

Title of Report: Strabane Community Library Changing Place Facility	Officer Presenting: Head of Culture Author: Arts & Culture Manager
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1 Purpose of Report/Recommendations

- 1.1 To update Members on the proposed installation of a changing place facility within Strabane Community Library.

2 Background

- 2.1 On the basis of a previous report (BC52/19) Members approved the allocation of awards sourced from the Department for Communities (DfC) to a number of access related infrastructure projects across the Council area. This approval included the award of £30,000 to Libraries NI for the installation of a Changing Place facility within Strabane Community Library. The library building was the most conducive location given its central location, its connection with the Alley Arts Centre and the availability of internal floor space suitable for conversion.
- 2.2 The proposed £30,000 award was the maximum value that DfC would countenance for any single project. Members had already approved two previous awards for the installation of Changing Place facilities within the District at the Millennium Forum and another within ASpace2 in Eglinton. Each of these projects were completed for under £30,000.

3 Key Issue

- 3.1 Strabane Community Library have completed their tendering process regarding the proposed Changing Place facility. Their preferred supplier has specified the costs for completion at £72,705. With the original letter of offer at £30,000 this creates a budget shortfall of £42,705.
- 3.2 Libraries NI have indicated that they will not make up the shortfall as capital finance for the year has already been allocated. DfC have confirmed that they will not increase their current contribution to this project.

- 3.3 It should be noted that a further award for £30,000 was secured through DfC for the installation of a Changing Place facility in Derg Valley Leisure Centre. This is a Council led project. Upon completion of a tender exercise the cost identified for the commissioning of this facility was approximately £50,000. This equates to £20,000 more than the resource received from DfC.

4 Financial, Equality, Legal, HR, Improvement, Rural Needs and other Implications

- 4.1 Council are in receipt of £60,000 in total from DfC for the creation of Changing Place facilities in Strabane and Castlederg. If these projects do not proceed Council Officers will be required to liaise with DfC to determine if the resource can be reallocated to another access related project or be returned.
- 4.2 Council Officers are in liaison with Libraries NI to explore any and all final options with regards to the proposed Changing Place facility within Strabane Community Library.

5 Recommendations

- 5.1 Members are asked to note the content of the report.

Background Papers

None.