



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Regeneration and Sustainable Development Cabinet Board

Urgency Action Report of the Head of Property & Regeneration Simon Brennan

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected: Sandfields West

Aberavon Seafront Changing Place and Access Enhancements

Purpose of the Report

To seek Members' approval to delegate authority to the Head of Property and Regeneration to accept an offer of funding amounting to £120,000 from the Welsh Government's Brilliant Basics Scheme to deliver an accessible changing place, public toilet enhancements and access improvements at the Aberavon Seafront Aqua Splash.

Executive Summary

1. Member approval is sought to delegate authority to the Head of Property and Regeneration to accept an offer of funding of £120,000 and to deliver the Aberavon Changing Place project. The project will create an accessible changing place, refurbish the existing public toilet provision and deliver access improvements at the Aberavon Seafront Aqua Splash.
2. The report highlights that the project will create specific provision to support visitors with disabilities at Aberavon Seafront and bring the quality of the Aquasplash public toilet facilities in line with visitor expectations.

Background

3. In early 2020, officers submitted an expression of interest to Visit Wales' (Welsh Government) Brilliant Basics scheme which set out to deliver a changing place, improve public toilet provision and enhance access alongside the delivery of the new Aqua Splash facility on Aberavon Seafront.
4. Due to the onset of the Covid-19 Pandemic, the process of assessing Brilliant Basics applications was suspended by Visit Wales as the funds were redirected into Covid-19 financial support for businesses. However, in June 2021 Visit Wales made contact with Officers to note that a small budget had been allocated to Brilliant Basics this financial year (2021/2022) and the project was subsequently invited to proceed to full application stage.
5. In response to the application which was submitted, the Council has recently received an offer of funding from Visit Wales for £120,000 against a total project cost of £160,000 to deliver the above scheme by 31st March 2022.
6. The project will deliver;
 - A new designated, fully accessible changing place for use by disabled visitors which meets the specifications set by www.changing-places.org.
 - Refurbishment of existing male, female and disabled toilets at the Aqua Splash to bring these facilities in line with visitor expectations.
 - Access improvements to pathways leading to the improved public toilet provision/ Aqua Splash facility. The aim of this element of the project is to open up access pathways which are currently narrow and can become congested during busy periods.
7. Subject to member approval, Officers must now work quickly to seek planning permission, procure contractors and deliver the project by the funding deadline of 31st March 2022.
8. It is intended that once the works are complete, the public toilet provision and changing place at this location will not be subject to seasonal opening and will be open to the public all year. This will ensure that Aberavon Seafront remains a destination which is accessible to disabled visitors and their families all year round.

9. Officers are in the process of preparing a proposal for a Phase 2 of this project for delivery once all elements of the project have been completed. Phase 2, which will not be funded through the Brilliant Basics Scheme, will potentially enhance the façade of the existing Aqua Splash public toilet building and enhance the retail space within. As these proposals are developed a separate report will be presented to members for approval.

Project Funding

10. NPTCBC is in receipt of an offer letter from Visit Wales (Welsh Government) of £120,000 via the Brilliant Basics Scheme.
11. NPTCBC match funding against this project amounts to £40,000. This funding is allocated within the Capital Programme.

Financial Impacts

12. The Council has received an offer of funding amounting to £120,000 against the total project cost of £160,000. NPTCBC's match funding of £40,000 is allocated within the Council's Capital Programme.

Integrated Impact Assessment

13. A first stage impact assessment has been undertaken to assist the Council in discharging its legislative duties (under the Equality Act 2010, the Welsh Language Standards (No.1) Regulations 2015, the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Environment (Wales) Act 2016. The first stage assessment has indicated that a more in-depth assessment is not required.

Valleys Communities Impacts

14. Although there are no immediate impacts on the Valleys areas, residents of these areas, in particular those who require changing place facilities, will benefit from the proposed investment.

Workforce Impacts

15. None.

Legal Impacts

16. None

Risk Management Impacts

17. None.

Consultation

18. There is no requirement for external consultation on this matter.

Recommendations

19. Having had due regard to the first stage Integrated Impact Assessment it is recommended that Members note the purpose of the project and approve delivery by March 2022.

20. That Members delegate authority to the Head of Property and Regeneration to accept the Brilliant Basics grant offer letter.

Reasons for Proposed Decision

21. The proposed recommendations will allow the Council to enhance facilities at Aberavon Seafront to better cater for the needs of disabled visitors and their families all year round.

Implementation of Decision

22. For Immediate Implementation

Appendices

23. Appendix 1 - First Stage Integrated Impact Assessment.

List of Background Papers

N/A

Officer Contact

Simon Brennan – Head of Property and Regeneration

Tel: 01639 686370

Email: s.brennan@npt.gov.uk