



**SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL**



Rural and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

28th March 2024

Report of Councillor Patsy Ellis &
Councillor Rhys Baker Cabinet
Members for Environment and Waste

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

The Rural and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked:

- 1. To review and note the outcomes achieved from the Changing Places Toilets facilities project.**

Decision Information

Does the report contain any exempt or confidential information not for publication?

No

What are the relevant corporate priorities?

Growth and our economy
Healthy and strong communities

Which wards are impacted?

Bourne East, Grantham St Vincents, Grantham Earlesfield, Stamford St Marys

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 The following is a summary of the financial projections of the 3 approved schemes:

The costings for each location are:

Grantham Meres Leisure Centre	£63,656
Grantham Wyndham Park	£66,500
Bourne South Street	£65,000
Total	£195,156

SKDC has the following funding allocated:

Government Grant funding	£120,000
Grantham SEA	£26,500
SKDC budgets	£48,656
Total:	£195,156

Completed by: Richard Wyles, Deputy Chief Executive and s151 Officer

Legal and Governance

- 1.2 The project funding is awarded by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, and SKDC must provide quarterly updates upon progress to retain grant funding.

Completed by: Graham Watts, Assistant Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer

Risk and Mitigation

- 1.3 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.
- 1.4 Construction risks will be reviewed monthly as part of the project and mitigation identified where possible. The works must be undertaken by 31 March 2024 although the funding drawdown has been extended until 30 June 2024.

Tracey Elliott – Governance and Risk Officer

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 (DLUHC) 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. DLUHC has confirmed that the works will need to be completed by 31 March 2024 to avoid any of the funding being returned.
- 2.6 Customers who wish to use the facilities will be required to apply for a Radar key in order to gain access.
- 2.7 Rural and Communities were previously provided with an update on this project at their meeting on 11 October 2023. Since then there has been significant progress made at the locations in Grantham and Bourne but sadly there will be no facility at Stamford.

- Grantham: There are 2 completed facilities at Grantham; these are located at Grantham Meres Leisure Centre and Wyndham Park Grantham. The Meres facility will be managed by Leisure SK Ltd and the Wyndham Park facility will be managed by the District Council
- Bourne – there is one facility at South Street which will be transferred and managed by Bourne Town Council following anticipated practical completion in March 2024.
- Stamford – after many months working with the Town Council, the Town Council confirmed on 25th October 2023 that it would be unwilling to contribute towards the funding costs of siting the facility at Cattlemarket Stamford. This late confirmation left insufficient time for the District Council to progress the scheme before the Government deadline of 31 March 2024.

Updated Position for each identified location

2.8 South Street Bourne

This facility has been introduced within the closed former public conveniences at South Street, Bourne and the building has been modified to include a full changing places facility which are equipped with ceiling track hoists, privacy screens, support rails and height-adjustable, adult-sized changing benches. The facility also includes reconfiguration of the former public conveniences and is scheduled to be completed and open from the end of March 2024.

2.9 Wyndham Park Grantham

This facility has been introduced within the Memorial Arch building at Wyndham Park which was being used as a grounds maintenance as an informal storage area. The new facility includes a fully compliant Changing Places provision and is scheduled to open from Monday 5th February 2024.

2.10 Grantham Meres Leisure Centre Grantham

This facility has been introduced utilising a former medical space at the Meres Leisure Centre, which has been relocated as part of the works and has been operational since April 2023.

- 2.11 In all cases the design and layout has complied with the Changing Places standard which has enabled the grant to be awarded to contribute towards the funding of the 3 locations. The Government, whilst recognising that the allocated £40,000 per location does not meet the actual costs of installing the facility, has been unable to offer additional funding and therefore the financial shortfall has had to be met by the Council's own budgets.

- 2.12 This report provides the final position of the Changing Places project and brings it to a conclusion. Should any further Changing Places funding announcements be made then the OSC will be notified accordingly.

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 availability is for Changing Places toilet facilities specifically and is therefore ring fenced accordingly.

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 Rural and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

[Agenda for Rural and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee on Wednesday, 11th October, 2023, 2.00 pm | South Kesteven District Council](#)