

**CABINET
5 MARCH 2024**

CHANGING PLACES TOILET (DARLINGTON HIPPODROME) – RELEASE OF FUNDING

**Responsible Cabinet Members –
Councillor Libby McCollom, Local Services Portfolio
Councillor Mandy Porter, Resources Portfolio**

**Responsible Director – Dave Winstanley
Group Director of Services**

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To request Cabinet release funding for a Changing Places Toilet (CPT) within the Hippodrome.

Summary

2. A CPT is a fully equipped accessible facility with enough spaces for a disabled person, their wheelchair and up to two assistants.
3. The Council was successful in securing part funding from the government to provide two CPT facilities: one at the Hippodrome and one at Hopetown.
4. The cost of providing the CPT facilities at the Hippodrome is £89k. £40k from the capital allocation included in the 2024/25 Capital Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) and £49k from a combination of government funding and Hippodrome budget.
5. For Hopetown, the £30k contribution for the CPT will be used to support the provision as part of the capital project.

Recommendations

6. It is recommended that Cabinet: -
 - (a) release the £89k allocated to the CPT at the Hippodrome;
 - (b) release the £30k allocated to the CPT at Hopetown from government funding.

Reason

- 7. To enable the CPT facility to be provided within the Hippodrome.

Dave Winstanley
Group Director of Services

Background Papers

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

Ian Thompson: Extension 6628

S17 Crime and Disorder	There is no impact on crime and disorder as a result of this report.
Health and Well Being	There will be a positive impact for disabled people and their carers using the Hippodrome as a result of a new CPT.
Carbon Impact and Climate Change	There is no impact on climate change as a result of this report.
Diversity	The inclusion of a CPT ensures disabled people have accessible and equipped toilet facilities within the Hippodrome
Wards Affected	Park East
Groups Affected	Disabled people, their families, assistants and carers.
Budget and Policy Framework	There is no impact on the Council budget and policy framework.
Key Decision	No
Urgent Decision	No
Council Plan	Providing a CPT at the Hippodrome contributes to making the Theatre more accessible to a wider audience.
Efficiency	There is no impact on the Council's efficiency agenda.
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	There is no impact on looked after children or care leavers.

MAIN REPORT

Background

8. CPTs ensure that disabled visitors, their families and carers have access to appropriate, well-equipped toilet and changing facilities.
9. There are currently two CPT facilities in Darlington, at the Dolphin Centre and the Memorial Hospital. The funding release recommended in this report will increase the number of CPT facilities in the Borough and ensure that provision is included at venues that are key to our arts and culture offer.
10. The Council was successful in securing funding from the government to provide two CPT facilities: one at the Hippodrome and one at Hopetown. The funding received covers part of the cost with other contributions from Council resources for the Hippodrome and resources from the capital scheme for the facility at Hopetown.
11. The cost of providing the CPT facilities at the Hippodrome is £89k. £40k from the capital allocation included in the 2024/25 Capital MTFP and £49k from a combination of government funding and Hippodrome budget.
12. For Hopetown, the £30k contribution for the CPT will be used to support the provision as part of the capital project.
13. Subject to Member approval, work will start on the CPT at the Hippodrome within the next few months. The CPT facility at Hopetown is included as part of the capital project.