain, is in need of repair and Yorkshire Water have issued the Council with a notice under Section 75 of the Water Industry Act to repair a leak in the water supply. The fountain attracts litter and some low level anti-social behaviour for example some members of the public have taken to swimming in it during hot weather.

It is proposed to remove the fountain and pave the area it previously covered.

### 6. Recommendations

It be resolved that:

- (a) A detailed scheme be developed which incorporates:
- the removal of the fountain;
  - the paving of the footprint of the fountain and immediately surrounding area in a manner which complements the existing adjacent surfacing and;
  - seating, subject to funding being available
- (b) The developed scheme be brought to a future meeting for approval

## **7. Proposals and Details**

This water feature, outside Boots Chemists on Howard Street, is in need of significant repair and has a leak in the water supply pipeline; the Council has been served by Yorkshire Water with a notice under Section 75 of the Water Industry Act to repair the leak. In addition to the leak in the supply, the water pump needs replacing and the wet well is leaking and requires repair. The planting beds are of poor quality having been compacted and damaged by people sitting/walking on them.

The fountain has been the subject of a previous report to a joint meeting of Cabinet Members for Streetpride and Regeneration and Development Services on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2008. The recommendation to drain the fountain and implement a landscaping scheme was approved. Subsequently, the scheme was discussed at a Town Centre Strategy meeting and it was considered that additional funding may be identified which would allow a more comprehensive redevelopment of the immediate area. The scheme was held in abeyance whilst the potential of a larger redevelopment of the area was explored further.

This summer, as part of the new government's in-year cuts, the potential additional funding from the LAA Reward Grant was lost which effectively precludes a more comprehensive scheme. The available funding is thus limited solely to an allocation of £50,000 within the Council's Minor Strategic Capital programme.

Further consideration has been given to an appropriate solution to the problems associated with the fountain and it is considered that its removal would be the most effective course of action. The footprint of the fountain structure would be paved in a manner to blend in with the existing surrounding paving and the potential of new seating would be considered if costs could be contained within the sum available. The possibility of installing removable seating, which would enable a greater area of the paving to be used for events etc, would be investigated.

It is estimated that the scheme being proposed would be contained within the funding available.

The scheme would remove the risk of enforcement action by Yorkshire water, remove the rather tired planting, provide additional quality paving which may be used for Town Centre events/stalls etc. It would also reduce the ongoing maintenance liability of the area to a minimum. This latter issue of maintenance is considered to be of particular relevance when the Council is facing significant and sustained pressures on its finances.

## **8. Finance**

No issues other than those noted in Section 7 above.

## **9. Risks and Uncertainties**

If no remedial action is taken to repair the leaking water main, Yorkshire Water will take enforcement action.

## **10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications**

This matter relates to the corporate themes of Rotherham Safe and Rotherham Proud.

## **11. Background Papers and Consultation**

### **Consultation**

Consultation has previously taken place with the Town Centre Management Team on previous scheme proposals and this will be refreshed to agree a time to carry out the currently proposed work to minimise disruption to the Town Centre.

### **Background Papers**

YW notice under Section 75 of the Water Industry Act

Report to Cabinet Members for Streetpride Services and Regeneration and Development Services on 21 April 2008

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