



SOUTH  
KESTEVEN  
DISTRICT  
COUNCIL



Finance, Economic  
Development and Corporate  
Services Overview and Scrutiny  
Committee

22<sup>nd</sup> November 2022

Report of Councillor Robert Reid,  
Cabinet Member for Housing &  
Property

## Update on Changing Places Toilet Facilities Project

### Report Author

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### Purpose of Report

To provide the Committee an update regarding the Changing Places Toilets facilities project across the district.

### Recommendations

**That the Committee:**

- 1. Notes the update regarding the Changing Places Toilets facilities project.**

### Decision Information

Does the report contain any exempt or confidential information not for publication?	<b>No</b>
What are the relevant corporate priorities?	Growth and our economy Healthy and strong communities
Which wards are impacted?	Bourne East, Grantham Priory, Grantham Earlesfield, Stamford St Leonards

## 1. Implications

Taking into consideration implications relating to finance and procurement, legal and governance, risk and mitigation, health and safety, diversity and inclusion, safeguarding, staffing, community safety, mental health and wellbeing and the impact on the Council's declaration of a climate change emergency, the following implications have been identified:

### ***Finance and Procurement***

- 1.1 Based on the feasibility exercise undertaken the project will require £220,405 to complete the works at all four identified locations. SKDC currently has the following funding allocated:

Government grant funding:	£160,000
SK Budget 22/23:	£50,000 (includes £25k carry forward from 21/22 budget)
SK Budget 23/24:	£25,000
<b>Total:</b>	<b>£235,000</b>

- 1.2 This leaves an unallocated budget of £15k to respond to any market variations or unforeseen issues.
- 1.3 Once works are completed, advice from the Changing Places support team has confirmed an expected increase in the annual running costs associated with the maintenance and servicing of any lifting and specialist equipment. This is anticipated to be in the region of an additional amount of £1,000 per annum per location.

Richard Wyles, Chief Financial Officer

## ***Legal and Governance***

- 1.4 The project funding is awarded by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, and SKDC must provide monthly updates upon progress to retain grant funding.
- 1.5 No works contract is yet in place, but this will be reviewed on a monthly basis, there are no current legal implications.

## ***Risk and Mitigation***

- 1.6 Risks identified include not being able to bring the project in within the required timescale due to having multiple locations and initial design works showing the selected options as being economically non-viable, relative to available budget.
- 1.7 Construction risks will be reviewed monthly as part of the project and mitigation identified where possible.

## ***Health and Safety***

- 1.8 Not applicable at this stage.

## **2. Background to the Report**

- 2.1 In July 2021 the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities announced the opening for Expressions of Interest bids for a share of a £30M pot to provide Changing Places toilets in existing, publicly accessible buildings.
- 2.2 The funding itself had been announced some months previously and consultation with relevant groups across the district was carried out to determine the preferred locations of the people who would use a Changing Places facility and their carers.
- 2.3 Changing Places toilets are larger accessible toileting facilities for severely disabled people, with equipment such as hoists, curtains, adult-sized changing benches and space for carers.
- 2.4 In March 2022 the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities informed the Council that its bid had been successful and that it had been awarded the maximum £160,000. This was reported at Cabinet on 29 March 2022 (<http://moderngov.southkesteven.gov.uk/documents/g4155/Printed%20minutes%2029th-Mar-2022%2014.00%20Cabinet.pdf?T=1>)
- 2.5 The funding is awarded to cover a two-year period for completion of the project.
- 2.6 Preliminary survey work later determined that extensive structural changes would be required to locate a Changing Places Facility at Bourne Community Access Point

and Bourne Town Council offered the alternative location of South Street public toilets.

- 2.7 One location in Grantham was also reviewed to allow for increased access and to meet the requirements and suggestions from feedback of local users.
- 2.8 The funder agreed to the Council's request to amend two of its original locations so the four sites are now:
- South Street public toilets, Bourne (In partnership with Bourne Town Council)
  - Abbey Gardens public toilets, Grantham
  - Meres Leisure Centre, Grantham (in partnership with LeisureSK Ltd)
  - The Shack, Recreation Ground, Stamford (in partnership with Stamford Town Council)
- 2.9 Feasibility works have been undertaken on each of the four sites by SKDC's consultant building survey Banks Long & Co. which provided initial scheme designs and budgetary costings for each of the sites.
- 2.10 Initial scheme designs have been provided to the Changing Places support team to review the proposals and provide feedback on the designs prior to procurement of the works.
- 2.11 From review of the four schemes, initial designs for the Meres Leisure Centre, Grantham and the South Street toilets, Bourne have been agreed and we are now looking to progress these two projects in 2022/23 financial year for with contractors are currently being engaged with via the Changing Places support teams approved contractor list.
- 2.12 From the review of the designs in relation to Abbey Gardens Toilets, Grantham and The Shack, Stamford, specific configuration issues have been identified and this will require further investigation in order for the sites to be brought forward in the 2023/24 financial year.

### **3. Key Considerations**

- 3.1 This report is to provide Members with an update on progress and provide assurance that there are substantial governance arrangements in place.

### **4. Other Options Considered**

- 4.1 None – funding is availability is for Changing Places toilet facilities specifically.

### **5. Reasons for the Recommendations**

- 5.1 To provide an update, there are no recommendations for the Committee.

## **6. Consultation**

- 6.1 Consultation was carried out with disabled groups (physical, learning and multiple disabilities), carers groups, sports and leisure groups for the disabled, older persons care organisations, community groups and town councils. Locations have been amended to meet the needs of the individuals for whom these facilities will be provided following feedback received.

## **7. Background Papers**

- 7.1 Finance, Economic Development and Corporate Services Committee Changing Places Report - 27<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

[moderngov.southkesteven.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=664&MIId=4263&Ver=4](https://moderngov.southkesteven.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=664&MIId=4263&Ver=4)