



Title of Report:	Water Bottle Refill Scheme
Committee Report Submitted To:	Environmental Services
Date of Meeting:	14th September 2021
For Decision or For Information	Decision

Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-25)	
Strategic Theme	Improvement & Innovation
Outcome	Using technology to maximise efficiency and processes
Lead Officer	Head of Estates

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	
Included in Current Year Estimates	NO
Capital/Revenue	
Code	
Staffing Costs	

Screening Requirements	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	N/A	Date:
	EQIA Required and Completed:	N/A	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	N/A	Date:
	RNA Required and Completed:	N/A	Date:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	N/A	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	N/A	Date:

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 This report is in response to Members Notice of Motion to identify suitable locations to establish a water refill scheme to reduce dependence on single use plastic water bottles.

2.0 Background

2.1 Significant quantities of plastic finds its way into our seas each year. Much of this pollution comes in the form of single use plastic drinks bottles. Providing water refill points could help reduce the amount of plastic entering the seas around the Causeway coast.

2.2 Water refill points can also encourage healthy hydration, reduction in sugary drink intake, reduce litter, reduce cost as water is free and reduce the carbon footprint associated with plastic production.

2.3 **Cost.** A suitable vandal proof refill station (see appendix) costs £2,645 to purchase. Depending on location, installation can cost another £2,000 to £4,000. Annual maintenance will cost £1,000 to £2,000 per year. **Total cost £5,645 to £8,645 (year 1).**

2.4 **Benefits.**

- Supports the aim of reducing the Single Use Plastic usage.
- Prevents plastic pollution at source.
- Encourages healthy hydration.
- Provides alternative to sugary drinks.
- Cleaner streets - decreases litter and “clean up” costs, especially important with influx of tourists in the summer.
- Refilling saves money - so supports low income people and families.
- Adaptation to climate change and increasingly hot summers.
- Reduces carbon footprint compared to using bottled water.

2.5 **Potential Risks.**

- Water borne disease
- Potential contamination of water supply/outlet – a pilot scheme elsewhere noted that fountains which dispense water from a hidden spout below and not above are less likely to be contaminated. Note this design would favour filling of bottles.
- Potential poor public perception may result in no/low uptake of use
- Poor maintenance, unsightly/unkept appearance, e.g. traces of mould, algae etc. may impact on perception of water quality
- Vandalism to fountain structure
- Water wastage due to pipe bursts etc. and improper use of fountains
- Spills and potential slip hazard
- Winter freeze Public liability
- Council liability for such potential hazards

3.0 Proposal

3.1 A number of sites are suggested as being suitable for the trial installation of water refill points. The proposal is that a trial be carried out for a 2 year period at one of the following locations to complement the H2O on the Go scheme:

- The Crescent, Portstewart
- The Water Sports Centre, Portrush
- The Promenade, Ballycastle
- Riverside Park, Ballymoney
- The Diamond, Coleraine
- Market St, Limavady

3.2 These sites have been selected as they experience high footfall from a mix of both tourists, shoppers and recreational users. Exact location of refill points in Coleraine/Limavady would be determined following consultation with adjacent premises owners and DFI Roads Service.

3.3 Each refill point would be fitted with a flow meter to determine usage

3.4 This pilot scheme would test the durability of the units, user reaction and maintenance issues

3.5 A report will be brought back to Members with a view to providing more refill points subject to the success of this pilot scheme.

4.0 Options

4.1 Given the indicative cost, Members to agree which of the above sites should be trialled. Other sites could also be considered subject to Members wishes.

4.2 Officers to bring back confirmation of costs and that chosen sites are acceptable (following consultation with premises and land owners, water easily accessible etc)

5.0 Recommendation(s)

It is recommended that the Environmental Services Committee recommends to Council the trialling of the provision of a water refill point at a selected locations.

Appendix – Typical Water Bottle Refill Station (Halsey Taylor 4420-BF1U - Endura II Tubular Outdoor Bottle Filling Station)

This particular model has demonstrated that it is highly resistant to customer abuse and very easy to maintain and service with minimal ongoing maintenance costs.

