

**TOTTON AND ELING TOWN COUNCIL**  
**COMMITTEE REPORT**

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<b>Committee</b>	<b>:</b>	<b>AMENITIES</b>
<b>Date of meeting</b>	<b>:</b>	<b>15<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2025</b>
<b>Subject</b>	<b>:</b>	<b>BICYCLE STORAGE UNITS</b>
<b>Report from</b>	<b>:</b>	<b>ADAM COOPER, HEAD OF COMMUNITY SERVICES/ ALISON MCGOWAN, DEPUTY TOWN CLERK</b>

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**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To consider the purchase and installation of two bicycle storage units, which will each hold between 4 and 6 bicycles for two locations in Totton.

**2. BACKGROUND**

Many have commented about the lack of emphasis on cycling as an alternative to motorised vehicle transportation and this is something we are keen to address as it provides environmental, traffic management and wellbeing benefits. The two favoured sites for implementation are at West Totton Community Centre and in Totton town centre, between the Civic Centre and the Precinct.

**3. TIMETABLE**

To install the two bicycle storage units within the first six months of 2025 to maximise use during the summer months of the year.

**4. STAFFING IMPLICATIONS**

Internal staff would be responsible for overseeing the implementation of the bike storage units. Storage units are often covered by a warranty period, however electronic locks and mechanisms tend to be covered for a shorter period.

**5. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

Supporting more residents and visitors to cycle is essential to reduce pollution and enhance air quality. By offering secure, weather resistant bicycle parking facilities, more people can potentially choose cycling to reduce the reliance on cars, particularly for local journeys.

**6. CRIME & DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

Whilst bike theft in 23/24 (66,960) was down on 22/23 (77,170) it is still relatively common, and it was reported in 2022 that almost 90% of bike thefts went unsolved. A bicycle storage unit is a secure, lockable product and inside bicycles can be secured by both the frame and wheels.

The bike storage units will be positioned in view of CCTV cameras wherever possible.

**7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (revenue & capital plus where funding is to come from)**

An additional CIL funding application has been submitted to NFDC for consideration to support the purchase and installation of two new bike storage units, each storing between 4 and 6 bicycles. If unsuccessful, existing funds could be allocated from the 'green money' budget if Councillors wish to proceed.

Selected units use 'app technology', providing users easy access to book spaces to park as frequently and for as long as they wish, unlocking the unit directly from their smartphone without a physical key.

With an app controlled unit, it is usual that an annual licence fee is charged per bicycle space by the provider. Once the bicycle racks are regularly used, the fees charged could be used to cover the annual cost from the provider. Data from the provider can also help to show patterns of use.

As Totton and Eling Town Council currently provides a free parking provision for up to 5 hours for motorists, it is suggested that the bicycle storage is also offered to users at nil cost for an introductory period to encourage use.

To purchase and install two bicycle storage units with six spaces in each and give users 'free parking' for the first year will cost approximately £15,000.

## **8. CONCLUSIONS / SUMMARY**

Cycling provides environmental, traffic management and wellbeing benefits but, does introduce some crime & disorder as well as financial considerations.

## **9. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is RECOMMENDED that Members choose to:

- a) Proceed with the purchase and installation of two bike storage units as proposed if an application for additional CIL funding from NFDC is successful.
- b) Agree to proceed with the purchase and installation of two bike storage units as proposed from existing Totton and Eling Town Council funds if the additional CIL funding application is unsuccessful.

If approved and the bike storage units are successful, further cycle racks could be introduced at other locations around Totton in the future.