

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

21st MAY 2019

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR COMMUNITIES

LOCAL TOILET STRATEGY

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To seek Cabinet approval to publish a Local Toilet Strategy in line with Part 8 of the **Public Health (Wales) Act 2017: Provision of Toilets**.

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Objectives/Other Corporate Priorities

- 2.1 This report is prepared and takes into consideration the following Corporate Improvement Objectives as outlined in the Council's Corporate Plan:

- **Helping people to become more self-reliant.** Individuals and families that will be more independent and less reliant on traditional Council services.
- **Smarter use of resources.** Ensuring that all its resources (financial, physical, human and technology) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the development of resources throughout the community that can help deliver the Council's priorities.

3. Background

- 3.1 Council maintained public conveniences have undergone substantial budgetary cuts in the past few years. In order to accommodate these savings, facilities have been closed or transferred to allow them to be retained in some format. In order to achieve financial savings, the Council carried out public consultations in 2007, 2015 and 2018, which assessed the public's views on toilet provision.
- 3.2 The Council's 'Comfort Scheme' was re-introduced in 2015 to counteract the effects of public convenience closures but has not been widely utilised by local businesses.
- 3.3 In 2018, Welsh Government published The Provision of Toilets in Wales: Local Toilets Strategies which places a duty on Local Authorities to publish a local toilets strategy for its area by 31st May 2019. The duty does not in itself require a local authority to provide and maintain public toilets themselves, but they are required to take a strategic view across their area on how these facilities can be provided and accessed by their local population. This is intended to help address the current challenges regarding the provision of public toilet facilities within communities, which have often relied upon traditional stand-alone facilities that have been in decline in recent years, due to Local Authority financial pressures.

4. Current Situation

- 4.1 A draft document was circulated to all partners and businesses who currently make their toilets available for public use and their facility details were provided to Welsh Government in March 2019.
- 4.2 The final Local Toilet Strategy is shown in **Appendix A** and includes all information on collaborating partners and facilities. A map indicates the distribution of these public toilets and tables show what amenities are available and opening hours.
- 4.3 The document requires regular review at times specified within the document.

5. Effect upon Policy Framework & Procedure Rules.

- 5.1 There will be no direct effect on the Policy Framework & Procedure Rules.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

- 6.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out and no groups with protected characteristics identified by the Equalities legislation 2010 are considered to be adversely affected by the contents of this report.

7. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 Implications

- 7.1 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 Assessment has been completed and is detailed in **Appendix B**. A summary of the implications from the assessment relating to the five ways of working is as follows:

- **Long-term** - Securing the future provision of toilet facilities requires a strategic approach that maximises available provision across the public and private sector. The Council's management of public conveniences isn't sustainable within the current financial climate and a Local Toilet Strategy identifies other available facilities. This document will be regularly reviewed and updated
- **Integration** - Modern toilet provision provide hygienic facilities for residents and visitors and improves the experience of visiting towns, communities and tourist attractions.
- **Collaboration** - The management responsibilities for some public conveniences has passed to Town Councils and Awen Cultural Trust under lease arrangements. The Council continues to work with some local businesses to provide a Comfort Scheme which allows the public to access toilets in private properties.
- **Involvement** - The Local Toilet Strategy will be regularly reviewed and requires the Council to engage with the public, Community and Town Councils and interested bodies to encourage greater access to toilet provisions within the Council's boundaries.

8. Financial Implications

- 8.1 Welsh Government issued a grant of £17,000 to the Council in March 2019, to support the Council in producing the basic data on participating locations.
- 8.2 There will be no financial implications as a result of the publication of a local Toilets Strategy but the Council will continue to offer a maximum grant of £500 under the Council's 'Comfort Scheme', to assist individual businesses in opening their toilets to the public.

9. Recommendation

- 9.1 Cabinet is recommended to approve:
- i. the Local Toilet Strategy in line with the Public Health (Wales) Act 2017: Provision of Toilets
 - ii. regular reviews as detailed within the report

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2nd May 2019

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Background papers:

The Provision of Toilets in Wales: Local Toilets Strategies June 2018 (Welsh Government)
Cabinet Report November 2014 – Consultation on Public Conveniences
Cabinet Report June 2015 – Review of Public Conveniences & Levels of Service
Cabinet Report April 2016 – Supplementary Report
Cabinet Report June 2017 - Review of Public Conveniences & Levels of Service
Cabinet Report June 2018 – Provision of Public Conveniences