



Subject:	Department of Finance Consultation on Updated Building Control Advice on the fitting of Changing Places Toilets – Council Response
Date:	24th September, 2021
Reporting Officer:	John Walsh, City Solicitor / Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Sarah Williams, Governance and Compliance Manager Ian Harper, Building Control Manager

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	The purpose of this report is to submit for approval a response to the Department of Finance public consultation regarding updated building control advice on the fitting of Changing Places.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is asked to approve the Council response for submission to the Department of Finance.
3.0	Main Report
	<u>Background</u>
3.1	The Department of Finance opened a public consultation on 28th July on its intention to implement amendments to local Building Regulations technical guidance that would ensure new/relevant large buildings commonly used by the public are fitted with Changing Places

	<p>facilities. The Consultation Proposals for amendment of Technical Booklet Guidance to Part R (Access to and use of buildings) – Changing Places Toilet Provision are attached at Appendix 1. The consultation will close on 20th October, 2021.</p> <p>Changing Places are facilities whereby people with profound and multiple disabilities can avail of toilet and personal hygiene amenities, designed specifically for their needs. Providing these facilities offers those with such conditions, and their carers, the same potential to participate in community and economic activity.</p>
3.2	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>A draft response from the Council to the Department of Finance’s public consultation questionnaire regarding updated building control advice on the fitting of Changing Places Toilets is attached at Appendix 2.</p> <p>The questions are extracted from the online questionnaire which must be completed with the approved response which will be made publicly available, unless we request otherwise.</p> <p>The consultation documents questions are mainly technical in nature, and this is reflected in the response which has been prepared by officers from Building Control, Equality and Diversity, Physical Programme and City and Neighbourhood Services.</p>
3.3	<p>The draft consultation response welcomes the steps being taken to increase inclusion for Changing Places Toilets facilities service users, and their carers sets and that the Council would support a mandatory provision for Changing Places Toilets under Building Regulations. These changes will have a positive impact on increasing access and inclusion in Belfast and are part of welcome dialogue to address barriers which have excluded groups of people from exploring all our city has to offer.</p>
3.4	<p>Following the introduction of similar regulations in England and issues raised regarding the financial challenges to voluntarily including CPT in existing premises , in July of this year, a £30 million fund was launched to encourage the retrospective installation of these facilities in existing premises which did not come under the scope of the new statutory guidance. This funding is to be distributed through Local Authorities. Members may wish to, in addition to responding to this consultation, write a letter to the Minister requesting a similar fund for retrospective installations in existing premises.</p>
3.5	<p>Members will also be aware that a motion regarding Changing Places was referred to the Committee at September’s Council meeting. Following the service review of the Equality and</p>

	Diversity Unit, which is in the process of being implemented, it is planned that there will be more resources to be able to address issues related to disability.
3.6	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> No implications
3.7	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> The response is prepared in line with the Department of Finance's statutory Section 75 duties and the Council is responding as a named consultee.
4.0	Documents Attached
	<p>Appendix 1:</p> <p>Consultation Proposals for amendment of Technical Booklet Guidance to Part R (Access to and use of buildings) – Changing Places Toilet Provision</p> <p>Appendix 2: Draft Council response</p>