TOTTON AND ELING TOWN COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee : AMENITIES

Date of meeting : 9TH JULY 2025

Subject : TOWN CENTRE PLANTING

Report from : HEAD OF PROJECTS & COMMUNITY SERVICES

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To discuss Town Centre planting to determine whether additional funding required.

2. BACKGROUND

Despite improvement to town centre planting, we continue to struggle with rising plant costs and supply demand, not helped by a growing number of Plant thefts. To combat this, we have been exploring supplies. One such supplier offers a service whereby you provide planters upfront; they grow them in a controlled environment then deliver them when established. Whilst the service a little more costly and another full set of railing planters required, we feel it would provide immediate impact and potentially deter theft (as established plants should be less easy to remove). Furthermore, through our current suppliers we hope to improve the aesthetic of Calmore industrial estate roundabout.

3. TIMETABLE

The focus of the railing planting service is for Spring and summer next year, whereas improvements to Calmore industrial estate roundabout would likely be more immediate.

4. POLICY & ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

Planting is seen to have a positive environmental and wellbeing impact.

5. SERVICE & STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

If the railing planting service introduced this will hopefully result in less plant theft and upkeep, established plants being generally more resilient.

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

Budget for Town Centre plants was set last year at £5000.00 but, with costs continuing to rise it is proposed that this be raised to £7000.00 this year.

7. CONCLUSIONS / SUMMARY

The above appears to be a good solution to improve vibrancy of Town Centre planting and hopefully curve plant thefts. Improvement to Calmore industrial estate roundabout would likely be well received.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is RECOMMENDED that committee consider upping funding to improve Town Centre and Calmore Industrial Estate roundabout planting standards more so.