

The provision of bulbs to friends' groups and other parties

Report of the Director of Place Management

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide an update to elected members on bulb provision to local community groups and for local initiatives.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 For many years the Council has supplied bulbs for planting by volunteers across the borough. This helps to brighten up many locations in the borough and is something that gives cheer to a great many local people.
- 2.2 Last year the Neighbourhoods Service sourced and supplied 17,500 bulbs (Bee's Mix and spring flowering Crocus) at a cost of approximately £2,000
- 2.3 Historically, provision has sometimes varied and in recent years the demand from community groups has becoming increasingly difficult to predict and can vary geographically with some areas in more demand than others. There is also now more interest from ward Councillors in having areas (like bankings and grass verges) planted up over and above the volunteer planting projects.

3. INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Neighbourhoods Service are adopting a wider approach to bulb provision which would allow greater flexibility, better reflect local needs and would also allow co-ordinated projects sponsored by local Councillors to be better supported.
- 3.2 The Council has a fixed budget for bulb provision that is often oversubscribed. The Neighbourhood Service have a budget of £2,000 for bulb planting across the borough. It is recognised that some Area Committees may wish to do more in their areas.
- 3.3 Area Committees are invited to support additional provision of bulbs. The Neighbourhoods Service will continue to fund bulb planting across the borough through the existing budget, however Councillors may wish to provide a fixed amount to increase provision in their area or alternatively, may prefer to receive formal requests from groups to fund additional planting via their devolved budget. All requests for the provision of bulbs will continue to be co-ordinated and supported by the Neighbourhoods Service. Neighbourhoods would need to be notified of any additional requests for bulbs by 31st July in order that these can be ordered in good time.
- 3.4 This approach may allow Area Committees to gain a wider understanding of the projects in the local area co-ordinated by local groups and the opportunity to identify wider projects seeking to bring some extra colour to the parks and greenspaces

within their domain. There is also the opportunity to fund mechanical planting (in addition to, or instead of, bags of bulbs given to volunteer groups).

3.5 It is important that resources are used effectively, and the Neighbourhoods Service will continue to liaise with community groups to provide support, help with appropriate planting periods and in ensuring that the bulbs provided are properly used and planted.

3.6 To give an indication of costs:-

Crocus: £300 would allow about 14m² to be planted up on an embankment or around 15m² on the flat or a bag of approximately 3,000 bulbs.

Daffodil/Narcissus: £300 would allow approximately 20m² of embankment planting, 30m² planted on the flat, or 3,700 bulbs for volunteers.

4. RECOMMENDATION

4.1 The Area Committee is recommended to note the report and agree whether it wished to make an allocation from its Delegated Budget towards the provision of additional bulb planting within its area.

Background Papers

There are no background papers to this report.

Anyone wishing further information please contact Peter Cooke on telephone number Tel: 0161 474 4851 or by email on peter.cooke@stockport.gov.uk