

Chichester District Council

THE CABINET

7 February 2023

Changing Places

1. Contacts

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2. Recommendations

2.1 Cabinet recommends to Council that the capital funding of £210,000 for Changing Places facilities is accepted and that Officers continue to progress the projects for delivery of the schemes across the district.

2.2 Cabinet approves the additional revenue costs estimated to be £8,000 from 2024/2025 onwards, to be found out of existing revenue budgets, to maintain the Changing Places facility in Midhurst.

3. Background

3.1 Chichester District Council owns and manages one Changing Places facility at Northgate car park, Chichester. This site is one of 1,200 Changing Places facilities which are in place across the country to enable access to facilities for individuals who cannot use standard toilets. To be classified as a Changing Places toilet, facilities must meet set specifications and be registered by the Changing Places consortium.

3.2 Changing Places toilets were created to meet the needs of disabled children and adults with complex care needs who need carer support, appropriate equipment and more space. This is because standard accessible toilets were designed to meet the needs of disabled people who can use a toilet independently. Standard accessible toilets are unsuitable for this different group of profoundly disabled children and adults. Children and adults with complex care needs required carer support and standard disabled toilets cannot accommodate a wheelchair and carers, have no specialist equipment and are not designed for complex care needs and large wheelchairs.

3.3 Changing Places toilets include the following:

- Height adjustable adult sized changing bench.
- Ceiling hoist.

- Peninsular toilet to provide support from both sides.

3.4 Local authorities were invited to 'opt in' to receive a proportion of government funding to install Changing Places facilities in local communities. Discussions were held with partner organisations and an application was submitted to enable the introduction of three Changing Places facilities within Chichester District. The site locations proposed were as follows:

- The Selsey Centre, Selsey
- Bracklesham Barn, Bracklesham
- North Street Public Conveniences, Midhurst

Selsey Town Council agreed that they would oversee the delivery of the site in Selsey. East Wittering and Bracklesham Parish Council agreed they would oversee the delivery of the site in Bracklesham, and officers within CDC would oversee the site delivery at Midhurst.

3.5 The application for funding was successful, and CDC have been awarded £210,000 to cover the delivery of the three schemes (split equally). To meet the requirements of the scheme the sites will need to be delivered by 31st March 2024.

4. Outcomes to be Achieved

- 4.1 To ensure that the Changing Places allocation is spent according to the requirements of the fund, and that the district benefits from this funding.
- 4.2 Changing Places facilities assist with all disabled people being able to take part in everyday activities with the same dignity as others.

5. Proposal

- 5.1 That Chichester District Council accepts the funding from government and continues to monitor the progress of delivery of the sites being overseen by Selsey Town Council and East Wittering and Bracklesham Parish Council and directly delivers the site at Midhurst.
- 5.2 That the additional revenue costs estimated at £8,000 to maintain the Changing Places facility in Midhurst on the completion of the project are approved. These additional costs to be found out of the existing services revenue budgets.

6. Alternatives Considered

- 6.1 Do nothing –this would not provide funding to enable delivery of Changing Places.
- 6.2 Alternative locations for the introduction of the Changing Places facilities were considered, however, these were not felt to be feasible at this stage.

7. Resource and Legal Implications

7.1 CDC will be required to monitor the delivery of the schemes in Selsey and Bracklesham and ensure that payments are made to the town and parish council. The site delivery in Midhurst will be overseen by CDC Officers. The overall project will include involvement from procurement, finance, estates and legal services.

7.2 Ongoing revenue costs for the sites in Bracklesham and Selsey will be covered by the parish and town council as part of the existing arrangements relating to the building costs which they currently have responsibility for.

7.3 Midhurst Town Council and South Downs National Park Authority have confirmed that they are unable to assist in providing ongoing revenue support to the CDC site in Midhurst. Therefore, these costs will be the responsibility of CDC. Estimated costs are £8,000 per annum, which includes regular checks to the hoist, reactive works to the site, call out charges and cleaning, inspections and consumables for the site.

8. Consultation

8.1 Consultation was undertaken with parishes at the time of the application for funding, along with the government department overseeing the project, which involves Muscular Dystrophy UK.

9. Community Impact and Corporate Risks

9.1 The allocation of these funds to Chichester District enables the introduction of three Changing Places facilities. This is positive for the disabled community in particular. Evidence also suggests that the existence of Changing Places facilities can encourage additional footfall in areas and can increase the number of tourist visits.

9.2 There is a risk that the projects are not delivered by March 2024. Officers are liaising with the town and parish council for the sites being delivered outside of CDC control and the funding is on the basis that the schemes are delivered in time and within the requirements of Changing Places standards.

10. Other Implications

	Yes	No
Crime and Disorder		X
Climate Change and Biodiversity		X
Human Rights and Equality Impact Positive in that the sites will enable further equality of access to services for disabled individuals.	X	
Safeguarding and Early Help		X

General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)		X
Health and Wellbeing Beneficial in that Changing Places will deliver benefits for health and wellbeing.	X	
Other		

11. Appendices

None

12. Background Papers

None