

<p align="center">CABINET MEETING – 16 MARCH 2023</p> <p align="center">EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET – PART I</p>	
<p>Title of Report: Changing Places Fund</p>	
<p>Author(s): Director of Finance</p>	
<p>Purpose of Report: This report seeks approval to provide grant funding to Sports and Leisure Management Limited (“SLM”) to support the installation of Changing Places Toilets (CPTs) in priority leisure venues.</p>	
<p>Description of Decision: Cabinet is requested to approve the award of £140,000 grant funding from the Changing Places Fund to SLM for the installation of CPTs Toilets in priority leisure venues on such terms as approved by the Director of Finance, in consultation with the Cabinet Secretary.</p>	
<p>Is the decision consistent with the Budget/Policy Framework? *Yes</p>	
<p>If not, Council approval is required to change the Budget/Policy Framework</p>	
<p>Suggested reason(s) for Decision: Funding for delivery of the CPTs’ programme has been secured through a competitive bidding programme. The Council was awarded £330,000 to support the costs of installation in 8 venues across the city. The Council is leading directly on the installation in four of these venues, and further venues have been identified by SLM in community leisure centres across the city. To enable SLM to proceed with the procurement of contractors to undertake the necessary works the Council is required to seek approval from Cabinet to transfer up to the estimated £140,000 of the grant available.</p>	
<p>Alternative options to be considered and recommended to be rejected: Alternative public venues across the city have been considered for support through the CPT programme, including other leisure and sporting venues, visitor attractions, retail and other premises. These other locations have been discounted either because of the inability to meet programme timescales (installations to be completed by March 2024) or they are unable to meet the minimum specifications required for CPTs.</p>	
<p>Impacts analysed:</p>	
<p>Equality <input type="text" value="Y"/></p>	<p>Privacy <input type="text" value="N/A"/> Sustainability <input type="text" value="Y"/> Crime and Disorder <input type="text" value="N/A"/></p>

Is the Decision consistent with the Council's Co-operative Values?	Yes
Is this a "Key Decision" as defined in the Constitution?	Yes
Is it included in the 28 day Notice of Decisions?	Yes

CHANGING PLACES FUND**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE****1.0 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 This report seeks approval to transfer grant funding to Sports and Leisure Management Limited (“SLM”) to support the installation of Changing Places Toilets (CPTs) in priority leisure venues.

2.0 Description of Decision

- 2.1 Cabinet is requested to approve the award of up to £140,000 grant funding through the Changing Places Fund to SLM for the installation of CPTs Toilets in priority leisure venues on such terms as approved by the Director of Finance, in consultation with the Cabinet Secretary.

3.0 Background

- 3.1 The Council has been successful in recent years in securing significant levels of external funding to deliver priority activities and projects that support the objectives of the City Plan.
- 3.2 In July 2021 the Council identified the opportunity to bid for funding from the CPT programme, funded by the Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities (DLUHC) and administered by Muscular Dystrophy UK (MDUK). The Council's External Funding Team coordinated the development of a proposal identifying up to 8 existing community venues in the city for installation of CPTs and submitted a bid for funding in September 2021.
- 3.3 The bid outcome was announced in March 2022 with the Council successful in securing £330,000 funding towards the installation costs of accredited CPTs by March 2024 across 8 venues. It should be noted that new build venues such as City Hall or Culture House are not eligible for support.
- 3.4 The CPT programme closely aligns with Sunderland's City Plan, Healthy City Plan and Health Inequalities Strategy with the main objective to make public venues more accessible to all residents including those with physical and learning disabilities. CPTs are larger accessible toilets for severely disabled people, with equipment such as hoists, privacy screens, adult-sized changing benches, peninsula toilets and space for carers.
- 3.5 Over 250,000 severely disabled people across the UK do not have access to public toilet facilities that meet their needs. CPTs open up public places to this group and their families, enabling them to enjoy the same experiences as everyone else.

3.6 CPTs were created to meet the needs of disabled children and adults with complex care needs who need carer support, appropriate equipment and more space. This is because standard accessible toilets were designed to meet the needs of disabled people who can use a toilet independently. Standard accessible toilets are unsuitable for this different group of profoundly disabled children and adults. Children and adults with complex care needs require carer support and standard disabled toilets cannot accommodate a wheelchair and carers, have no specialist equipment and are simply not designed for complex care needs and large wheelchairs.

3.7 The target user groups as identified by MDUK are:

- Those with complex disabilities who require hoisting from their wheelchair onto the toilet and providing support once on the toilet.
- Those who are incontinent and who require hoisting from their wheelchair onto a height adjustable adult sized changing bench to have their continence pads changed.
- Those who are not wheelchair users but whose other complex needs are not met in current public toilet provision. This includes disabled children and adults who have balance or health/size issues, or severe autism or challenging behaviours who are not easy to toilet and need adequate space for carer support on both sides of the toilet, or to manage behaviour and hyperactivity.
- To enable family or professional carers to use the toilet with dignity whilst keeping the wheelchair user safe.

4.0 Project proposals

4.1 The table below summarises the venues currently identified for support through the grant funding secured.

City Council venues	Leisure venues
Elemore Park Garden and Visitor Centre	Raich Carter Sports Centre
Roker Park	Washington Leisure Centre
Herrington Country Park – Park Lodge	Hetton Community Pool and Wellness Centre
Washington Library and Customer Service Centre	Houghton Sports and Wellness Centre
	Silksworth Community Pool Tennis and Wellness Centre
	Sunderland Aquatic Centre

4.2 The Council is managing the installation of its four venues identified above with the intention that all four venues will have registered CPTs in place by March 2024. Through discussions with SLM (the Council's operator for its leisure venues), the above leisure venues have been identified which require either upgrades to existing facilities or full installations to ensure that their facilities meet the CPT standards and can be fully registered on the CPT register.

- 4.3 SLM is in the process of surveying its existing facilities and seeking quotations from recommended MDUK CPT providers which will inform which of the identified leisure facilities will have a CPT installed. Subject to a competitive quotation process, including assessment of value for money and delivery timeframes, it is proposed that the Council will provide a grant of up to £140,000 from the CPT funding to SLM to meet eligible costs towards the CPT installations. The grant will be subject to review of the quotations received and works proposed, including confirmation of the number of venues and costs, as well as standard monitoring and reporting requirements. The Council will also be required to confirm its consent as landlord of the leisure venues and the process for doing this has been agreed with the Council's Business and Property Services team.
- 4.4 Subject to the above being satisfied, the Council will transfer the grant through a grant funding agreement, with appropriate terms and conditions incorporating the to protect the Council's position and incorporating the external CPT funding conditions. Ongoing monitoring of the CPT programme will be undertaken by the Council's Finance team and Business and Property Services team.
- 4.5 No additional financial commitment from the Council is required, however existing staff time is required to support with ongoing monitoring and reporting to DLUHC and MDUK.

5 Reason for Decision

- 5.1 Funding for delivery of the CPTs' programme has been secured through a competitive bidding programme. The Council was awarded £330,000 to support the costs of installation in 8 venues across the city. The Council is leading directly on the installation in four of these venues, and further venues have been identified by SLM in community leisure centres across the city. To enable SLM to proceed with the procurement of contractors to undertake the necessary works the Council is required to seek approval from Cabinet to transfer up to the estimated £140,000 of the grant available.

6 Alternative Options

- 6.1 Alternative public venues across the city have been considered for support through the CPT programme, including leisure and sporting venues, visitor attractions, retail and other premises. These other locations have been discounted either because of the inability to meet programme timescales (installations to be completed by March 2024) or they are unable to meet the minimum specifications required for CPTs.

7 Relevant Considerations

- 7.1 Financial Implications. Provision for the cost of the installation of the CPTs is included within the allocation for Planned Property Maintenance within the approved capital programme. As set out within the report the installation costs are fully funded by grant funding. Each asset owner is required to ensure that the CPT facilities are well maintained and continue to remain accessible to the target user groups. In the case of the CPTs to be installed in the leisure venues this obligation will be passed down to Everyone Active.
- 7.2 Legal Implications. Under the proposal, the Council would enter into a grant agreement with SLM (as the Council's procured leisure operator for its venues) to transfer the appropriate grant amount as set out above. This will ensure that the funding agreement with DLUHC is fully back-to-back and that SLM is required to comply with all necessary external funding conditions (including procurement conditions).

In addition, as part of the Council's funding bid to DLUHC for the specified venues, a subsidy control analysis was undertaken and approved by DLUHC. This confirmed that the grant funding can be provided to the Council, and in turn SLM as operator, on a "no subsidy" basis given that the purpose of the funding is to support the delivery of public functions via the provision of public CPT toilets in community facilities owned by the Council.

- 7.3 Equalities implications. An Integrated Impact Assessment has been undertaken. In summary, the findings of the IIA are that there will be significant positive equalities impacts for key target user groups because of the CPT installation programme. Positive impacts are anticipated on disability, age and socio-economic disadvantage as a result of the works proposed.
- 7.4 Policy Implications. As outlined above, the project will make a contribution to the aims of the City Plan, Healthy City Plan and Health Inequalities Strategy.

8 Background Papers

- 8.1 Further information on the CPT programme, including comprehensive guidance, can be found here: [Changing Places Toilets \(changing-places.org\)](https://changing-places.org)