

# Delegated Decision Report

Decision below £250k



<b>Subject:</b>	Risk Assessments of Private Water Supplies
<b>Decision maker: Senior Officer</b>	Nasir Dad, Director of Environment
<b>Decision maker: Cabinet Member</b>	Cllr C Goodwin, Portfolio Holder for Don't Trash Oldham
<b>Decision date:</b>	27 January 2025
<b>Report author:</b>	Lauren Wood, Assistant Environmental Health Manager
<b>Ward (s):</b>	All

## Reason for decision

For the approval of the use of a private contractor to carry out the 5 yearly risk assessments of private water supplies which the authority has a statutory duty to complete.

The person carrying out this risk assessment needs to have certain competencies, due to the infrequent nature of this work, officers in the service do not have experience and competency to carry out these assessments.

## Recommendation(s)

1. To approve the spend of £15,428 for a specialist contractor to carry out 38 risk assessments of private water supplies.

## Background

A private water supply is any water supply which is supplied to a property that is not provided by a water company. Private water supplies can be obtained from a variety of sources, including; springs, wells, boreholes, ponds, rivers and streams. All private water supplies can pose a potential threat to health unless they are properly protected and treated.

The Local Authority has a statutory duty under the Private Water Supplies Regulations. One of these duties is to carry out a risk assessment of shared and/or commercial private water supplies every 5 years. The Drinking Water Inspectorate (DWI) are the competent authority for ensuring Local Authorities carry out their statutory duty and monitor performance with annual returns.

Due to the specialist knowledge and expertise required to undertake the risk assessments, there is no appropriate resource in the team to complete this work. In 2019/2020 the local authority effectively used an external contractor to carry out the private water supply risk assessments due to their complex nature and it is proposed to use this same approach again. The proposal is to use the same contractor which will ensure cost effectiveness and speed of delivery. This contractor is very experienced, appropriately trained, accredited and competent to

perform risk assessments. Officers have tested the market, approaching an adjacent Local Authority but their costs were excessive in nature.

This request is to fund the use of a contractor to carry out 38 risk assessments of private water supplies that are due for an assessment at a cost of £406 per assessment, totaling £15,428.

**Alternative option(s) to be considered** *(please give the reason(s) for recommendation(s))*

None

**Consultation** *(include any conflict of interest declared by relevant Cabinet Member consulted)*

## Risks

- If the risk assessments are not carried out, the Authority is not carrying out one of their statutory duties. Performance of this is monitored by an annual return to the Drinking Water Inspectorate, an independent regulator who report Local Authority performance to central government.
- Risk assessment of a private water supply is a proactive approach to identify potential risks to a supply being contaminated and actions to control these risks. If we do not carry out the risk assessments the authority is not establishing if supplies constitute a potential danger to human health.


## Implications

Financial	<p>The cost to appoint a contractor for 38 inspections is around £15,428 assuming £406 per inspection. All inspections will have to be completed by the end of December 2025 therefore the cost will be split between 2024/25 and 2025/26.</p> <p>This will be funded from the revenue budget within the Food Safety service which is currently £86k underspent and existing revenue budget in 2025/26.</p>
Legal	<p>As part of its duty under section 77 of the Water Industry Act 1991 to keep itself informed about the wholesomeness and sufficiency of private water supplies, the Council is required to monitor all private water supplies in accordance with Regulation 7 of the Private Water Supplies (England) Regulations 2016 by establishing a monitoring programme which consists of either or both collection and analysis of discrete water samples and measurements recorded by a continuous monitoring process. (A Evans)</p>
Equality impact including	N/A

implications for Children and Young People	
Other	N/A

Has the relevant Legal Officer confirmed that the recommendations within this report are lawful and comply with the Council's Constitution?	Yes
Has the relevant Finance Officer confirmed that any expenditure referred to within this report is consistent with the Council's budget?	Yes
Are any of the recommendations within this report contrary to the Policy Framework of the Council?	No

Report author sign-off	Lauren Wood
Role	Assistant Environmental Health Manager
Date of sign-off	20 <sup>th</sup> January 2025

<b>Approval</b>	
Officer approval sign-off	 Nasir Dad
Role	Director of Environment
Date of sign-off	27 Jan 2025