

**Meeting: Cabinet**

**Date: 23 March 2021**

**Wards Affected: All**

**Report Title:** Changing Places Policy

**Cabinet Member Contact Details:**

Jackie Stockman, Cabinet Member for Adults and Public Health

Mike Morey, Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Culture

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**1. Purpose of Report**

To propose that the Council leads on a partnership which develops and implements a Changing Places Toilets Policy in Torbay.

**2. Reason for Proposal and its benefits**

It is important that people with profound, complex and multiple disabilities and impairments are able to safely, comfortably and hygienically spend time away from their home. Changing Places Toilets support this by providing sanitary facilities, with extra space and equipment that can be used by people who require the assistance of one or two carers/companions. As they are designed for assisted use they should supplement, not replace, standard unisex accessible toilets. They are usually accessed via the RADAR key scheme.

**3. Recommendation(s) / Proposed Decision**

(i) That Torbay Council leads on a partnership which develops a Changing Places Policy, which incorporates:

- A commitment from Torbay Council to supporting the provision of Changing Places toilets in Torbay.
- An electronic map and guide as to where they can be found in Torbay.
- An aspirational blueprint and statement on where they would ideally be situated to gain full coverage
- Planning guidance on requirements for new buildings and guidance on what constitutes a Changing Place Toilet
- A shared commitment from public, private and voluntary sector partners to do everything they can to promote, create and maintain changing places toilets.

- A commitment to encourage the use of mobile Changing Places Toilets at major public events – these are available to lease.
- (ii) That the concept of the Changing Places Toilet is supported by Cabinet in principle and delegates the development and implementation of the policy to the Assistant Director of Adult Services in consultation with the Assistant Director of Planning, Housing and Climate Emergency.
- (iii) That Torbay Council, with partners, submits a bid to the newly announced Changing Places Fund to provide an additional changing places toilet in Torbay.

## **Appendices**

Appendix 1: Planning Guidance for Changing Places Toilets

## **Background Documents**

Information on Changing Places Toilets can be found on <http://www.changing-places.org/>

# Supporting Information

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The proposals in this report help us to deliver improve accessible changing facilities for people who need a lot of assistance. It will particularly support severely disabled people who are looking to holiday in the bay, and those residents who need these facilities.
- 1.2 Nationally, over a quarter of million people need access to Changing Places Toilets to enable them to get out and about and enjoy the day-to-day activities many of us take for granted.
- 1.3 The Changing Places Toilet on Paignton seafront is run by Healthmatic, on behalf of Torbay Council. Usage in 2020 has been affected by COVID 19 Lockdown – however it shows a clear spike in the summer months – which supports the view that disabled tourists and their carers are using the facility.

Healthmatic reports 2020 usage as:

Month (2020)	Users
January	1
February	2
March	2
April	0
May	2
June	0
July	14
August	8
September	5
October	3
November	1
December	1

## 2. Options under consideration

- 2.1 No other options have been considered, other than to not adopt this policy.

## 3. Financial Opportunities and Implications

- 3.1 There are currently no financial implications for The Council. However, potential future costs could include the building costs of any proposed future Changing Places Toilets. These would be presented and costed separately. At that point, there would also be maintenance and cleaning costs – if they are in Council Owned buildings.

Other resources will include Council officer capacity to develop web resources and some planning officer time for advice.

- 3.2 On 4 March 21, Government announced a new £30million fund to increase the number of Changing Places toilet facilities across existing buildings in London.

We propose that Torbay submits a bid to this fund as soon as details become available, delegated to the Director of Adult Services and Assistant Director of Planning, Housing and Climate Emergency to undertake with the wider changing places group.

#### **4. Legal Implications**

- 4.1 The Building Regulations, (Under Part M) have been amended and from January 2021 such that a considerable number of new buildings, or those subject to a change of use, commonly used by the public will be mandated to include a Changing places toilet. This will need to be factored in to the costs of the building, or refurbishment and must be reflected in our Changing Places Policy.

#### **5. Engagement and Consultation**

- 5.1 The 'Changing Places' group includes council members, interested members of the public, service providers for people with severe physical disabilities, planning and other officers. Any policy will be co-produced by this group.

#### **6. Purchasing or Hiring of Goods and/or Services**

- 6.1 We appointed Healthmatic on a partnership basis to fully manage all of our public toilets. This includes closures, new toilets and any requirements we have in relation to Changing Places, which was specifically covered within the tender documents. As our approved contractor you can only work with Healthmatic.

#### **7. Tackling Climate Change**

- 7.1 N/A

#### **8. Associated Risks**

- 8.1 N/A

## Equality Impacts

9.	Identify the potential positive and negative impacts on specific groups		
	Positive Impact	Negative Impact & Mitigating Actions	Neutral Impact
Older or younger people			This proposal does not affect this group
People with caring Responsibilities	This proposal is directly designed to positively affect disabled people and their carers		
People with a disability	This proposal is directly designed to positively affect disabled people		
Women or men			This proposal does not affect this group
People who are black or from a minority ethnic background (BME) <i>(Please note Gypsies / Roma are within this community)</i>			This proposal does not affect this group
Religion or belief (including lack of belief)			This proposal does not affect this group
People who are lesbian, gay or bisexual			This proposal does not affect this group
People who are transgendered			This proposal does not affect this group
People who are in a marriage or civil partnership			This proposal does not affect this group

	Women who are pregnant / on maternity leave			This proposal does not affect this group
	Socio-economic impacts (Including impact on child poverty issues and deprivation)			This proposal does not affect this group
	Public Health impacts (How will your proposal impact on the general health of the population of Torbay)			This proposal does not affect this group
<b>10..</b>	<b>Cumulative Council Impact</b> (proposed changes elsewhere which might worsen the impacts identified above)			
<b>11.</b>	<b>Cumulative Community Impacts</b> (proposed changes within the wider community (inc the public sector) which might worsen the impacts identified above)			