REPORT TITLE: TOWN BUS SHELTERS

<u>9 NOVEMBER 2022</u>

REPORT OF CABINET MEMBER: COUNCILLOR LEARNEY, CABINET MEMBER FOR CLIMATE EMERGENCY

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WARD(S): TOWN

## **PURPOSE**

This report provides an update on bus shelters following an assessment of all bus shelters in the town area and seeks approval for additional budget to refurbish and replace ageing bus shelters.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. That Members consider the requirement for an additional revenue budget of £10,000 pa to refurbish and replace bus shelters as set out in this report. This will go forward as a budget option for final approval at Council in February 2023.

## **IMPLICATIONS:**

## 1 COUNCIL PLAN OUTCOME

- 1.1 Tackling the Climate Emergency and Creating a Greener District
- 1.2 To encourage more people to leave their cars at home and use public transport, the infrastructure has to be of good quality. Increasing numbers to walk, cycle or use public transport will help targets for clean air and to become carbon neutral.
- 1.3 Vibrant Local Economy
- 1.4 Good quality public transport infrastructure contributes to the local economy, encouraging more visitors and residents to use public transport into the Town.
- 1.5 Living Well
- 1.6 Better quality public transport infrastructure may encourage residents to walk to their local bus stop rather than driving into the Town. Residents are living longer and improved bus infrastructure may help them live independently for longer.
- 1.7 Your Services, Your Voice
- 1.8 These measures will help to improve the attractiveness of public transport.

## 2 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 2.1 This report seeks approval for an annual £10,000 revenue fund (which would be an additional requirement on the Town Account) to refurbish and replace the shelters.
- 2.2 The current budget from the town forum for the cleaning, maintenance and new provision of bus shelters is £10,000 per annum. The Council's Special Maintenance team spend around £7,000 of this budget on cleaning the Town Forum bus shelters. The rest of the annual £10,000 budget is spent on maintenance and repairs to these bus shelters. As such no effective provision is currently made for new and replacement shelters.
- 2.3 The following table sets out the funding requirements in order to repair, maintain and replace shelters as required.

Funding Year	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29 and beyond
Existing Annual	£10k	£10k	£10k	£10k	£10k	£10k

cleaning & maintenance budget (subject to inflationary increases)						
Additional funding needed for repairing and replacing shelters	£10k	£10k	£10k	£10k	£10k	£10k

#### 3 LEGAL AND PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS

3.1 All associated procurement will be carried out in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules and the Public Contract Regulations 2015 (PCR2015) as appropriate.

# 4 WORKFORCE IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Delivery of the programme will be managed by existing staff.

#### 5 PROPERTY AND ASSET IMPLICATIONS

No new sites are recommended as part of this report. All bus shelters being replaced on the same site. All sites are part of the public highway.

#### 6 CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

6.1 Consultation with Hampshire County Council (HCC) has been carried out and will continue throughout the work. HCC hold a master copy of all public transport infrastructure in the county, which will be updated as refurbishment and replacement work is undertaken.

#### 7 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

7.1 Improvements to public transport infrastructure could increase passenger numbers on public transport and a decrease in the number of short journeys in the Town taken by private vehicle. Opportunities to consider green roofs will be considered as part of the works depending upon the type and location of the shelter.

#### 8 PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY DUTY

- 8.1 All replacement bus shelters and improvements will be carried out in on existing sites. No changes in locations.
- 9 DATA PROTECTION IMPACT ASSESSMENT
- 9.1 None required

# 10 RISK MANAGEMENT

Risk	Mitigation	Opportunities	
Financial Exposure Lack of fund to improve public transport infrastructure	Refurbishment of shelters reduces the costs to the Council of maintenance associated with the older bus shelters, rather than replacement.	Identify ongoing maintenance/ budget to be rolled over annually.	
Exposure to challenge	The Council's procurement processes will be followed.		
Innovation Refurbish shelters with newer bus shelter materials	Since the shelters were installed, lighter and stronger materials are now used.  Consideration will be given to sustainable measures such as green roofs and their suitability depending upon the type of shelter and the locations.	Use newer bus shelter materials that maybe more durable.	
Reputation Failure to improve public transport infrastructure undermines Council's commitment to sustainable transport options.	Look to improve bus shelters as soon as possible to give community a better experience of public transport.		
Achievement of outcome Failure to improve bus shelters may lead to faster deterioration and more shelters needing	Gather costs for repairing and replacement shelters in advance. When the funding is realised, a purchase order can be ordered.	Encourage more people to use public transport with the improved infrastructure.	

replacement rather than refurbishment		
Property Bus shelters that need to	Engagement with HCC Public Transport	
be improved are on highway land		
Community Support Lack of refurbishment may lead to criticism.	Look to improve bus shelters as soon as possible to give community a better experience of public transport.	
Timescales The improvements are dependent on then funding.	Gather costs for repairing and replacement shelters in advance. When the funding is realised, a purchase order can be ordered.	
Project capacity Insufficient staff resources to implement improvements	Resources will be found in existing team.	
Other		

## 11 <u>SUPPORTING INFORMATION:</u>

## 11.1 Introduction

- 11.2 The Town Forum is responsible for 62 bus shelters across the 5 Town wards. Details of the shelters and those in need of refurbishment and/ or replacement is set out in Appendix 1.
- 11.3 The shelters are cleaned twice a year and maintained as and when a problem occurs. However, some of these shelters are now over 30 years old and some are now in need of significant repair or complete replacement.
- 11.4 Bus shelters have only been replaced when they have been damaged by vehicles or by vandalism. The most recent replacement bus shelter cost £5k in 2020.
- 11.5 The ongoing budget from the town forum for cleaning, maintenance and replacement is £10k per annum.

- 11.6 Special Maintenance charge £7,200 per annum to clean the Town Forum bus shelters twice a year. The £2,800 left is for general bus shelter maintenance.
- 11.7 Therefore the budget is depleted and any shelter in need of replacement would not have funding. A supplementary budget is therefore proposed for a refurbishment and replacement shelter fund.
- 11.8 <u>Details of Proposal</u>
- 11.9 A detailed survey and assessment has been carried as set out in Appendix 1 of this report. Out of the 62 shelters, 13 are in a poor state and 4 of these need replacing and the other 9 can be repaired.
- 11.10 The costs of repairing the 9 shelters is approximately £15k. The cost of a new cantilever shelter is approximately £5k each with additional costs incurred for traffic management during the installation of the shelter.
- 11.11 Replacement Locations:
  - Cromwell Road opposite Sports Club
  - Andover Road adjacent to North Hill Close
  - Andover Road adjacent to Jolly Farmer pub
  - Hillside Road, Teg Down
- 11.12 Locations in need of repair:
  - St Cross Road
  - North Walls
  - Upper High Street
  - Wavell Way x 2
  - Cromwell Road
  - Teg Down Meads
  - Stockbridge Road
- 11.13 The installation of the new shelters and repairing of the older shelters will be phased over 5 years.
- 12 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED
- 12.1 Continued degradation of the shelters may lead them to become a safety issue for the public. The shelters could be removed but in order to encourage

- public transport use and help tackle the climate emergency, the shelters should be refurbished or replaced rather than removed completely.
- 12.2 Some initial consideration has been given to entering into a commercial contract whereby shelters could be provided in lieu of advertisements. This may have limited potential due to the location of the shelters.

## **BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:-**

Previous Committee Reports:-

None.

Other Background Documents:-

None.

**APPENDICES**:

Appendix 1: Town Forum Bus Shelter Inventory