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| Council Name | COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL |
| Name and Date of Committee | COUNCIL – 16 NOVEMBER 2022 |
| Report Number | AGENDA ITEM 9 |
| Subject | FUNDING FOR CHANGING PLACES TOILETS |
| Wards Affected | All |
| Accountable Member | Councillor Mike Evely, Cabinet Member for Finance Email: mike.evely@cotswold.gov.uk |
| Accountable Officer | Robert Weaver, Chief Executive Email: robert.weaver@cotswold.gov.uk |
| Summary/Purpose | To consider a recommendation from Cabinet on 3 October 2022 relating to funding for “Changing Places” toilets. |
| Annexes | Annexes to the QI report can found within the document pack for Cabinet on 3 October 2022 |
| Recommendation(s) | That Council resolves to allocate a capital budget of £162,500 in 2022/23 to install four accessible ‘Changing Places’ toilets across the district for people with severe disabilities following a successful bid for funding from the Department of Levelling Up Housing and Communities. |
| Corporate Priorities | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Delivering our services to the highest standards;● Responding to the challenges presented by the climate crisis;● Providing good quality social rented homes;● Presenting a Local Plan that’s green to the core;● Helping residents and communities access the support they need for good health and wellbeing; and● Supporting businesses to grow in a green, sustainable manner, and to provide high value jobs |
| Key Decision | NO |
| Exempt | NO |
| Consultees/ Consultation | None |



1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1. Cabinet on 21 September considered the Finance and Performance Report for 2022/23 Quarter 1 which included a recommendation to Council to allocate a capital budget of £162,500 in 2022/23 to install four accessible 'Changing Places' toilets across the district for people with severe disabilities following a successful bid for funding from the Department of Levelling Up Housing and Communities.
- 1.2. The following paragraph is the relevant extract from the Finance and Performance Report.

2. CHANGING PLACES FUNDING

- 2.1 The Council was awarded £162,500 by the Government to assist with installing 'Changing Places' Toilets in locations across the District. The toilets are larger and more accessible to people who cannot use standard accessible toilets. Toilets are to be installed at Cirencester Abbey Grounds, Birdland at Bourton on the Water, Cotswold Country Park and Beach and Cotswold Farm Park. Delivery for all four venues is expected in 2022/23 and officers are currently liaising with each venue to progress the project. This report includes a recommendation to Council that the 2022/23 Capital budget is adjusted to include a budget of £162,500 for this scheme.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 As stated earlier in the report, the Council was awarded a capital grant in relation to the Changing Places Fund. The Grant Determination Letter (2022-23) No 31/6222 sets out the purpose and conditions of the grant in terms of how it may be used, eligible expenditure, and monitoring and compliance arrangements. The funding is available over a three financial years (2021/22 through to 2023/24) and can only be used to install Changing Places Toilets at the shown in paragraph 2.1
- 3.2 The grant is capped at the allocation level (£162,500). No further grant would be made available should the cost of providing the Changing Places Toilets exceed the allocation.
- 3.3 As with many grants provided by Government, should the authority fail to comply with the conditions, the Secretary of State may require the repayment of the whole or any part of the grant monies paid.
- 3.4 There is a risk that if costs exceed the available funding the project may be delayed beyond the delivery terms set out in the grant conditions. Given the limited capital resources available, it is expected that officers monitor the financial performance of the scheme and mitigate any potential cost overrun to stay within the grant allocation. Members will be kept informed of the financial performance of the scheme through the regular Finance and Performance reports to Cabinet.



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4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1** All local authorities must, in exercising their functions, have due regard to their statutory obligations under the Public Section Equality Duty (Section 149, Equality Act 2010).
- 4.2** Cotswold District Council is responsible for ensuring that this expenditure is spent in accordance with all applicable legal requirements such as procurement legislation. Where the grant is passed to other organisations, that are not contracting organisations, we should ensure that value for money is achieved.

(END)