

Report to Leader

Subject: Accessible Public Toilets, King George V Park

Date: 23 March 2023

Author: Head of Regeneration and Welfare

Wards Affected

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Purpose

To seek approval in accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations for an addition to the capital budget to enable works to proceed in constructing new accessible public toilets in Arnold town centre located in King George V Park.

Key Decision

This is not a key decision.

Recommendation(s)

THAT:

- 1) The revised budgetary requirements for the construction of accessible public toilets in Arnold town centre be noted
- 2) Approves by virement the establishment of an addition to the King George V public toilet capital programme budget of £77,000, which is fully grant funded. The grants include
 - i) £37,000 UK Shared Prosperity Fund Programme
 - ii) £40,000 Changing Place

1 Background

- 1.1 On 6 July 2022, Cabinet approved a capital project budget carry forward of £113,300 for the provision of new fully accessible public toilets within the Arnold town centre located on the grounds of the King George V Park. The provision of new fully accessible public toilets within the town supports the Council's ambition to encourage and enable visitors and shoppers to the town centre. It will also address the current barriers that prohibit individuals accessing the down centre by providing a Changing Place facility.
- 1.2 Since the approval of the project the Council has undertaken site surveys and undertaken market testing to confirm a realistic budget for the scheme. Due to building inflation the Council approved budget was identified to be insufficient to deliver a scheme and a funding application was submitted to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) Changing Place Fund for the maximum grant of £40,000. Confirmation of the award was received on 3 February 2023. The Council has also included a funding contribution within the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) Investment Plan for £37,000 in order to establish an overall budget of £190,000. DLUHC confirmed their approval of the Council's UKSPF Investment Plan on 5 December 2022.
- 1.3 Upon notification of the grant funding the Council has undertaken a tender exercise based on approved Changing Place designs. Subject to the approved budget the Council will enter into a contract with the preferred contractor to a value of £190,000.

2 Proposal

- 2.1 Approves the establishment of an addition to the Capital Budget that is to be fully grant funded by DLUHC Changing Places Fund and UK SPF Fund. This budget will enable the Council to proceed in the construction of new fully accessible public toilets within the Arnold town centre.

3 Alternative Options

- 3.1 The Council has the option not to approve an increase to the capital budget. However, this will result in the Changing Places funding being withdrawn and the Council revising the UKSPF Investment Plan.

- 3.2 This option would necessitate the scheme to provide accessible public toilet provision within the town centre to be aborted. Although this will impact upon all shoppers and visitors to Arnold it will have a greater impact upon individuals who are excluded from public places due to the lack of basic toilet facilities.

4 Financial Implications

- 4.1 This report seeks approval to increase the existing capital budget by an additional £77,000 to support the delivery of accessible toilets in the Arnold town centre. The proposed additions will be funded by £40,000 Changing Places grant along with £37,000 from the UK SPF. Upon approval, this will bring the total budget to £190,300 for the project.
- 4.2 The Council has received UK SPF grant provision for Year 1 2022/23. DLUHC have confirmed that Local Authorities are able to carry forward underspend Year 2 and the scheme will form part of the Year 2 revised Investment Plan.
- 4.3 The Changing Places Fund grant will be released upon completion of the facility. The payments will be subject the registration of the facility as a Changing Places facility and the costs having been defrayed during the financial year 2023/24.

5 Legal Implications

- 5.1 Any in year alterations to the capital programme can be agreed by Cabinet, provided additional Council funding is not required to add to the scheme i.e. is not funded by external grants, contributions or earmarked reserves. The addition to the capital programme budget in relation to this facility is from approved external grant funding and as such is in accordance with the financial regulations.
- 5.2 No contract can be entered into or expenditure on the capital project unless a budget for the project has been established. This addition to the capital programme budget will enable the contract to be completed.

6 Equalities Implications

- 6.1 The proposals will have a positive impact upon both the wider community who visit Arnold town centre but particularly for individuals who are currently prohibited and excluded from visiting the town due to their being no suitable accessible (changing places toilet) Arnold town centre.

7 Carbon Reduction/Environmental Sustainability Implications

7.1 The public accessible toilets are built to Changing Places design requirements and the specification included a requirement for bidders to provide evidence their carbon reduction strategy.

8 Appendices

8.1 Appendix A – Equalities Impact Assessment

9 Background Papers

9.1 None

10 Reasons for Recommendations

10.1 The reason for the recommendation is to enable the scheme to proceed and the Council to deliver fully accessible public toilet provision within the Arnold town centre.

Statutory Officer approval

Approved by: Scott Anderson

Date: 24 March 2023

On behalf of the Chief Financial Officer

Approved by: Fran Whyley

Date: 24 March 2023

Monitoring Officer