

Arun District Council

REPORT TO:	Environment Committee
SUBJECT:	Changing Places Toilets Alternative Venue
LEAD OFFICER:	Nat Slade – Group Head of Technical Services
LEAD MEMBER:	Councillor Edwards
WARDS:	All

CORPORATE PRIORITY / POLICY CONTEXT / CORPORATE VISION:

The installation of a Changing Places Toilet supports the Council Vision priority of Improving the Wellbeing of Arun by supporting the most vulnerable people to access toilet and changing facilities safely and with dignity. Government policy promotes the idea of “community participation” and “active citizenship”. The provision of Changing Places Toilets furthers this aim.

DIRECTORATE POLICY CONTEXT:

Changing Places Toilets (CPTs) contribute to the Council’s commitment of creating an inclusive environment. The Equality and Diversity Policy 2014 sets out how the Council supports the Equality Act 2010. CPTs are an example of a “reasonable adjustment”. Arun have produced a Changing Places Toilets Guidance document that also highlights the Council’s commitment to being inclusive and welcoming.

The Council’s adopted planning guidance Changing Places Toilets Guidance: Planning and Sustainable Development seeks to have CPTs installed in large scale public developments such as cultural settings and sports and leisure facilities. The installation of more CPTs in the district will make the area more accessible to people with complex disabilities, including those with profound and multiple learning disabilities. Everyone should be able to access public toilet facilities that meet their needs and allow them to enjoy public spaces.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

In September 2021 the Environment and Neighbourhoods Committee endorsed the submission of an application for Changing Places Toilets grant funding for six venues. The Regis Centre was one of the venues selected. Arun District Council (ADC) were awarded £40,000 grant funding from Changing Places Levelling Up Fund for the Regis Centre CPT with an additional £42,000 of ADC top up funding also allocated. The grant funding can no longer be used for the Regis Centre CPT due to rescheduling of the refurbishment project. The Council can however reallocate the grant funding, subject to the Funding Body’s approval, for the installation of a CPT at Arun Leisure Centre. The proposal is for the grant to be reallocated to fund a CPT at the Arun Leisure Centre. The £40,000 ADC funding that would have been needed for the CPT at Arun Leisure Centre will be reallocated to the Regis Centre CPT. Authority for reallocation (virement) of ADC funds falls within existing officer delegations. The recommendation, subject to the funding body’s approval, secures the grant money and secures the funding to enable delivery of CPTs at both the Regis Centre and Arun Leisure Centre.

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1. To seek approval to reallocate grant funding. To explain the requirement to reallocate funding to a different venue. To outline the importance of installing a Changing Places Toilet at Arun Leisure Centre.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1. It is recommended that the Committee agree to the reallocation of £40,000 grant funding for a Changing Places Toilet from the Regis Centre, Bognor Regis to Arun Leisure Centre, Felpham in order to secure the grant funding needed to enable Changing Places Toilets to be delivered at both locations.

3. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 3.1. Following a decision to endorse support the Changing Places Toilets Expression of Interest at the Environment and Neighbourhoods Committee meeting on 23rd of September 2021, authority is sought to reallocate the grant funding to an alternative venue. Owing to the rescheduling of refurbishment works to the Regis Centre the Changing Places Toilet will be ineligible for the Changing Places Toilets grant funding.
- 3.2. It is proposed that the grant funding should be reallocated to Arun Leisure Centre. Due to grant funding timescales this is the only venue option which will be able secure the grant funding. Authority is sought to support the reallocation of grant funding from the Regis Centre to Arun Leisure Centre.

4. DETAIL

- 4.1. Local Authorities were given the opportunity to apply to install life-enhancing CPTs in public places and tourist attractions, allowing the creation of facilities in areas where users want them most.
- 4.2. There are currently around 1,200 registered CPTs in England – these are larger accessible toilets for people who cannot use standard accessible toilets; They have equipment such as hoists, privacy screens, disabled toilets, adult-sized changing benches, and space for Carers. Over 250,000 people in the country need these facilities to enable them to get out and about and enjoy the day-to-day activities many of us take for granted.
- 4.3. Arun District Council was successful in the funding bid and awarded £227,000 on the 24th of March 2022. This was to install six CPTs across the district. The six locations were the Regis Centre, Hotham Park, Crown Yard, The Wildfowl and Wetland Trust Centre, Coastguards Toilets, and The Street Public Toilets Rustington. These CPTs, with the exception of the Regis Centre, are in the process of being designed and installed to schedule. They will all be completed by March 31st 2024, the final date for funding eligibility.

- 4.4. Arun Leisure Centre has been suggested as a new venue to apply the grant funding to for a CPT by the Property and Estates team. This CPT can be installed very quickly as the changing rooms are in the process of being refurbished. A contractor is on site, and work is due to be completed by July 2023. There is a designated changing area which is an ideal space for a CPT. Designs have already been discussed with Muscular Dystrophy UK who administer the grant funding.
- 4.5. Arun Leisure Centre is a sports and leisure facility centre operated by Freedom Leisure on behalf of Arun District Council. It has two swimming pools, a weights room, MUGA, 3G artificial pitch, fully equipped gym and cycling studio. There are squash courts, dry and wet changing facilities and a café along with a 6-court sports hall and 2 court gymnasium. Arun leisure centre is also used by Felpham Community School. The centre is very accessible and has disabled parking, automatic doors, pool hoist and showers.
- 4.6. The centre is near to Butlins holiday resort, drawing high numbers of visitors to the area many of whom visit the leisure centre. The leisure centre is also near Felpham and the six villages, which do not currently have a CPT facility.
- 4.7. Following consultation with over 10 groups, including disability interest groups, leisure centres were highlighted as a good location. Also, research conducted by the Research Institute for Disabled Consumers, showed one of the top venues to be sports and leisure centres.
- 4.8. The CPT would be located within the building and incorporated into the changing room refurbishment. It would be accessible to the general public during opening hours seven days a week. The leisure centre staff will be able to monitor access, something which is proving an issue at other locations.

Summary

- 4.9. The reallocation of budget is vital to ensure the grant funding is secured by the council. The provision of a CPT in Arun Leisure Centre as well as at the Regis Centre would be of significant benefit to residents and visitors with complex disabilities and their Carers.

5. CONSULTATION

- 5.1. Consultation has taken place with Muscular Dystrophy UK and the Changing Places Levelling Up Funders.

6. OPTIONS / ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

- 6.1. To not endorse the reallocation of grant funding to the Arun Leisure Centre and to return the £40,000. This would leave the proposed CPT at the Regis Centre unfunded.

- 6.2. To allocate the grant funding to another venue. There is insufficient time available to install a CPT elsewhere within the grant timescales so this is not a deliverable option.

7. COMMENTS BY THE INTERIM GROUP HEAD OF FINANCE/SECTION 151 OFFICER

- 7.1. The proposal, subject to grand funder approval, maximises the funding for Changing Places Toilets in the District.

8. RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1. The funding has specific time schedules and if we do not allocate it to the leisure centre, we will not receive the £40,000 grant funding. It would not be possible to complete the installation at any other location in the district in the time available. We would miss the chance to install a much-needed CPT facility in this venue, as refurbishment is already under way and funding would not be available otherwise.
- 8.2. The allocation of the grant from the Regis Centre CPT to the Arun Leisure Centre CPT is subject to the Funding body's Board approval. Discussions have been had with the funding body who have relayed that they are supportive.
- 8.3. The proposed delivery of the CPT at the Regis Centre is part of the wider Regis Centre refurbishment project and subject to the risks and progress of that project with the design not yet finalized. The availability of funding for a CPT at the Regis Centre does not therefore guarantee its delivery. Oversight of the Regis Centre refurbishment project falls within the remit of the Policy & Finance Committee.

9. COMMENTS OF THE GROUP HEAD OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE & MONITORING OFFICER

- 9.1. Subject to the Funding Body agreeing to the re allocation, there are no additional Legal or Governance implications

10. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPACT

- 10.1. The proposals do not have human resources implications.

11. HEALTH & SAFETY IMPACT

- 11.1. Health and safety will be controlled within the management of the Regis Centre refurbishment project and the Arun Leisure Centre changing room refurbishment project.

12. PROPERTY & ESTATES IMPACT

- 12.1. The CPT at Arun Leisure Centre will need to be maintained by the Council's Property and Estates team.

13. EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) / SOCIAL VALUE

- 13.1. The installation of CPTs at both locations would have a positive impact on people with complex disabilities and impairments and their Carers and support Arun District Councils Equality Policy 2014 and adopted Changing Places Toilets Guidance: Planning & Sustainable Development.

14. CLIMATE CHANGE & ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT/SOCIAL VALUE

- 14.1. People would not need to travel in vehicles as far to reach a Changing Places Facility if there were more in the district. This should, therefore, reduce carbon emissions and air pollution.

15. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPACT

- 15.1. There are no direct crime and disorder impacts from this proposal.

16. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACT

- 16.1. The proposal does not adversely impact on human rights.

17. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION / DATA PROTECTION CONSIDERATIONS

- 17.1. There are no specific Freedom of Information or Data Protection Consideration issues arising from the proposals of this report.

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BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

Equalities Impact Assessment
[Report to & Decision of Environment Committee September 2021 - Changing Places Toilets Expression of Interest](#)
[Changing Places Toilets Guidance: Planning & Sustainable Development](#)
[Equality & Diversity Policy](#)