

**RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL  
REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE**

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Agenda Item No

meeting date: 14 MARCH 202  
title: CHANGING PLACES FUND ALLOCATION  
submitted by: HEAD OF CULTURAL AND LEISURE SERVICES  
principal author: DANIEL GREEN

1 PURPOSE

1.1 To inform members of the Council's success in securing funding in relation to the Governments' Changing Places Fund and to ask Policy and Finance Committee to include the scheme in the Council's budget.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Changing Places toilets are larger accessible toilets designed for severely disabled people, with equipment such as hoists, curtains, adult sized changing benches, and space for carers.

2.2 The government wants to see a step change in the number of Changing Places toilets across the country. In the 2021 Budget, the then Chancellor announced a Changing Places Fund of up to £30.5m to accelerate the provision in existing buildings in England.

2.3 For the round two applications eligible local authorities needed to submit an expression of interest by the end of September 2022. RVBC submitted an expression of interest for three toilet sites to upgrade the existing facilities to assist with days out to local attractions for severely disabled people and their families.

The sites allocated the funding from the grant to improve facilities are:

- Edisford riverbank toilets - BB7 3LA
- Ribchester toilets - PR3 3YE
- Castlefield toilets - BB7 2HE

3 ISSUES

3.1 The Council was informed on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2023 that it had been successful in its' expression of interest and has been awarded £204,000 for the work to be carried out.

3.2 The funding is allocated for a period of 1 year. The changing places team have requested quarterly projections and estimates for the spending of the allocated grant. Estimates for the projected spending had already been submitted as part of the Councils' grant submission for the financial year 23/24.

3.3 Planning permission is required together with building control approval for the work, because the three sites will need extensions built to accommodate the specialist equipment to be installed as part of the provision. It is proposed to put the works out to formal tender for all three adaptations under one tender so we will receive one price to complete all the works. It is anticipated that this will save time and money as we should benefit by 'economies of scale' and reduced officer time.

3.4 Once the principal contractor is appointed it is proposed that the surveying team will project manage the works to completion and ensure that the facilities are handed over to the Council to the highest standards.

#### 4 CONCLUSION

4.1 This is good news for the Borough and will help us provide excellent facilities for residents and visitors to the area and continue in our role of providing accessible changing areas for all.

#### 5.0 RISK ASSESSMENT

- Resources – The capital sum of £204,000 will be added to the Council's capital programme for 2023/24 and once completed there will be additional revenue costs associated with the toilet extensions which will be built. A budget estimate for the additional costs which would be incurred for 2023/24 is £18,140, although the facilities will not be available for use until late in the current financial year, plus an additional provision of £910 for inflation at 5% in the next year, 2024/25. These figures do not include any further costs for maintenance of the specialist equipment, which will not be known until that is specified for installation and will need to be incorporated in the budgets for 2024/25, because they will be initially covered under a warranty period.
- Technical – The Council Engineering section will oversee the project to ensure it is carried out in accordance with the Councils' financial regulations and that the project is delivered completely within the financial year 2023/24.
- Political – none in the context of the report.
- Reputation – the award of the grant and the work it will facilitate will greatly improve the provision for people with a disability, residents and visitors will once the work is completed, be able to visit areas which they may not previously have been able to do, because their needs could not be met by our existing disabled toilet provision.
- Equality and Diversity – the Council will consult with appropriate groups to ensure the three enhanced toilets when completed address the specific needs of the people for which the grant was given.

#### 6.0 RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE

6.1 Ask Policy and Finance Committee to include the Changing Places Scheme in the capital programme and revenue budget for 2023/24.

Mark Beveridge  
Head of Cultural and Leisure Services

#### BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

For further information please ask for Mark Beveridge 01200 425111

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