

South Lakeland District Council
Delegated Executive Decisions

Date of Proposed Decision: Thursday, 31 January 2019

Changing Places: Funding awards for feasibility studies

Portfolio:	Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder
Decision Maker:	Assistant Director Performance and Innovation
Report Author:	Simon Blyth – Principal Partnerships and Communities Officer
Wards:	Ambleside and Grasmere; Cartmel; Kendal Town; Windermere;
Forward Plan:	Not applicable

1.0 Expected Outcome

SLDC has committed £50,000 towards supporting communities in South Lakeland to commission feasibility studies and build “Changing Places” facilities in their localities for public use. The “Changing Places” Fund is for communities who want to provide toilet and changing facilities for people with disabilities and additional needs in South Lakeland.

2.0 Proposed Decision

2.1 It is proposed that the recommended funding allocations for feasibility studies to install a “Changing Places” toilet, as set out in paragraph 3.8 of the report, are approved.

3.0 Background and Proposals

3.1 A capital budget of £50,000 was created to help towards the cost of providing high quality toilet facilities in areas where they are most needed. Standard accessible toilets do not meet the needs of all people with a disability. People with profound and multiple learning disabilities, as well people with other physical disabilities such as spinal injuries, muscular dystrophy and multiple sclerosis often need extra equipment and space to allow them to use the toilets safely and comfortably. These needs are met by “Changing Places” toilets which provide the right equipment, enough space and a safe and clean environment for disabled users.

3.2 The council aims to raise local standards in line with “Changing Places” facilities. “Changing Places” are a national organisation which is campaigning for better facilities for people who cannot use standard accessible toilets.

3.3 The council invited community organisations to apply for a £10,000 fund for a feasibility study to install a “Changing Places” facility in a local, suitable venue. This report details the outcome of this process.

3.4 Following the award(s), and completion of the feasibility studies, eligible projects can then apply for a share of the remaining £40,000 to commence projects and support their bids for additional funding.

- 3.5 Estimated equipment costs for a “Changing Places” toilet are £12,000 - £15,000 including VAT. But including professional consultancy fees and potential building works a figure of £25,000 per installation is a conservative estimate.
- 3.6 According to the “Changing Places” website map the only current “Changing Places” facility in South Lakeland District is in the Kendal Leisure Centre. The spread of the facilities across the district should therefore be considered if assessing applications from the community.
- 3.7 SLDC received 8 bids for the fund. SLDC’s Principle Partnerships and Communities officer and Corporate Asset Manager assessed the bids against the criteria on the application forms:
- Appropriate location (key service centre, disabled parking)
 - Diversity of users of the facility
 - Minimum space requirements

Following this initial assessment the Principal Partnerships and Communities officer met with the Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing to discuss and agree the priority rating for the bids.

- 3.8 The following bids were considered to meet the requirements of the criteria and are recommended to receive awards of £2,500: Lakes Parish Council (Low Fold Carpark), Outsidein (Kendal Nether Hall), Millerground (Windermere) and Cartmel Township Initiative (Cartmel).
- 3.9 4 bids were considered unsuitable:
- Ravenglass and Eskdale railway (outside of SLDC area), Langdale Leisure Limited (not in or near a service centre), Selside Memorial Hall (remote location and not in or near a service centre), Coniston Parish Church (out of town location and not in or near a service centre).

4.0 Consultation

- 4.1 The fund opened for expressions of interest (EoI) on Monday 5 November 2018 (until 7 December) There were 2 press releases with the final one issued on 31 October, with social media and website information and an article in South Lakeland News. All members were notified and ward members consulted on the bids received.

5.0 Alternative Options

- 5.1 Not make any recommendations for funding. However the bids put forward in this report complied with the criteria and would be a benefit to those communities..

6.0 Links to Council Priorities

- 6.1 Culture and Wellbeing: Improving health and reducing health inequalities.

7.0 Implications

Financial, Resources and Procurement

- 7.1 A capital budget of £50,000 was created to distribute £10,000 funding for 18/19 and £40,000 to be carried over into the 19/20 financial year.

Human Resources

- 7.2 Not applicable.

Legal

- 7.3 Legal input will be required from Legal Services to prepare grant agreements for the recipients including appropriate terms and conditions. Receipt of the funding will be

subject to completion of, and compliance with, the terms and conditions of the grant agreement by grant recipient.

- 7.4 When entering into funding arrangements, it is necessary to consider whether State Aid rules apply. There are five key tests that must be taken into account when considering this issue. They are as follows:-
- Is the funding from State resources?
 - Is a selective competitive advantage given to the recipient?
 - Is the recipient an economic undertaking?
 - Does the aid distort, or have the potential to distort, competition?
 - Does the aid affect, or have the potential to affect, trade between Member States of the EU?

The grant agreements and offer letters will then need to be drafted so as to comply with the relevant regulations.

Health, Social, Economic and Environmental

- 7.4 Have you completed a Health, Social, Economic and Environmental Impact Assessment? Yes (attached at Appendix 1)
- 7.5 If you have not completed an Impact Assessment, please explain your reasons: N/A
- 7.6 Summary of health, social, economic and environmental impacts: Positive for “work environment”, “Access to Leisure”, “Access to culture”, “Access to Green spaces”.

Equality and Diversity

- 7.7 Have you completed an Equality Impact Analysis? No
- 7.8 If you have not completed an Impact Assessment, please explain your reasons: The feasibility studies will address equality considerations. Changing Places facilities take account of equality impacts.

Risk

Risk	Consequence	Controls required
Funding awarded to unviable projects	Funding does not provide a Changing Places facility.	Careful consideration of Feasibility studies.

Contact Officers

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Appendices Attached to this Report

Appendix No.	Name of Appendix
1	Health, Social, Economic and Environmental Impact Assessment

Background Documents Available

N/A

Tracking Information

Signed off by	Date sent
Legal Services	14/01/19
Section 151 Officer	14/01/19

Signed off by	Date sent
Monitoring Officer	14/01/19
SMT	14/01/19

Circulated to	Date sent
Assistant Director	14/01/19
Human Resources Manager	14/01/19
Communications Team	14/01/19
Leader	14/01/19
Committee Chairman	N/A
Portfolio Holder	14/01/19
Ward Councillor(s)	14/01/19
Committee	N/A
Executive (Cabinet)	N/A
Council	N/A

Note – Report authors must consult the relevant Portfolio Holder, members of the Senior Management Team, the Monitoring Officer, and any other interested parties before a decision can be taken. If any objections are received, they must be reported at the meeting before the decision is taken.

Signed by:-	Title:-