

**THIS ITEM IS FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

**(Please note that "Information Only" reports do not require Integrated Impact Assessments, Legal or Finance Comments as no decision is being taken)**

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| <b>Title of meeting:</b> | Cabinet for Climate Change and Environment   |
| <b>Subject:</b>          | Changing Places Toilet Scheme  |
| <b>Date of meeting:</b>  | 16 <sup>th</sup> March 2023  |
| <b>Report by:</b>        | James Hill - Director for Housing, Neighbourhood and Building Services                               |
| <b>Author:</b>           | Meredydd Hughes - Assistant Director Building Services<br>Kelly Nash - Corporate Performance Officer |
| <b>Wards affected:</b>   | All Wards  |

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**1. Requested by**

- 1.1 The report was requested by Councillor Kimberley Barrett, Cabinet Member and Portfolio Holder for Climate Change and Environment.

**2. Purpose of Report**

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is for information only and provides the Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Environment with an update on the Changing Places Toilet Scheme in Portsmouth. The information provided will be as follows:

2.1.1 Provide the background to the Changing Places Toilet Scheme, including the funding awarded.

2.1.2 An update on the progress of the phase 1 works.

2.1.3 An update on the Phase 2 application.

**3. Background**

- 3.1 The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) began work in 2018 with the Changing Places organisation to find ways to have more changing places toilets across the UK, and to help people with severe disabilities have access to, and be able to use, our public buildings.

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- 3.2 The joint work by MHCLG included consultations and workshops to understand the accessibility needs of everyone who uses public toilet facilities, including those with disabilities, older people, and parents with children, and how any changes proposed would affect building regulations and impact public organisations.
- 3.3 In March 2020 the government agreed to use building regulations guidance to make sure more public buildings have Changing Places toilets. A major change to statutory guidance in England, made it compulsory to include a Changing Places toilet in new, publicly accessible buildings, and at the same time they made available a £30 million grant fund to pay for Changing Places toilets in some existing and older public buildings.
- 3.4 The announcement of the Changing Places toilet grants on 4th March 2021 invited Local Authorities to apply for funding, based on need, to improve and install facilities in our buildings and communities. The prospectus was published on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2021, and Local Authorities were invited to complete an expression of interest form by 26<sup>th</sup> September 2021, to receive a share of the capital funding to install Changing Places toilets.
- 3.5 Officers within Building Services identified sites in Portsmouth where the new accessible facilities could be installed, and working with Kelly Nash, Corporate Performance Officer, ensured we were corporately engaged with a wide range of local partners, and to identify areas where the additional facilities would be best placed to meet demand.
- 3.6 Following consultation with private sector organisations that had expressed an interest in working with PCC, and costed feasibility studies undertaken by Building Services, it was determined that the following sites matched the clear specification and were located in the right place for those who need them most. This allowed PCC to bid for funding, with the assurance that the projects could be delivered within the required timeframe of funding:
- D Day Story Museum Car Park
  - Norrish, Central Library
  - Fratton Community Centre
- 3.7 Existing changing places toilets can be found at the following link, and our new facilities will be added to the list as they are completed.  
<https://www.changing-places.org/find>

## **4. Budget and Funding**

- 4.1 PCC applied for a total of £159,500 of grant funding from the Changing Places scheme in September 2021.

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4.2 On 24<sup>th</sup> March 2022 the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC), formerly MHCLG, confirmed that the PCC application for funding to support the installation of Changing Places toilets at the above three identified sites was successful.

4.3 The grant award of £159,500 was match funded by £99,160 of capital money within the environment budget earmarked for public toilets - new provision across the city.

### **5. Progress of Phase 1 - Changing Places Fund**

#### D Day Story Car Park

5.1 The Changing Places toilet is located in the public conveniences block of the D Day Museum car park. Work on site commenced on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022 and was completed on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2022.

5.1.1 The new toilet was officially opened by Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Environment on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2023 and members of the public could access the facility from the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February 2023.

#### Norrish Central Library

5.2 The proposed Changing Places toilet is located on the third floor of the Norrish Central Library adjacent to the Café area. The third floor was the preferred location of all stakeholders, as community events are also held here outside of the normal library opening hours. The existing disabled toilet, cleaning cupboard and part of a small corridor will be combined into one single larger accessible facility.

5.2.1 Works at the library commenced on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2023 and are expected to be completed on the 10<sup>th</sup> of March 2023.

#### Fratton Community Centre

5.3 The new Changing Places toilet facility located on the ground floor of the centre is planned to commence in the summer 2023.

5.4 Appendix A shows images of a typical Changing Places toilet facility.

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**6. Phase 2 Application - Changing Places Fund**

**6.1** In August 2022 a second round of the Changing Places Fund was launched with a deadline for the return of expressions of interest of 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022. In this second phase, there is less funding available, £6.5m against the £23.5m allocated across 191 Authorities in round one.

**6.2** Round two is targeted towards areas with zero provision, and those Local Authorities identified as being in the top 50% according to the index of need. A benchmark award of £40,000 will be used in the funding body's assessment of value for money. Funding provided will be capital only, with Local Authorities expected to cover the ongoing costs of maintenance of the facilities once again.

**6.3** Portsmouth has been identified as in the second highest quartile of need, and on this basis, Portsmouth City Council has submitted a second phase expression of interest to install facilities at:

- King George V Playing Fields, as part of the new pavilion development
- Exploria, within the Pyramids to address the need for facilities at the Seafront area.
- Bransbury Park, as part of the new leisure development.

**6.4** On 4<sup>th</sup> February 2023 DHULC notified Portsmouth City Council that our expression of interest had been successful, and £180,00 has been allocated to support the installation of the Changing Places Toilets phase 2 at the locations detailed in 6.3 above.

**6.5** Officers will bring a further update report to the Climate Change and Environment cabinet in 2024 to advise on the completion of the phase 1 changing places fund works, and progress of the phase 2 installation.

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Signed by James Hill - Director of Housing, Neighbourhood and Building Services

**Appendices:**

**Appendix A** – Photographs of a typical Changing Places facility.

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**Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972**

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

| Title of document   | Location  |
|---|---|
| Changing places prospectus for round 1 published on 29th July 2021      | <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/changing-places-toilets-programme-prospectus">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/changing-places-toilets-programme-prospectus</a>   |
| Changing places prospectus for round 2 published on 21st September 2022 | <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/changing-places-toilets-programme-round-2-prospectus/changing-places-toilets-programme-round-2-prospectus">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/changing-places-toilets-programme-round-2-prospectus/changing-places-toilets-programme-round-2-prospectus</a> |
| Location of Changing Places toilets                                     | <a href="https://www.changing-places.org/find">https://www.changing-places.org/find</a>   |