

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

3 OCTOBER 2017

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR COMMUNITIES

CONSULTATION ON PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

1. Purpose of Report.

- 1.1 To seek Cabinet approval to formally enter into public consultation on the future of Council owned and operated public conveniences across the County Borough.

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Objectives/Other Corporate Priorities

- 2.1 One of the outcomes of the 2016-2020 Corporate Plan (reviewed 2017-2018) is that Bridgend County Borough is a great place to live, work and visit; and that 'our communities are clean and safe.'

- 2.2 As part of the Councils approved Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) potential savings have been identified against the budget for the provision of Council owned and operated public toilets as a part of the Communities Directorate's response to balancing its financial allocation with the level of service provision while taking into consideration the priorities detailed in the Corporate Plan under

- Priority 2 – (helping people become more self-reliant);
- Priority 3 – (smarter use of resources)

3. Background.

- 3.1 As part of the Council's response to cuts to public service funding, measures to achieve savings against the provision of public toilets across the County Borough have been included in the Council's MTFS.

- 3.2 In order to achieve these savings it will be necessary to review the provision and operation of toilet facilities currently operated by the Council.

- 3.3 In future it will also be necessary to review the provision of Public Conveniences following the enactment of The Public Health (Wales) Act 2017 – Local Toilets Strategies, Part 8 of the Public Health (Wales) Act requires local authorities in Wales to prepare and publish local toilets strategies, under regulations yet to be published by the Welsh Government.

4. Current Situation

- 4.1 Public toilet locations and their opening hours are set of for Cabinet in the table below. Currently the Council provides six public toilets, one in Maesteg, two in Bridgend, and Three in Porthcawl.

Public Toilet Locations and Opening Hours

Location	Opening/closing
Maesteg Bus Station	All Year 09.00 – 18.00 Mon-Sat Sun - Closed
Bus station Bridgend	All Year 08.30 – 19.00 Mon – Sat 08.30 – 17.30 Sun
Cheapside Bridgend	09.00 – 18.30 Mon – Sat 08.00 – 17.00 Sun
John Street Porthcawl	Winter 09.00 – 18.00 Mon – Sat 10.00 – 18.00 Sun Summer 09.00 – 20.00 Mon – Fri 09.00 – 18.00 Sat - Sun
Griffin Park Porthcawl	Winter 09.30 – 17.30 Mon – Sat 10.30 – 17.30 Sun Summer 09.30 – 19.30 Mon – Fri 09.30 – 17.30 Sat - Sun
Rest Bay, Porthcawl	Winter 08.30 – 15.30 Summer 08.30 – 18.00

- 4.2 In seeking to inform any future decision that Cabinet may take on the provision of public toilets across the County Borough, approval is sought to enter into a formal public consultation. This consultation will seek the views of the public, Town and Community Councils, citizen's panel, disabled groups and organisations along with any other identified groups or individuals who may have a view on this matter.
- 4.3 The outcome of this consultation will form part of a future report to be presented to Cabinet on measures to achieve the potential savings identified in the MTFs of £150,000 for financial year 20018/19
- 4.4 Members will be aware that the transfer of public toilets to Town and Community Councils forms part of the Councils current objective under its Community Asset Transfer (CAT) programme. This work remains a priority and discussions with Town and Community Councils on the transfer of public toilets are ongoing and will continue while this work is undertaken.
- 4.5 The consultation will seek the public's views on the provision of public toilets by the Council where transfer under the Councils CAT programme has not been possible. This may include but not be limited to options for pay as you use, where financially viable; replacement of public conveniences with the Councils comfort scheme, where businesses make their facilities available to non paying customers and closure of the facilities.

5. Effect upon Policy Framework & Procedure Rules.

5.1 This report has no effect on Policy Framework and Procedural Rules.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

6.1 The request made in this report is part of the Councils commitment and duty under the provisions of the Equality Act 2010 to consult with appropriate groups and individuals on proposed changes to service provision. A full EIA will be conducted as part of any proposals with regard to public conveniences that emerge as a result of the consultation.

7. Financial Implications.

7.1 There are no significant additional costs associated with this request. Any costs attached to the consultation process will be met within the current budgets/staffing resources of Street Works.

8. Recommendations.

8.1 Cabinet is recommended to approve that a consultation exercise be conducted as described in 4.2 above and that the outcome of the same will be reported back to Cabinet in due course.

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