



Subject:	Motion – A Changing Places Toilets Policy for Belfast City Council
Date:	24th September, 2021
Reporting Officer:	John Walsh, City Solicitor
Contact Officer:	Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To bring to Members' attention a motion calling for the introduction of a Changing Places Toilets Policy for Belfast City Council, which was referred to the Committee by the Council at its meeting on 1st September.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is requested to consider the motion and, if adopted, agree that a report on how this would be facilitated, resourced and managed be submitted to a future meeting.

3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p data-bbox="272 259 432 293"><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p data-bbox="272 327 1469 409">The Council, at its meeting on 1st September, considered the following motion which had been proposed by Councillor McMullan and seconded by Councillor Mulholland.</p> <p data-bbox="368 461 1374 562">“Changing Places are specialised toilet facilities which make public places and spaces accessible and inclusive for everyone, including children, adults and older people with complex needs or mobility issues.</p> <p data-bbox="368 595 1374 696">Where they are not provided, people are changed on a toilet floor, which is dangerous, unhygienic and undignified. Without them, people may be excluded entirely from certain public spaces.</p> <p data-bbox="368 730 1374 864">The Council notes its commitment in the Belfast Agenda to deliver an accessible City for all and its unanimous support for a COVID-19 response and recovery inclusive of disabled people, older people and carers in July, 2020.</p> <p data-bbox="368 898 1374 965">It further recognises the importance of Changing Places toilets in delivering our vision of an accessible and inclusive Belfast.</p> <p data-bbox="368 999 1374 1167">The Council notes that Building Regulations in Northern Ireland only require standard accessible toilets to be provided. Despite discussion to add Changing Places toilets to these regulations, there is currently no requirement for these facilities. As a result of this, Changing Places are not usually provided as a matter of course, even in new buildings.</p> <p data-bbox="368 1200 1374 1301">This Council will, therefore, develop a Changing Places toilet facility policy for Belfast City Council, with input from disabled people, older people and carers, to include the following:</p> <ul data-bbox="416 1335 1374 2051" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="416 1335 1374 1435">• The Council will commit to include a Changing Places facility in every new building in which the public will have access to its services and where public toilet provision is available for others. <li data-bbox="416 1469 1374 1637">• The Council will also make every effort to include Changing Places facilities when it extends or extensively refurbishes an existing Council-owned building. These schemes will be considered on a case-by-case basis at the early stages of feasibility/design to establish whether there is an opportunity to install a Changing Places. <li data-bbox="416 1671 1374 1771">• It will review where such facilities could be installed on the Council Estate (e.g. playgrounds) and put a plan in place to ensure that all inclusive playgrounds are equipped with such a facility. <li data-bbox="416 1805 1374 1939">• It will ensure that organisers of all large-scale public events (e.g. concerts, festivals, family days) with a license from the Council will have a fixed or portable Changing Places unit as part of the design of the event. <li data-bbox="416 1973 1374 2051">• Where the Council is organising a large public event, it should be considered if it can take place at a venue that already has a Changing

<p>3.2</p> <p>3.3</p> <p>3.4</p>	<p>Places facility and include a mobile/portable facility, if a permanent Changing Places toilet is not available.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For smaller public events, these should be advertised early and adequately communicated with the option to request access to a Changing Places facility whereupon they can be moved or have a mobile/portable facility provided.” <p>In accordance with Standing Order 13(f), the motion was referred without discussion to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.</p> <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>This motion, if agreed, may have potential equality, good relations and rural needs implications and should be subject to our normal screening process as appropriate.</p>
<p>4.0</p>	<p>Documents Attached</p>
	<p>None</p>