

Allocation of Southern Water Funding

Portfolio Holder Decision	2 March 2023
Report Author	Acting Deputy Chief Executive
Portfolio Holder	Cllr Ash Ashbee, Leader of Council
Status	For Decision
Classification:	Unrestricted
Key Decision	No
Wards:	Various as detailed in the report

Executive Summary:

The purpose of this report is to agree to the budgetary allocation of funding that has been allocated to the Council by Southern Water.

The following allocations are proposed:

- Ramsgate Lift Restoration - £50k
- Broadstairs disabled beach access - £25k
- Promenade shelter roof repairs - £10k
- Repairs to the Minnis Bay coastal tidal pool - £14.5k
- Iron gate for Margate Clock Tower - £0.5k

Recommendation(s):

That the Leader approves the budgetary allocation of funding provided by Southern Water in recognition of water quality issues in the district, as detailed at section 3.1.

Corporate Implications

Financial and Value for Money

As detailed in the body of the report.

Legal

Section 151 of the 1972 Local Government Act requires a suitably qualified named officer to monitor and control the Council's finances in order to provide a balanced budget.

Risk Management

As detailed in the body of the report.

Corporate

The Council has received a payment of £100k from Southern Water in recognition of water quality issues experienced in the district. The proposed allocations will improve facilities across a number of coastal areas and wards across the district.

Equality Act 2010 & Public Sector Equality Duty

Members are reminded of the requirement, under the Public Sector Equality Duty (section 149 of the Equality Act 2010) to have due regard to the aims of the Duty at the time the decision is taken. The aims of the Duty are: (i) eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act, (ii) advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it, and (iii) foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.

Protected characteristics: age, sex, disability, race, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, religion or belief and pregnancy & maternity. Only aim (i) of the Duty applies to Marriage & civil partnership.

This report relates to the following aim of the equality duty: -

- To advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it. Most notably though facilitating improvements to the Ramsgate coastal lift and disabled beach access adaptations at Viking Bay.
- To foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.

Corporate Priorities

This report relates to the following corporate priorities: -

- Growth
- Environment
- Communities

1.0 Introduction & Background

1.1 The purpose of this report is to agree to the budgetary allocation of funding that has been allocated to the Council by Southern Water.

2.0 Background

2.1 The Council received a payment of £100k from Southern Water in recognition of water quality issues experienced in the district.

- 2.2 The addition of this funding to the budget was considered by Cabinet within the Budget Monitoring Report No1, which was presented to the meeting of Cabinet on 13 October 2022 and was subsequently approved by Council on 9 February 2023.
- 2.3 To date £10k of these monies have been allocated for promenade shelters roof repairs, this allocation of funding was approved by the Acting Deputy Chief Executive in his capacity as the council's section 151 and in accordance with the council's virement rules as set out in the Financial Procedure Rules.
- 2.4 Further schemes have now been developed and are set out below in the following narrative.

3.0 Allocations

- 3.1 The following budget allocations are set out for the Leader's consideration and approval:

1. **Ramsgate Lift restoration** - it is proposed that a £50,000 grant be provided to Ramsgate Town Council (RTC) to facilitate the restoration of the coastal lift. The allocation of this funding is contingent on the agreement of collaborative terms between RTC and TDC to secure a long term operator for the lift and a sustainable financial future. The terms of the agreement will be negotiated and agreed by the Director of Property.

If funding is not allocated and a financially viable and sustainable operating model is not identified then the lift's continued operation will be at risk.

2. **Broadstairs Town Council** - a £25,000 grant allocation is proposed to be made to Broadstairs and St Peters Town Council to enable disabled beach access adaptations to be implemented at Viking Bay.
3. **Repairs to coastal tidal pool, Minnis Bay** - repairs totalling £14,500 are necessary at the tidal pool at Minnis Bay and it is proposed funding is allocated for this purpose. Investment is needed in order to keep the pool in service, however work cannot take place until the spring as concrete will not set quickly enough in the tidal zone if the temperature is below 10 degrees.
4. **Iron gate for Margate Clock Tower** - it is recommended that £500 is allocated for the installation of an iron gate at the Margate Clock Tower. The installation will help to protect this listed structure from damage and subject to obtaining the relevant planning permissions it is intended that the gate will be designed and installed to mark the celebration of King Charles' coronation.

- 3.2 The above allocations, in conjunction with the £10,000 already allocated for improvements for coastal shelter improvements (two at the Royal Esplanade in Westbrook and one Palm Bay Cliftonville), would result in the total allocation of the £100,000 provided by Southern Water.
- 3.3 The proposed allocations would also see the funding spread across a number of different coastal areas and wards throughout the District.

4.0 Options

- 4.1 **Approve the allocations** - Should the above allocations be approved all the funding provided by Southern Water in recognition of water quality issues will have been successfully allocated.
- 4.2 **Reject the allocations** - Should the proposed allocations be rejected either wholly or in-part it would be necessary for new alternative schemes to be developed for future consideration.

Contact Officer: *Chris Blundell (Acting Deputy Chief Executive)*

Reporting to: *Colin Carmichael (Interim Chief Executive)*

Annex List

None

Background Papers

Title: Budget Monitoring Report No 1, Cabinet 13 October 2022

Corporate Consultation

Finance: *N/A*

Legal: *Sameera Khan (Interim Head of Legal & Monitoring Officer)*