



REPORT TO:	Cabinet
DATE:	7 th September 2022
SUBJECT:	Installation of 4 new Changing Places Toilets.
PURPOSE:	To approve an addition to the Capital Programme to Part Fund the installation of 4 new changing places toilets.
KEY DECISION:	No
PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	Councillor Tracey Abbott
REPORT AUTHOR:	Adrian Sibley, Deputy Chief Executive for Delivery
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	Central Wards
EXEMPT REPORT?	No

SUMMARY

This report sets out to accept a government grant of £210k to support the introduction of 4 new Changing Places Toilets within the Town Centre. Each toilet costs around £75k to install so the total cost of the 4 toilets collectively will be approximately £300k, subject to a formal tendering exercise. The report also seeks therefore the approval of a capital contribution of £70k from our reserves to part fund the installation of 3 toilets that will be under the Council's control. A fourth toilet is to be installed within the Blenkin Memorial Hall and the additional £20k will be met from the St Botolph's Church Funds.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To approve an addition of £300k to the Capital programme to support the installation of 4 new changing places toilets. £230k of this will be met from government grants and external funding so a use of reserves of £70k is requested, subject to a formal tendering exercise.
2. To agree the installation of 4 new toilets within the Town, 3 of which will be under the control of the Council.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

Changing Places toilets are larger and more accessible for people who cannot use standard accessible toilets, with equipment such as hoists, curtains, adult sized changing benches, and space for carers. Increasing the provision of these toilets is part of a £30m national government disability strategy to allow more physically impaired individuals to undertake more recreational activities with dignity, confidence, and freedom.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

The councils could decide not to accept all or part of the grant and not provide these enhanced facilities. This would though prevent the Council from improving the quality of lives for all of its residents and up to 1 million people in the country who rely on such facilities in order to enjoy the same opportunities as everyone else.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1** Changing Places toilets are enhanced toilet facilities, more accessible by severely disabled people who require additional support. As such they are larger and more sophisticated facilities, requiring higher levels of technical enhancements and support. Approximately 14 million people nationally live with long term illnesses, disabilities, or impairments. An estimated 1million of these require Changing Places toilets, and this number is only set to increase.
- 1.2** As part of its commitment towards improving the quality of life for everyone, the Government announced last Spring that it would be making £30m of funding available for the installation of new facilities for local authorities to bid for on a competitive basis. Bids were to be assessed on the quality of the submissions, the amount of match funding, partnership working and the end destinations.

2. REPORT

- 2.1** Following a consultation exercise with key members and stakeholders, including Parish Councils, Boston bid for funding to support the installation of 5 changing places toilets in and around the Town Centre in late Summer 2022.
- 2.2** The sites that were bid for were as follows:

Successful	Unsuccessful
Central Park	
Wide Bargate	
Lincoln Lane	
Blenkin Memorial Hall	
	Boston College

Boston College was not deemed to meet the criteria as it was classed as a new build and therefore not eligible. The funding applications were heavily over subscribed and in March of this year, the government announced that Boston would receive £210k of funding to support the installation of 4 toilets. This compares to a total £660k for the provision of 15 toilets within the South East Lincolnshire partnership and £920k for the whole of Lincolnshire for the provision of 23 toilets.

- 2.3** Latest market testing shows that costs of installation are approximately £75k per toilet. This means that the match funding requirement is approximately £23k per toilet. Blenkin have agreed that they will meet the costs of any additional funding over and above their allocation of £52k. This therefore means that the additional support required from the Council is around £70k to support the installation of 3 additional toilets.
- 2.4** If we were to reduce the number of toilets that we provide, then the funding would be reduced proportionally.
- 2.5** It is anticipated that most of the revenue running costs could be absorbed within existing budgets as the facilities are located next to existing toilets and so inspection costs could be accommodated within existing staff budgets. The additional costs are likely to be repairs and maintenance, consumables, and annual testing. These are not expected to be significant.

3. CONCLUSION

- 3.1** For a relatively small proportion of match funding, the installation of Changing Places toilets has the potential change the lives of many disabled individuals, both local to Boston and to potential visitors to the area. This initiative therefore contributes to enhancing the lives of everyone and is a positive step for the Council to take in this respect. By installing them within the Town Centre they can also allow Boston to become an end destination for potential visitors and thereby improve the attraction of the town as a place to visit.

IMPLICATIONS

SOUTH AND EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCILS PARTNERSHIP

These are numerous and detailed in section 2.2 of the report.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

The installation of enhanced toilets facilities promotes equality and the improvement of lives for everyone.

STAFFING

None at this stage.

CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

None at this stage

DATA PROTECTION

None at this stage.

FINANCIAL

The capital costs are detailed in the summary above. The revenue costs are expected to be relatively low and accommodated within existing budgets.

RISK MANAGEMENT

None at this stage.

STAKEHOLDER / CONSULTATION / TIMESCALES

Reports have also been submitted to BTAC and Scrutiny. Both Committees were supportive of the proposal.

REPUTATION

The ambition provides a positive message for the partnership.

CONTRACTS

None

CRIME AND DISORDER

None

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY/ HUMAN RIGHTS/ SAFEGUARDING

The scheme substantially supports these ambitions.

HEALTH AND WELL BEING

The scheme substantially supports these ambitions.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

None

LINKS TO 12 MISSIONS IN THE LEVELLING UP WHITE PAPER

MISSIONS	
This paper contributes to the follow Missions outlined in the Government's Levelling Up White paper.	
Health	By 2030, the gap in Healthy Life Expectancy (HLE) between local areas where it is highest and lowest will have narrowed, and by 2035 HLE will rise by 5 years.
Wellbeing	By 2030, well-being will have improved in every area of the UK, with the gap between top performing and other areas closing.

ACRONYMS

None

APPENDICES

None

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THIS REPORT

Name of body	Date
Environment & Performance	21 st June 2022
BTAC	10 th August 2022

REPORT APPROVAL

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