

Delegated Decision

7 September 2023

Sealing of Deed of Variation: Changing Places Toilet, Locomotion



Paul Darby, Corporate Director of Resources

Councillor Shield Cabinet Portfolio Holder Equality and Inclusion

Electoral division(s) affected:

Countywide

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To agree sealing of the Deed of Variation for the additional grant sum allocation of £25,000 with Locomotion, Shildon in relation to Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) funding for provision of a Changing Places Toilet (CPT).

Executive summary

- 2 In September 2021 the Council submitted an expression of interest (round 1) to the DLUHC for grant funding to provide Changing Places Toilets in existing buildings open to the public. Bids were provided from a number of respondents and the council submitted those that were assessed as most viable within the parameters of the funding criteria.
- 3 In March 2022 a total of £277,931 grant funding was awarded in round one by DLUHC for four projects including £67,500 for Locomotion, Shildon.
- 4 A Grant Funding Agreement was agreed with Locomotion for £67,500 and sealed by DCC on 15 February 2023.
- 5 Increasing costs are impacting the installation at Locomotion and following a successful Project Change Request to DLUHC in July, to request the re-allocation of funding from venues withdrawn from the Durham programme, we are now able to award Locomotion the additional sum of £25,000, to help address rising costs. This amount is based on current estimates to complete the installation and mainly comprises of work to prepare the floor for drainage (currently underfloor heating which needs to be isolated) and for the movement of electrical and fibre cables which have been identified during surveys.

- 6 The Deed of Variation for the additional £25,000 between the Council and Locomotion requires sealing by the County Council. This brings the total amount of grant funding awarded to Locomotion to £92,500.

Recommendation(s)

- 7 That the Corporate Director, Resources exercises delegated powers to authorise the sealing of the Deed of Variation (£25,000 additional Grant sum) with Locomotion in respect of DLUHC funding for the installation of a Changing Places Toilet.

Background

- 8 The Council were successful in securing £67,500 for Locomotion, Shildon, in funding round one for the installation of a changing places facilities. A Grant Funding Agreement, setting out the terms of the funding requirements for the installation of a changing places toilet facility, was agreed and sealed by the council on 15 February 2023 in respect of this amount for Locomotion.
- 9 Increasing costs are impacting the installation at Locomotion and following a successful Project Change Request to DLUHC in July, to request the re-allocation of funding from venues withdrawn from the Durham programme, we are now able to award Locomotion the additional sum of £25,000, to help address rising costs. This amount is based on current estimates to complete the installation and mainly comprises of work to prepare the floor for drainage (currently underfloor heating which needs to be isolated) and for the movement of electrical and fibre cables which have been identified during surveys.
- 10 This brings the total amount of grant funding awarded to Locomotion to £92,500.
- 11 The funding can only be used to meet the costs of installing a CPT facility and is required to be spent by 31 March 2024.
- 12 A Deed of variation for the additional £25k has been prepared by the Council's legal services, which Locomotion have signed.

Main implications

Funding

- 13 Grant funding has been awarded by DLUHC for £92,500 to fund the capital costs associated with the design, construction and completion of a CPT facility at Locomotion, Shildon.
- 14 Grant payments will be staggered as follows: 60% payment on execution of the grant funding agreement, 40% payment (or outstanding amount if less than 40%) on construction and submission of final report.
- 15 An initial payment of £40,500 has been made in May 2023.
- 16 Locomotion have committed £5k capital funding and in-kind revenue match funding for three years cleaning and maintenance of facility in line with grant requirements. Locomotion will continue to clean and maintain for the lifetime of the asset.

Conclusion

17 To agree to seal the Locomotion Changing Places Toilet Deed of Variation.

Background papers

- Resources Management Team Report, 21 September 2021: Changing Places Toilets Funding Bid
- Grant sealing brief for Director of Resources 14 February 2023

Other useful documents

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/changing-places-fund-allocation-of-funding-following-round-1-assessment>

Author(s)

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Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

The Corporate Director, Resources has delegated powers under Part 3, Table 1, paragraph 4(a) of the Constitution to incur, vary and withdraw expenditure including the making of contributions to outside bodies whose objects are complementary to the work of the Council. The Council has applied for the grant funding to fund Changing Places Toilets in public buildings and therefore it is appropriate that this grant is provided to Locomotion. The Council is accountable body for the grant funding and therefore a grant funding agreement, which will be prepared by the Council's legal services is required.

Finance

Revenue match funding identified by Locomotion, also £5k Capital funding.

Consultation

Disability Partnership were consulted prior to the submission of the Expression of Interest.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

The Changing Places Toilet installed as a result of the funding will contribute to our equality objectives and the Public Sector Equality Duty. Increased provision of Changing Places toilets will enable over quarter of a million disabled people (in the country) needing these facilities to get out and about and enjoy day to day activities that many take for granted, extending freedom, accessibility and dignity to all.

Climate Change

None

Human Rights

None

Crime and Disorder

None

Staffing

None

Accommodation

None

Risk

Appropriate administration of grant funding as per GFA required. Sign off of design required from Muscular Dystrophy UK before partner can proceed with installation will ensure that the CPT meets the required specifications/standards.

Procurement

Locomotion will undertake the procurement in line with DCC requirements as detailed in the GFA.