

PURCHASE OF REPLACEMENT WATER BOWSER
AGENDA ITEM No. 10

MEETING: POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

DATE: 15TH JULY 2026

REPORTED BY: GROUNDS MAINTENANCE SERVICES CO-ORDINATOR

1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to request Members' consideration for the purchase of a replacement water bowser and pump for the Works Department.

2.0 Background Information

- 2.1 The existing water bowser is used to water bedding plants, hanging baskets and tubs, and was purchased 20 years ago, and until recently has had very few maintenance issues.
- 2.2 The current bowser has a capacity of 1,150 litres, and the water vessel is of steel construction, welded to the trailer frame. A small petrol-powered water pump allows water to be sprayed onto flower beds etc. at low pressure to avoid damaging the plants.

3.0 Current Situation

- 3.1 Despite being well maintained by the Works Section Maintenance Team, the framework supporting the main water vessel has failed and subsequently had several repairs. The most recent failure is at the point where the frame meets the water vessel, causing it to leak.
- 3.2 A capital budget provision of £6,000 has been allocated in the 2026/27 Capital Programme Budget to replace the water bowser.
- 3.3 Dealers have therefore been contacted to offer quotations from their respective trailer suppliers. The table below shows the various options: -

Supplier	Manufacturer
Thomas Sherriff, Cramlington	Western Global H440P 2000l
Lloyd Ltd., Bishop Auckland	Brendon BBTHP100 Bowser 1000l
Rickerby's, Bowburn	GB Highway Bowser 1000l
	GB Highway Bowser 2000l
GGM	Brendon BBW35KPE+ES 1000l
Carrs Billington	Tanks-UK Tungsten 1500l
	Tanks-UK Tungsten 2000l

- 3.4 The current water bowser has a capacity of 1,150 litres, giving an approximate total weight of 1,750 kg when full. Some of the water bowzers quoted have a capacity of 2,000 litres, giving an approximate maximum weight of 2,500kg. This remains comfortably within the maximum permitted towing capacity of the Council's vehicles.
- 3.5 Unlike the existing bowser, which has a steel water tank, all quoted replacement bowzers have moulded polypropylene tanks with internal baffles to prevent water surging forward during braking. An added advantage of the polypropylene tanks is that they are replaceable if they were to develop a leak in the future.
- 3.6 The bowser from Western Global, supplied by Thomas Sherriff's, has a capacity of 2,000 litres and has a twin wheel configuration for great on and off-road stability.
- 3.7 The Brendon BBTHP100 Bowser from Lloyd Ltd has a lower capacity of 1,000 litres and is supplied with a single axle. While this would significantly reduce the overall weight, it would also require more frequent refilling during use.
- 3.8 The Brendon BBW35KPE+ES from GGM is a mobile power washer and, while the information provided indicates it is a high-quality piece of equipment, it is not suitable for the intended task.
- 3.9 Both of the options from Rickerby and GB Highway appear well engineered and robust. The 1,000-litre option only comes with a single axle and due to its capacity would increase the amount of time required to top it up during use. The 2,000-litre option would be better suited to the Council's needs with the increased capacity and twin wheel trailer for stability.
- 3.10 The options supplied by Carrs Billington, from Tanks-UK comes in several options. Both the 1,500 litre and 2000 litre options come with sturdy twin axle trailer and the specified options come with a 2" pump.

4.0 Policy Implications

- 4.1 This report complies with the Council's Strategic Aim 2: -
"To manage the Council's finances and assets in a responsible manner".

5.0 Staffing Implications

- 5.1 Operators need to hold B+E entitlement on their driving licence for all weights of water bowser.

6.0 Financial Implications

- 6.1 A capital budget provision of £6,000 has been allocated in the 2026/27 Capital Programme Budget to replace the water bowser.

- 6.2 Below is a table of the quotations supplied by the dealers for each machine, including delivery: -

Rickerby's	GB Highway Bowser 1000l	£4,950.00
	GB Highway Bowser 2000l	£7,000.00
Lloyd Ltd.	Brendon BBTHP100 Bowser	£4,850.00
Thomas Sheriff	Western Global H440P	£5,952.92
GGM	Brendon BBW35KPE+ES	£3,800.00
Carrs Billington	Tanks-UK Tungsten 1500lt	£6,595.00
	Tanks-UK Tungsten 2000lt	£7,185.00

- 6.3 It is recommended that Members approve the purchase of the Western Global H440P at a cost of £5,952.92, as it is the option that best meets the Council's requirements.

7.0 Crime and Disorder Implications

- 7.1 None.

8.0 Equal Opportunity Implications

- 8.1 None

9.0 Environment, Biodiversity and Climate Change Implications

- 9.1 None.

10.0 Risk Assessment

- 10.1 It is not considered that the matter contained in this report poses a risk to health and safety of staff or to the financial or public standing of the Council to a degree that a risk assessment should be appended to this report.

11.0 General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)

- 11.1 Is any personal or sensitive data required for this proposal which may have any implications for GDPR? **NO**

12.0 Recommendations

- 12.1 It is recommended that: -

- i. Members receive the report.
- ii. Members agree to the purchase of the Western Global H440P from Thomas Sherriff, at a cost of £5,952.92.

Grounds Maintenance Services Co-ordinator