

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET MEETING

6 November 2012

Report of the Strategic Director – Environmental Services

**CHARGING POLICY FOR MOBILE CHANGING PLACES TOILET
(PUBLIC HEALTH)**

(1) **Purpose of the Report** To consider options for a charging policy for the mobile Changing Places toilet to make it available at community events.

(2) **Information and Analysis** The Environmental Services Department was successful in securing funding from the Aiming High for Disabled Children grant for a Mobile Changing Places toilet which was purchased in March 2012.

Standard disabled persons' toilets do not meet the needs of all people with a disability or their carers. People with profound and multiple learning disabilities, as well as other serious impairments, such as spinal injuries, muscular dystrophy, multiple sclerosis or an acquired brain injury, often need extra facilities to allow them to use the toilets comfortably. Changing Places toilets are different to standard disabled persons' toilets with extra features and more space to meet these needs, and they enable people who would otherwise be unable to do so to take trips which involve being away from home for extended periods.

The mobile Changing Places toilet can only be accessed with a Radar key, which most disabled people or their carers have. Event organisers will also be left with a Radar key to accommodate any disabled people who need to use it but do not have a key with them. The toilet has a capacity of 25 uses before it requires specialist waste disposal. As it is a specialist facility provided in addition to ordinary disabled toilets, it is not likely that it would reach this capacity at most events. If it is likely to (for example at a large event specifically for disabled people), a waste disposal company would be arranged on-site during an event.

In order to ensure the Changing Places toilet is well used at events around the County, this report proposes criteria to enable it to be made available at charitable and community events free of charge, with the Council funding the

associated operational costs. Events that charge an entry fee would be charged 50% of the actual cost, and profit making events would be charged 75%, to encourage them to make their events more accessible for disabled people.

The Council is trying to get a pool of volunteers in place to drive the Changing Places toilet to events and set it up, to keep the costs as low as possible by not having to pay Council employees. Volunteers would need to be trained and have the appropriate driving licence. They would be paid their own mileage expenses to get to Ambergate to collect the Changing Places toilet.

Other considerations will need to be taken into account, such as the suitability of the site where the event is being held. For safety reasons, the Changing Places toilet needs to be located on firm level ground. A 26m by 3m space is required. Adequate security must be in place. The event organisers must have public liability insurance. The Council will cover any damage that may be incurred to the toilet. Event organisers will be responsible for ensuring all these considerations are in place and they must sign a formal agreement accepting responsibility for it, before the Changing Places toilet can be delivered. Bookings will be on a first come, first served basis. Event organisers will be required to credit the Council for providing the toilet and to make it clear in publicity for the event that the toilet is available.

The Council is keen that the mobile Changing Places toilet is used as much as possible to benefit the people of Derbyshire, giving disabled people more opportunities to enjoy events, and making family days out more accessible for their families and carers.

The proposed criteria for hiring the toilet are as follows:

Type of event	Charge
Large community or charitable events	No charge
Non-profit making small events	No charge
Large community events where an entry fee is paid by the public	£200 (50% of actual cost)
Large profit making events	£300 (75% of actual cost)

More detailed criteria will be established, in light of the first years' experience, to prioritise use at community events where high numbers of people are expected and to clarify the types of events listed above.

(3) Financial Considerations The capital cost of purchasing the mobile Changing Places toilet was covered by the Aiming High grant funding.

Chief Officers have agreed a pot of £10,000 per year to cover one-off set up costs, annual maintenance costs, the insurance excess in the event of damage and the operational costs of having the Changing Places toilet at all County Council events. This budget will be used as follows:

	2012/13 (£)	2013/14 (£)	2014/15 (£)	2015/16 (£)
One-off set up costs (£6,300 over 3 years)	2,100	2,100	2,100	0
Annual Maintenance	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
Annual Insurance Excess and Damage Reserve	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Use at 8 (minimum) County Council events	3,200	3,200	3,200	3,200
Total	9,800	9,800	9,800	7,700

The operational cost of having the mobile Changing Places toilet at an event is a minimum of £400 per event. This includes the fuel costs of transporting it to and from the event, cleaning before and after the event, medical and sanitary bin collection and cleaning, waste disposal, consumables, mileage expenses for volunteer drivers and administration time. The cost may be more if high usage is expected over a two day (or longer) event, specifically for disabled people, as it may need to be emptied and cleaned. This could add an additional £150 (weekday events) or £235 (weekend events) to the cost, making a total of £550/£635 per two day event. Private sector companies that provide mobile Changing Places toilets charge around £800 per day.

A budget of £10,000 would make it possible for the mobile Changing Places toilet to be available at around 25 community and charitable events per year in accordance with the criteria set out above. This would be funded from existing resources, with each Department being charged when the actual costs are known.

(4) **Equality and Diversity Considerations** This facility will improve access to events in Derbyshire for people with disabilities.

(5) **Property Considerations** There are no property considerations associated with this report.

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: legal, prevention of crime and disorder, human resources, environmental, health and transport considerations.

(6) **Key Decision** No.

(7) **Call-In** Is it required that call-in be waived in respect of the decisions proposed in the report? No.

(8) **Background Papers** Cabinet Reports dated 13 December 2011 and 27 January 2012. Officer contact details – Angela Glithero, extension 38043.

(9) **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION** That:

- 9.1 Cabinet approves a sum of £10,000 per year to enable the Mobile Changing Places toilet to be used at events around the County in accordance with the criteria in the report.
- 9.2 Usage is monitored closely during the first year and a review of the funding and criteria is undertaken in 12 months' time.
- 9.3 Consultation with user groups is undertaken over a three month period.

Ian Stephenson
Strategic Director – Environmental Services