



<b>Subject:</b>	Changing Places Toilet Policy
<b>Date:</b>	13 December 2024
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Nora Largey, City Solicitor and Director of Legal and Civic Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Russell Connelly, Policy, Research and Compliance Officer Michael Johnston, Language Officer

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
<b>Is this report restricted?</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.</b>	
Insert number <input type="checkbox"/>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Information relating to any individual</li><li>2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual</li><li>3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)</li><li>4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter</li><li>5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained</li><li>6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction</li><li>7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime</li></ol>	
<b>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</b>	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Call-in</b>	
<b>Is the decision eligible for Call-in?</b>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	The purpose of this report is to provide Members with a final version of the draft Changing Places Toilet Policy for Belfast City Council.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• approve the draft Changing Places Toilet Policy (Appendix 1).</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	<p><b>Background</b></p> <p>A motion proposed by Councillor Ross McMullan calling for the introduction of a Changing Places Toilet Policy for Belfast City Council was referred to the SP&amp;R committee on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021. The committee adopted the motion and agreed that a report be brought to a subsequent meeting providing details on how it would be facilitated, resourced and managed. An update report was brought to this working group on 10th October 2023, which endorsed the draft Policy and recommended that it be brought back to SP&amp;R for approval. The SP&amp;R committee on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2023 approved the draft Changing Places Toilet Policy for public consultation. The public consultation began on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2024 and ended on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2024. The final draft Changing Places Toilet Policy was reviewed by the internal CPT Officer Working Group on 29<sup>th</sup> August 2024, by CMT on 25 September 2024 and by the Disability WG on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2024.</p>
3.2	<p><b>Public Consultation Report</b></p> <p>90 people responded to the Public Consultation and the findings were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 75.4% of the respondents agreed with the draft Changing Places Toilet Policy, with a smaller percentage (17.9%) disagreeing.</li> <li>• 66% of the respondents used the Parks at least once week.</li> <li>• 39.7% of the respondents have a disability.</li> <li>• 57.5% of the respondents were carers/dependents.</li> </ul> <p>Two written responses were received from Christine McClements, a parent of a disabled child and Tourism Northern Ireland.</p> <p>The written responses told us that the wording of the draft policy was not acceptable, for example, the Council should be committed, and not to strive to do and that there should be a required inclusion of CPT facilities at large events. There also should be a commitment to a rolling programme of addressing the CPT deficit and toilet needs identified.</p>

3.3	<p><b>Changing Places Toilet Policy</b></p> <p>Two main recommended amendments have been made to the final draft Policy. The final draft Policy now states that ‘the Council will commit to’, instead of ‘the Council will strive to’ provide as required a Changing Places facility in every large building.</p> <p>And also, the Council will make it a commitment for large events being organised by external organisers/promoters to provide CPT facilities. The Council will also make an effort to include Changing Places facilities or to make toilet provision more accessible when extending or extensively refurbishing an existing Council-owned building when it is reasonable to do so.</p>
3.4	<p><b>Other requests in relation to accessible toilets</b></p> <p>Members will note that the Council have received several requests recently in relation to improving physical access within council toilets, including requests from a number of campaigns in relation to Stoma Friendly toilets and also correspondence from the Crohn’s and Colitis UK campaign “Not Every Disability Is Visible”. These campaigns have each requested the introduction of disposable facilities with accompanying signage/posters promoting the various causes.</p> <p>It is proposed that in response to such requests, that officers advise that one of the first steps in the implementation of the CPT policy will be an audit of all accessible toilet provision across the Council estate. The purpose of this review would be to help identify any gaps and to quantify the level of resources which would be required to upgrade toilets and increase accessibility in order to make the toilets stoma, Crohns and colitis friendly.</p> <p><b>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</b></p>
3.5	<p>Whilst the commitments in the policy can be met within existing budgets it is likely that there will be financial implications in the roll out of Changing Places Facilities following the audit of accessible toilet provision in the Council’s estate.</p> <p><b>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Implications</b></p>
3.6	<p>An Equality Screening report and a Rural Need Impact Assessment have been completed.</p>
4.0	<p><b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b></p>
	<p>Appendix 1 - Final draft Changing Places Toilet Policy</p> <p>Appendix 2 – Report on the Consultation Conducted by Belfast City Council into the Draft Changing Places Toilet Policy</p>