

ANGUS COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 30 APRIL 2019

CHANGING PLACES CONSULTATION

**1. INTRODUCTION**

This report informs the Committee of the intended responses to Scottish Government Building Standards Division consultation on Changing Places facilities.

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The Communities Committee at its meeting of 20 January 2014 approved Report No: 19/15, CHANGING PLACES (PAMIS) FACILITIES. This provided a background to Changing Places (CP) facilities and agreed the future consideration of CP toilets to build up a network of facilities as opportunities arise.
- 2.2 While a network of CP facilities has built up throughout Scotland, there is no current legislation requiring the provision within buildings.
- 2.3 Scottish Government Building Standards Division is currently consulting on proposed alterations to the Building Standards to include a minimum provision for CP facilities in specific building types. The consultation can be found at <https://consult.gov.scot/building-standards/changing-places-toilets> and closes 13 May 2019.

**3. CURRENT POSITION**

- 3.1 The proposed alterations to clause 3.12.13 of the Building Standards relate to a proposal to include Changing Places Facilities in larger buildings which the public have access to. Proposed new building types would include:-
- a shopping centre/mall with a gross floor area of 30,000 m<sup>2</sup> or more;
  - a single retail premises with a gross floor area of 10,000 m<sup>2</sup> or more;
  - a place of entertainment or place of assembly with a capacity of 2,000 persons or more;
  - a hospital;
  - a secondary school providing community facilities; or
  - a leisure centre or similar building containing a swimming pool.

It is also proposed that where a Changing Places Toilet is not already present within a building, one should be provided where a building in any of the above categories is created by conversion or where such a building is extended such that its gross floor area increases by 25% or more.

- 3.2 The consultation contains four Questions. Three questions require Yes/No responses with the opportunity to provide reasoning for responses. The fourth question requests any further information. The intended responses are listed in 3.3 below.
- 3.3 **Question 1** - Do you support the proposal to introduce a requirement for Changing Places Toilets in certain buildings through building regulations?

**Response:** YES

Please set out your reasons for this response: We strongly support the proposal to introduce a minimum requirement for Changing Places Toilets in certain buildings through the Building Standards. This will provide an increase to the network of CP facilities throughout Scotland.

**Question 2** – Do you agree with the proposed circumstances, listed in draft clause 3.12.3 within the consultation document, where a Changing Places toilet should be provided on the construction, conversion or extension of a building?

**Response:** YES

Please set out your reasons for this response: We agree with the proposed circumstances where there is the construction, conversion or extension of a building as noted in the proposed clause 3.12.3. All of these building types would benefit from these facilities, increasing the network of Changing Places facilities throughout Scotland.

**Question 3** – Are there any other situations where you consider building work should trigger a requirement to provide a Changing Places Toilet?

**Response:** No

Please set out your reasons for this response: The requirement for other buildings to include Changing Places Facilities should be considered on a case by case basis.

**Question 4** – Please use this question to provide any other commentary or observations you have on the proposal to make provision for Changing Places Toilets through building regulations.

**Response** As noted above we strongly support the proposal to introduce a minimum requirement for Changing Places Toilets within new and converted / extended buildings. We feel it is key to provide a variety and balance of facilities for these building types therefore it is positive that Changing Places Facilities are in excess, not in lieu, of other Accessible Toilets. We suggest the scope for 'a leisure centre or similar building containing a swimming pool' requires to be defined further. This would clearly identify where a Changing Places facility would be provided throughout the range of public and private leisure facilities which may be developed.

- 3.4 While any changes to the Building Standards would be welcomed by Angus Council the inclusion of CP facilities within any new council project will not only be set by these standards. The inclusion of a CP facility within any relevant project will continue to be considered beyond the minimum building types listed in 3.1 above.

#### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The inclusion of a CP facility will add additional capital costs to any project included, however this amount would be minimal within the overall construction costs relating to building types proposed under 3.1. Any council development of a building type under 3.1 would likely include a CP facility or facilities as part of the brief and the costs would be subsumed within the project budget. As such any change to the Building Standards would not carry a Financial Implication to the council.

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