

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET

CHANGING PLACES TOILETS CAMPAIGN

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To consider how the council can positively contribute towards the Changing Places campaign aimed at improving the provision of public toilet facilities for people of all ages with a disability.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2.1 Standard disabled toilets meet the needs of many disabled people, but not all. Changing Places is a national campaign aimed at improving the provision of public toilet facilities for people of all ages with a disability. Access to suitable toilet facilities for disabled people is potentially a key barrier to their social inclusion and participation. The campaign recognises that standard disabled toilets often fail to fully meet the needs of all those with a disability. People with profound and multiple learning disabilities, as well as people with other disabilities such as spinal injuries, muscular dystrophy and multiple sclerosis often need additional facilities to enable them to use the toilets safely, comfortably and with dignity.

2.2 Changing Places toilets are equipped with additional facilities to standard disabled toilets. These include:

- A height adjustable adult-sized changing bench
- A suitable permanent or portable hoist device
- Enough space in the changing area for the disabled person and up to two attending carers
- A centrally placed toilet with space either side for the carers
- A screen or curtain to afford the disabled person and their carers suitable privacy

Additionally, these toilets should be provided with clear signage suitable in meeting the particular needs of the various potential users of the facilities.

2.3 Currently, there are a number of confirmed facilities in North Lincolnshire that are known to fully meet the Changing Places standards. These are located in the following buildings:

- Ironstone Centre, West Street, Scunthorpe
- Sir John Mason House, De Lacy Way, Winterton

- Scunthorpe Community Wellbeing Hub, Alvingham Road, Scunthorpe
- Normanby Hall Country Park.

This list may not be exhaustive as other unconfirmed facilities may exist that have as yet not been registered with the Changing Places campaign.

- 2.4 In addition to the above, both the Epworth Community Wellbeing Hub located on High Street, Epworth and the Kaleidoscope – Action for Children building located on Dunstall Street, Scunthorpe have facilities that although not quite meeting the space standards required of a Changing Places facility, are provided with the various fixtures and fittings that are specified above.
- 2.5 The facility at Normanby Hall Country Park was provided by the council in 2014 by way of an investment exceeding £40,000. The council is also exploring providing a Changing Places compliant facility as part of plans to refurbish the public toilets located at the Belton Picnic area and is committed to making provision as part of options that officers are currently exploring for a new Community Wellbeing Hub in Barton upon Humber.
- 2.6 Not all of the existing facilities listed above are currently recorded on the Changing Places website (www.changing-places.org). Officers will take steps to ensure that the website operators are provided with the latest details of the Changing Places toilets available in the area.
- 2.7 British Standards (BS 8300:2009) covering the design of buildings and their approaches to meet the needs of disabled people suggest providing Changing Places toilets in larger buildings and complexes such as:
- major transport termini or interchanges, e.g. large railway stations and airports
 - motorway services
 - sport and leisure facilities, including large hotels
 - cultural centres, such as museums, concert halls and art galleries, stadia and large auditoria
 - shopping centres and shopmobility centres
 - key buildings within town centres, e.g. town halls, civic centres and main public libraries
 - educational establishments
 - health facilities, such as hospitals, health centres and community practices.
- 2.8 A local resident has initiated a national petition calling on the government to take steps to ***“ensure equality of access to disabled toilets for all by making the provision of changing places toilets mandatory in buildings mentioned in BS 8300:2009”***. To date, the petition has secured in excess of 1,700 signatures. The leader of the council recently met the lead petitioner and has pledged that the council will seek to positively support her campaign at a local level.
- 2.9 It is suggested that the opportunities for the council to further support the Changing Places campaign are in the main via the following routes:

2.9.1 Local Planning Policy

As a Planning authority, the council could put in place local planning policies requiring where appropriate that future developments make adequate provision of Changing Place compliant facilities. Officers are currently working on a Health related Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) with the intention of including reference to Changing Places facility provision. It is hoped to have this in place by the end of the current calendar year.

2.9.2 Future Capital Programme Developments

The council could seek to include Changing Place toilets to the standards specified above as part of future capital funded new build projects, as suitable opportunities arise. Current projects within the approved capital programme that might prove suitable for inclusion of a facility include:

- Belton Picnic Area Redevelopment
- Barton upon Humber Community Wellbeing Hub
- Brigg Recreation Ground Redevelopment
- Axholme North Sports Centre Development
- Winterton Gymnasium and Skatepark
- Burton Sports Centre Development
- Ongo Office Accommodation Development

2.9.3 Retrospective Installation of Facilities in Existing Council Buildings

The council could explore the feasibility of providing enhanced disabled toilet facilities in some of our current buildings of the types listed in BS 8300:2009. This might include our network of twenty three public conveniences located across North Lincolnshire. However, it is likely that in most cases the constraints of the existing buildings will make retrospective installation of upgraded facilities impractical, particularly from an affordable cost perspective. As such, it is suggested that an aim of seeking to ensure that there is provision made for at least one Changing Places toilet facility in each of our key town centres (Barton upon Humber, Brigg, Crowle, Epworth, Scunthorpe and Winterton) is reasonable.

2.9.4 Further Auditing and Sign-Posting

Some doubt currently remains as to whether current information fully and accurately records all Changing Places toilet provision across North Lincolnshire. For example, some as yet unrecorded private sector provision may exist, for example in retail facilities, hotels, airports etc, as well as in other public sector buildings such as hospitals, medical centres, education establishments etc. The council could undertake further work to clarify any gaps in information relating to these sectors with a view to improving the information available to the public on availability.

The council could also take steps to raise the profile of the availability of Changing Places facilities. It is suggested that this could potentially be achieved via additional information on the council website as well as informative leaflets/signage placed in relevant council operated facilities.

- 2.10 An action plan is attached at appendix 1 to progress this issue for consideration by the Cabinet. It is also suggested that the issues raised in this report are considered by the Health and Wellbeing Board at a future meeting in the hope of securing the wider support of member organisations to improving the availability of Changing Places toilets across the area.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 That the Cabinet affirms the support of the council to the Changing Places campaign and the intention to take action locally to secure improvements in disabled toilet facility provision across North Lincolnshire.
- 3.2 That the Cabinet approves progress of the action plan attached at appendix 1 to this report.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 4.1 Adopting the proposals will make a positive statement of commitment of the intent of the council to continue to champion the needs of disabled people of all ages, with a view to helping them overcome barriers to their social inclusion and participation. Moving forward with the action plan will allow the council to explore opportunities to significantly increase the provision of Changing Places toilets in the area.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)

- 5.1 The most economic and effective way of providing a Changing Places toilet is to include them in the design briefs of new buildings and build them into the new facility. Where existing buildings have to be adapted, far higher costs are likely, depending on the extent of alterations required. These might prove prohibitive. Therefore the suggested priority is, wherever possible, to secure the inclusion of Changing Places facilities in new build developments.
- 5.2 Making provision for Changing Places toilets in the projects listed in paragraph 2.9.2 may increase capital costs. However, project officers will where possible endeavour to ensure that costs are contained within existing capital budgets.
- 5.3 Retrospectively installing facilities in existing buildings will require works for which funding doesn't currently exist. The feasibility study will quantify this allowing consideration of making funding provision in future capital programmes as part of the normal financial planning process.

6. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

6.1 An Integrated Impact Assessment highlights the positive benefits of the proposal with no adverse impacts identified.

7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED

7.1 The petition organised by a local resident referred to in paragraph 2.8 has to date attracted over 1,700 signatures of support.

7.2 The North Lincolnshire Learning Disability Partnership has recently undertaken some consultation in connection with the Changing Places initiative. While it attracted only a small number of responses, it highlights support among disabled people and their carers for additional provision.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 That the Cabinet affirms the support of the council to the Changing Places campaign and the intention to take action locally to secure improvements in disabled toilet facility provision across North Lincolnshire.

8.2 That the Cabinet approves progress of the action plan attached at appendix 1 to this report

DIRECTOR OF PLACES

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report: None

CHANGING PLACES TOILETS ACTION PLAN

| Proposed Action | Target Date for Completion |
|--|----------------------------|
| Local Planning Policy | |
| Complete work on a Health Supplementary Planning Policy Document (SPD) and bring forward for consideration and approval by the Leader of the Council (Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Devolution) | 30 September 2015 |
| Progress statutory formal public consultation on Health SPD | 31 November 2015 |
| Formally adopt Health SPD (subject to outcomes of consultation) | 18 December 2015 |
| Capital Project Developments | |
| Incorporate Changing Places Toilets in future capital projects relating to the development of facility types listed in BS 8300:2009 | Immediate and ongoing |
| Retrospective Installation of Facilities in Existing Council Buildings | |
| Explore the feasibility of providing enhanced disabled toilet facilities in some of our current buildings of the types listed in BS 8300:2009 | 31 November 2015 |
| Prepare and present a report with outcomes of feasibility study with costed recommendations for any project works | 18 December 2015 |
| Consider budget implications as part of the annual financial planning process of the council | 23 February 2016 |
| Further Auditing and Sign-Posting | |
| Undertake further work towards identifying existing Changing Places toilet facilities in public buildings operated by organisations other than the council. | 31 November 2015 |
| Take steps to raise the profile of the availability of Changing Places toilets potentially via additional information on the council website as well as informative leaflets/signage placed in relevant council operated facilities. | 31 November 2015 |

Health and Wellbeing Board

Present information relating to Changing Places Toilet Campaign to the Health and Wellbeing Board, with a view to seeking the support of member organisations towards improving the provision of public toilet facilities for people of all ages with a disability.

3 November 2015