



Portfolio Holder Decisions

Changing Places facility Fleetwood

1. **Changing Places Facilities at Wyre Estuary Country Park, Thornton and Central Car Park, Fleetwood**

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Report of the Corporate Director Environment.

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Portfolio Holder Report

The portfolio holder will make a decision on this item after seven days have elapsed (including the date of publication).

Report of:	Portfolio Holder	Date of publication
Mark Billington, Corporate Director Environment	Councillor Michael Vincent, Resources Portfolio Holder	19 May 2022

Changing Places Facilities schemes at Wyre Estuary Country Park, Thornton and Central Car Park, Fleetwood

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To seek approval to accept a grant from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) following a successful expression of interest for two changing places facilities and to add the schemes to the Council's Capital Programme for 2022/23 and 2023/24.

2. Outcomes

- 2.1 Provision of Changing Places (CP) facilities will enable dignity, independence and safety for those with disabilities of a complex nature, and their carers.
- 2.2 CP facilities will increase tourist numbers, allow people to stay for longer, and boost 'purple pound' spending in Wyre.
- 2.3 CP facilities will aid better health and wellbeing, and provide opportunities for more people to take part in events and activities at these and nearby locations.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 That approval is given to accept the £128,000 CP funding from the DLUHC, towards the provision of two new CP facilities, those being:
 - Scheme 1: Unit at Fleetwood Central Car Park, adjacent to the Fleetwood Beach Wheelchair charity base, and;
 - Scheme 2: Modular facility at Wyre Estuary Country Park, Thornton-Cleveleys.
- 3.2 That approval is given to contribute capital co-funding of £26,182 from capital receipts towards the total capital cost of £164,182 to fund works

outside the scope of the fund and that Scheme 1 is added to the 2022/23 capital programme and Scheme 2 to the 2023/24 capital programme.

- 3.3** An application for capital co-funding of £10,000 has been submitted to Fleetwood Town Council for Scheme 1 and if successful this will support the delivery of this scheme. If the bid is unsuccessful then alternative external funding or further use of capital receipts to meet this shortfall will be required.
- 3.4** That approval is given by the Resources Portfolio Holder for the Corporate Director Environment to deal with the procurement for the delivery of the CP facilities under the exemption to Contract Procedures contained within the Financial Regulations and Financial Procedure Rules; on the grounds that exemptions may apply where “a framework agreement is available that necessitates the council not having to go out to tender and the goods, works and services will still provide the Council with best value for money”. If there is no suitable option on a framework agreement then a normal tender exercise will be undertaken.

4. Background

- 4.1** On 29 July 2021, the Government announced The CP Fund, an investment of up to £30 million of capital funding over two financial years, to increase the number of CP facilities that are accessible to the public.
- 4.2** CP facilities have been proved to make a dramatic difference to the lives of thousands of people with profound and multiple learning disabilities, as well as others with disabilities that severely limit mobility. There are three registered CP facilities in Wyre. These are situated at Booths in Garstang, the United Reform Church in Poulton and the Lakeside Bistro & Hydrotherapy Leisure Centre in Hambleton.
- 4.3** Based on the criteria in the grant application and site identification, a short consultation was conducted by Fleetwood Beach Wheelchairs regarding the need for CP facilities. This was done online and with visitors to their service.
- 4.4** Under the Government’s own assessment criteria, Wyre Council were able to apply for up to £110,000 of capital grant from the Fund. Capital estimates for the two schemes (one in Fleetwood and one in Stanah) were above this amount, however both were submitted, and Wyre were successfully allocated £128,000.
- 4.5** According to Government data, over 250,000 severely disabled people do not have access to public toilets that facilitate their needs. Demand for provision is outstripping supply and the number of CP facilities need to increase to improve access for severely disabled people and their carers. More detailed information about CP facility provision can be found via this link <http://www.changing-places.org/>.

- 4.6** The intention is that the council would lead, deliver and maintain the new facilities as the property owners.

5. Key issues and proposals

- 5.1** The overall scheme, including in-kind costs and maintenance, is estimated at £349,659 over three years. The capital costs of £164,182 will be spent over two years in line with the grant funding, that is, £83,504 in year 1 and £80,678 in year 2. This calculation assumes that Scheme 2 initiates with ground survey work towards the end of year 1.
- 5.2** Budget for one off and ongoing revenue costs to Wyre Council has been identified and will be absorbed. This equates to a total of £69,684 over three years, that includes:
- Ongoing building maintenance, services and repairs that the council will meet from existing budgets. This cost is estimated at £27,240 over three years.
 - Management of the schemes including staff time is accounted for at a cost of £42,444 over three years and is within existing budgets.
- 5.3** Maintenance and servicing of the facilities will be delivered under the council's current contractual agreement with Danfo. This equates to an in-kind contribution of £66,414 across both schemes over three years.
- 5.4** Other in-kind costs identified are third party partnership non-cash contributions and these have been costed at £49,380 over three years. These include, key holder checks, promotion and marketing working with partners such as Fleetwood YMCA, Healthier Fleetwood, Fleetwood Beach Wheelchairs, Marketing Lancashire, Disability First.
- 5.5** Without the match funding of £10,000 for Scheme 1 from Fleetwood Town Council, Wyre Council will need to seek other funding opportunities in order to deliver Scheme 1 or increase its contribution from capital receipts.
- 5.6** A key stipulation of the grant is that Scheme 1 is delivered in 2022/23 and Scheme 2 in 2023/24. This includes regular progress reports, milestones for payment, local authority technical training and registration of both schemes with the Changing Places UK Consortium.

6. Delegated functions

- 6.1** The matters referred to in this report are considered under the following executive function delegated to the Resources Portfolio Holder (as set out in Part 3 of the council's constitution):

“To consider the Council's strategic direction in relation to asset management including to consider the management, repair, maintenance and use of the Council's land and buildings” and “To consider departures from Rules relating to financial and contractual matters if appropriate”.

Financial and legal implications	
Finance	Two schemes be added to the council's capital programme with a combined cost of £164,182. £128,000 is to be funded from the DLUHC CP Fund, £26,182 from capital receipts, and £10,000 from a further external funding application to Fleetwood Town Council (which is to be confirmed). Ongoing revenue costs estimated to be £23,228 per annum will be absorbed within existing budgets. Onward payment of the grant to sub-contractors will be managed by the council. The council must cover any overspends generated throughout the project.
Legal	The Council would have to sign an agreement to deliver scheme 1 in 2022/23 and scheme 2 in 2023/24 financial years. The agreement will be subject to the Terms and Conditions as set out within the grant offer letter. The award of the contract under the framework agreement referred to in the report complies with the exemptions contained in the Council's contract procedures contained within the Financial Regulations and Financial Procedures Rules.

Other risks/implications: checklist

If there are significant implications arising from this report on any issues marked with a ✓ below, the report author will have consulted with the appropriate specialist officers on those implications and addressed them in the body of the report. There are no significant implications arising directly from this report, for those issues marked with an x.

risks/implications	✓ / x
community safety	x
equality and diversity	x
sustainability	x
health and safety	x

risks/implications	✓ / x
asset management	✓
climate change	x
ICT	x
data protection	x

Processing Personal Data

In addition to considering data protection along with the other risks/ implications, the report author will need to decide if a 'privacy impact assessment (PIA)' is also required. If the decision(s) recommended in this report will result in the collection and processing of personal data for the first time (i.e. purchase of a new system, a new working arrangement with a third party) a PIA will need to have been completed and signed off by Data Protection Officer before the decision is taken in compliance with the Data Protection Act 2018.

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List of background papers:		
name of document	date	where available for inspection
None		

List of appendices

None

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