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Supporting Our Community

**PRESS RELEASE For immediate release**

## **CROWN COURT PUBLIC TOILETS RECEIVE GOVERNMENT FUNDING**

Godalming Town Council is pleased to announce that it has been awarded £194,486 from the Department for Leveling Up, Housing & Communities (DLUHC) to safeguard the future of the Crown Court Public Toilets in Godalming.

In 2018, to save them from permanent closure, the Town Council took over from Waverley Borough the running of what is a poorly designed and unwelcoming facility, which has continued to pose ongoing challenges to be able keep them operating. In exploring ways to seek funds to safeguard the future of Godalming's public toilets, the Town Council took the opportunity, provided by a change in eligibility criteria, to submit a funding bid to the Community Ownership Fund (COF) and was informed on 25 September that it was one of the first Town Councils to have received a COF grant.

Cllr Paul Follows, Leader of Godalming Town Council said "Like so many other councils, Godalming has to manage its finances carefully to meet the challenges to deliver the services that are important to the community. So I am delighted that Godalming Town Council, on behalf of residents, was able to make a compelling, and ultimately successful case to government for 80% of the costs required to provide modern, hygienic, public toilets, which will include disability-accessible and dedicated baby-changing facilities. Improved facilities will enhance the town centre as a welcoming, safe environment for all. With the 20% match funding required from the Council to come from contributions made by developers, the cost of this important project will no longer fall to Godalming council taxpayers.

Having supported the Council's bid to the COF, on hearing the news of its success Jeremy Hunt MP said "I'm delighted that Godalming's Crown Court public toilets have been saved with the successful award of a Community Ownership Fund grant. The Government's Department of Levelling Up, Housing & Communities has awarded nearly £200k for the project which will be used to renovate the ageing toilets which have been a real challenge to maintain and keep operational over the years. This grant will transform the toilets and provide essential facilities for residents and visitors to Godalming."

Ends

### Editors' Notes

The Community Ownership Fund has awarded £49.3 million to 195 projects across the UK, with £35 million allocated to 131 projects across England, £6.2 million allocated to 28 projects in Scotland, £4 million to 18 projects in Wales and £4.1 million to 18 projects in Northern Ireland. The full list of successful bids so far can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/community-ownership-fund-first-round-successful-bidders>

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For more information on this release or images, please contact: Town Clerk

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