

Meeting of:	Cabinet
Date of Meeting:	Thursday, 03 July 2025
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	Place Scrutiny Committee
Report Title:	Barry Island Changing Facilities and Upgrades
Purpose of Report:	To obtain approval to survey, design, procure and install changing facilities, signage, real-time digital water quality displays and all-terrain beach wheelchairs at Barry Island, and to amend the 2025/2026 Capital Programme.
Report Owner:	Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood and Building Services
Responsible Officer:	Director of Environment and Housing
Elected Member and Officer Consultation:	OM, Accountancy OM, Property Committee Reports OM, Regeneration Director of Corporate Resources Ward Members for Baruc Ward
Policy Framework:	This report is a matter for Executive decision by Cabinet
<p>Executive Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council has been awarded funding by Welsh Government from the Brilliant Basics Fund to improve facilities at Barry Island. This report seeks authority to undertake a procurement exercise to tender works contracts for: - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the survey, design, fabrication and erection of new changing room facilities at the Eastern Shelter, Barry Island. (b) the procurement and erection of digital real-time water quality displays at Whitmore Bay and Jackson's Bay. (c) installation of new signage. 	

(d) installation of new shower facilities.

(e) to procure all-terrain beach wheelchairs.

The project seeks to provide/improve facilities and the visitor experience at Barry Island.

- The report further seeks the necessary delegated authority to award the necessary works contract(s) to the preferred contractor(s) and to amend the 2025/26 Capital Programme accordingly.

Recommendations

1. That Cabinet notes and approves the works outlined in this report.
2. That delegated authority is granted to the Director of Environment and Housing to engage the Council's Project Management Unit to undertake all procurement arrangements and to oversee the delivery of the project, subject to the necessary funding being available.
3. That delegated authority is granted to the Director of Environment and Housing to submit a planning application(s) and building regulations application for the project by virtue of either Regulation 3 or Regulation 4 of The Town and Country Planning General Regulations 1992 (As Amended), if required.
4. That delegated authority is granted to the Director of Environment and Housing in liaison with the Head of Finance/Section 151 Officer and the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood and Building Services to accept the preferred tender(s) and approve the letting of the works contract(s) associated with the project, following the completion of the tender process.
5. That delegated authority to be granted to the Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal and Democratic Services / Operational Manager Legal Services to draft and execute the contract(s) for the award of a contract with the successful bidder where required.
6. That the 2025/26 Capital Programme is amended to include the Barry Island Changing Facilities and Upgrades, as detailed in section 5 of the report.

Reasons for Recommendations

1. To obtain endorsement from Cabinet for this project.
2. To obtain authority to allow delivery of the project by the Council's Economic Development and Project Management Unit.
3. To obtain authority to submit planning application(s) and building regulation application(s) for the project.
4. To obtain authority to let the works contract and for the project to be delivered in a timely manner.
5. To obtain authority for the Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal and Democratic Services / Operational Manager Legal Services to prepare, execute and complete all legal documentation required to facilitate the delivery of the project.
6. To amend the 2025/26 Capital Programme as detailed in Section 5 of this report.

1. Background

- 1.1 An application was submitted to the Welsh Government's Brilliant Basics fund to undertake visitor improvements at Barry Island.

- 1.2** The funding secured will be used to provide changing cubicles, improvements to shower facilities, new signage, digital water quality displays and new beach wheelchairs.
- 1.3** It is hoped that these facilities will improve the visitor experience and ensure that Barry Island's popularity remains.

2. Key Issues for Consideration

- 2.1** The Council's Shared Regulatory Services Team has been working with Natural Resources Wales (NRW) for several years to develop a real-time bathing water monitoring model for both Whitmore Bay and Jacksons Bay. The modelling will allow the Council to predict the water quality at these beaches on any given day based on the relevant water inputs into the sea catchment area and to show this water quality on digital signs at the beaches. This would give potential swimmers the opportunity to make an informed decision as to whether to enter the sea on any day.
- 2.2** Whilst most of the costs of this work is in the modelling and was funded by NRW and Welsh Government, the Council is required to provide the digital signage for the scheme and has no specific sums set aside for this, requiring the Council to use its limited asset renewal funding set aside each year for any major maintenance at our resorts.
- 2.3** Thankfully officers were successful in applying for the funding required for these signs as part of the Brilliant Basics funding application.
- 2.4** During the summer of 2024, pressure on existing facilities at Barry Island reached an all-time high. While there are two public toilet facilities located at either end of the promenade, neither includes integrated changing rooms or showers. As a result, visitors have expressed frustration over the lack of suitable changing facilities for themselves and their families. The absence of proper changing facilities and showers not only causes inconvenience to visitors and beach users but also leads to overcrowding and misuse of existing facilities, further exacerbating the situation.
- 2.5** The Brilliant Basics bid also included changing facilities and showers that will be located within the eastern shelter.
- 2.6** Barry Island has provided beach wheelchairs to visitors free of charge for several years, and they have been in extremely high demand. Unfortunately, due to wear and tear from frequent use, only one wheelchair remains, as the others have been decommissioned. Visitors have expressed disappointment at this lack of availability. To address this, part of the Brilliant Basics funding will ensure that the old models are replaced with four new all-terrain beach wheelchairs,

ensuring that all visitors, inclusive of all of mobility needs, can fully enjoy the beach experience.

- 2.7** The tendering exercise will be published via the Sell2Wales procurement portal, set up by Welsh Government, to assist public sector buyers to advertise and manage procurement exercises. The Sell2Wales portal website is fully auditable. Any such tenders will be open to all contractors.
- 2.8** Following evaluation, the preferred bidders will be identified and notified subject to the approval of the Director of Environment and Housing in consultation with the Head of Finance/Section 151 Officer and the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood and Building Services.

3. How do proposals evidence the Five Ways of Working and contribute to our Well-being Objectives?

- 3.1 Looking to the long term** - As a result of the works, the improvements will ensure that visitors continue to visit Barry Island and support the local tourism community.
- 3.2 Taking an integrated approach** – The proposed works are being undertaken after discussion with visitors of Barry Island in collaboration with the Councils Economic Development Team, Neighbourhood Services and Shared Regulatory Services Team.
- 3.3 Involving the population in decisions** – During the proposed works, the wider public will be kept informed of progress. In addition, the local ward Members will be kept informed.
- 3.4 Working in a collaborative way** - The contract terms will require the contractor to work collaboratively with Council officers to ensure the best interests of our visitors and value for money for the Council.
- 3.5 Understanding the root causes of issues and preventing them** - As a result of contracting competent contractors to carry out the works this should minimise the risk of poor workmanship, latent defects and ensure quality products are installed/works carried out/items purchased.
- 3.6** This proposal will meet the Corporate Plan: Objective 1: Creating great places to live, work and visit; 2: Respecting and celebrating the environment.

4. Climate Change and Nature Implications

- 4.1** This upgrade/improvement project will aim to secure local contractors and use sustainability sourced materials with longevity.
- 4.2** This project will also develop a long-term plan for the upkeep of the products/facilities to maximise their lifespan.

5. Resources and Legal Considerations

Financial

- 5.1** The total project cost is £292k. It is requested to include this scheme within the 2025/26 Capital Programme to be funded from £234k grant that The Council have secured from Welsh Government, and a £58k virement detailed below.
- 5.2** It is requested to vire £58k match funding from the Coastal Management budget to the Barry Island Changing Facilities and Upgrades scheme. Coastal Management is on the 2025/26 Capital Programme with a budget of £75k, and this budget is currently unallocated.
- 5.3** The process for tendering the service will be undertaken by staff within the Place Directorate, making appropriate use of corporate expertise and processes in areas such as Procurement, Finance and Human Resources.
- 5.4** There will be additional running costs which in the short term will be absorbed within existing resources. There is reshaping working being undertaken in this service area which will create additional capacity in the longer term.

Employment

- 5.4** All administration associated with the tendering and other statutory processes, will be undertaken by existing staff.

Legal (Including Equalities)

- 5.5** All works will be undertaken in accordance with Planning and Building Regulations, and the Construction Design and Management Regulation 2015.
- 5.6** There will be a requirement to enter into contract for the provision of the goods and services identified and any required procurement exercise for the goods and services will as appropriate be conducted under the Procurement Act 2023 and in accordance with the Procurement (Wales) Regulations 2024.

6. Background Papers

- 6.1** None.