

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER 2019

MAINTENANCE OF PLANTERS 2019-2022

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To recommend approval of funding for a three year contract for supply of plants, planting and maintenance of the planters in St John's Square, Nevill Street and Lion Street.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 In May 2019, the Town Council agreed to take on the responsibility of maintaining the planters on St John's Square and Nevill Street with immediate effect and to assume responsibility for the remaining planters following the expiration of the 12 month maintenance period funded by MCC as part of their contractual arrangements.

2.2 However, this report and attached quotation includes the 4 floral planters on Lion Street. Following discussions with MCC officers it was requested that the Town Council take on the responsibility for these planters one season early as MCC will be taking on the 12 months maintenance for the two additional 'tree planters' requested and funded by Abergavenny Town Council and located outside Café Nero.

3. PROPOSAL

3.1 The quotation received is from Sarah Price working in conjunction with two local gardeners. Sarah Price has been responsible for the planters since 2015 when engaged by MCC to supply and plant up the planters in St John's Square and Nevill Street.

3.2 Other quotations have not been requested as the Town Council and the wider public are very pleased with the planting and would like to ensure the ongoing quality of these planters and their contribution to the colour and biodiversity of the town and public space. Therefore, should the Committee agree that this contract should be awarded to Sarah Price, this Committee would have to request a waiver to financial regulation 11.2 which stipulates that 3 quotations should be sought. Council should agree waivers and can allocate the necessary funding from the current Project budget.

3.3 The quotation received is the worst-case scenario. In some instances, the plants will remain in the planters and therefore the Town Council will only be charged for what is required and this applies to the maintenance as well. Currently, the planters are not being maintained, ie plants not deadheaded, trimmed back, failed plants replaced which has detracted from the overall impact and has been noted in the Wales in Bloom judge's report 2019.

3.4 The watering of the planters is separate to this contract.

3.5 The annual cost of maintaining these 16 planters is as follows:

- 2019/20 £1666 (1 planting)
- 2020/21 £3903
- 2021/22 £3758
- 2022/23 £2082 (1 planting)

RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 To recommend that Council agrees a waiver to financial regulations and awards a three year contract to Sarah Price Ltd for the planting and maintenance of 8 planters on St. Johns Square; 4 planters on Nevill Street; 4 planters on Lion Street, Abergavenny