

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

10 MAY 2016

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR COMMUNITIES

REVIEW OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCES AND LEVELS OF SERVICE

1.0 Purpose of Report.

- 1.1 To set out for consideration by Cabinet the proposed procedures and charging structure to be adopted under the Council's Comfort Scheme.
- 1.2 To set out for Cabinet, revisions to the opening and closing times of public conveniences in the County Borough.

2.0 Connection to Corporate Improvement Objectives/Other Corporate Priorities

- 2.1 This review links to the key outcomes and themes identified in the Corporate Plan: -

- **People in Bridgend County Borough are healthier.** This would mean our communities are stronger, cohesive, and sustainable, with appropriate access to services for all.
- **People in Bridgend County Borough benefit from a stronger and more prosperous economy.** This would mean our communities are sustainable with the appropriate infrastructure to support business growth and thriving town centres.
- **Bridgend County Borough is a great place to live, work and visit.** This would mean that people take pride in the county, their communities, the heritage and natural environment and our communities are clean and safe and have a good range of leisure, tourism, and cultural activities.

- 2.2 The proposals detailed in this report are consistent with the Communities Directorate response to reconciling the current financial settlement, with the levels of service provision in accordance with the improvement priorities detailed in the Corporate Plan under Priority 6 – (Working Together to Make Best Use of Our Resources)

3.0 Background.

- 3.1 To support the Review of Public Conveniences. Cabinet decided on the 16th June 2015 to reinstate grants to businesses under the Council's Comfort Scheme, who agree to make their toilets available for use by non-paying customers.
- 3.2 In the report to Cabinet by the Corporate Director Communities on the Review of Public Conveniences and Levels of Service dated 16th June 2015, Cabinet were minded to approve changes, subject to staff consultation, to the provision and

manning levels of the public conveniences across the Borough. Following this consultation exercise changes have now been introduced to the staffing arrangements and with the summer upon us it is now timely to consider the opening and closing times of the facilities and to align these with the results of the staff consultation.

4.0 Current situation

Comfort Scheme

- 4.1 Previously, under the Welsh Government funded 'Comfort Scheme' businesses were offered up to £500 for making their toilet facilities available for use by the public. The level of the grant was depending on opening times and standards of the facilities. Under the arrangements outlined below it is proposed that a similar arrangement is introduced to assess an applicant's suitability for inclusion on the scheme.
- 4.2 The Council had previously adopted approximately 17 – 20 active outlets under the Comfort Scheme but it is anticipated that in the future the Scheme will more closely monitored and that numbers reflect the local need for the service, taking into account potential use.
- 4.3 This Scheme will be Borough wide and provide clean, safe and accessible public toilets, in convenient locations for residents and visitors to the Borough. Originally, the vast majority of outlets were public houses and hotels, because of their long hours of availability and existing range of facilities. The Scheme allows the public to use the toilet facilities within these businesses during their opening hours and without any need to make a purchase.
- 4.4 The proximity to existing public conveniences will determine the need for developing the Scheme in any particular area and the Council will invite applications and consider them against a list of specific criteria. Businesses are admitted to the Scheme following an initial inspection where they will have to demonstrate that their facilities are at a similar standard to the Council's public conveniences, in terms of facilities, state of repair and cleanliness. Payment will be made in two stages, at the beginning of the agreement and following a re-inspection after 6 months. Participating premises will display a sticker in their window advertising the service and the Council will include details of them on its web site.
- 4.5 It is proposed that the level of grant and the provision of the service will be determined by the following criteria: -

Table 1 Scoring Criteria

Criteria	Points Score
The range, number and quality of publicly accessible toilet facilities in the local area	0 to 10
Provision of soap, mirrors and other necessities	0 to 10
The weekly hours of opening	0 to 10
Suitability for disabled users and baby changing	0 to 10
Maintenance of fabric and cleanliness	0 to 10
Location of the premises in relation to the main community	0 to 10

thoroughfares	
Total Score	

Up to 10 points will be allocated for each of the above criteria based on visual inspection of the premises, to give a maximum score of 60 points. The provision and the level of the grant will be determined by the number of points accrued as set out below.

Table 2 Value of Grant

No of Points	Award £
0 to 35	Premises unsuitable for grant
35 to 40	300
40 to 45	400
45 to 60	500

- 4.6 Cabinet is asked to consider the detail outlined above and to recommend the adoption of the procedure described for assessing a business's suitability to participate in the scheme as set out in **Table 1** and the level of grant to be awarded in accordance with the points score detailed in **Table 2**

Public Toilet Opening Times

- 4.7 In accordance with the advice to Cabinet in the report of the Corporate Director Communities on the Review of Public Conveniences and Levels of Service dated 16th June, a staffing consultation was completed in August 2015 where details of the manning levels and the hours of work were considered and agreed with the toilet attendant staff and Unions.
- 4.8 Following this review it is now appropriate for Cabinet to consider some minor revisions to the opening and closing times of the public toilets to bring these into line with the results of the staff consultation and the revised manning levels and working patterns that were agreed. The proposed times for opening and closing public conveniences are set out in the **Appendix** for consideration by Cabinet:

5.0 Effect upon Policy Framework & Procedure Rules.

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

6.0 Equality Impact Assessment

- 6.1 Whilst an equality impact assessment has not been undertaken on this proposal, there are no specific issues relating to this application.

7.0 Financial Implications.

- 7.1 Savings to the service revenue budget were previously recognised in the original report and will be fully integrated into the budget for 2016/17.

8.0 Recommendations.

That Cabinet approve:

- 8.1 the revised Public Convenience opening hours as set out in the **Appendix**
- 8.2 the re-introduction of the local 'Comfort Scheme' on the basis set out in the report.
- 8.3 the provision of a grant up to maximum of £500 in any one year to a business making their toilets available for public use.
- 8.3 the value of the grant to be set in accordance with Section 4.5 of this report as detailed in Table 1 and Table 2.

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Background documents

Cabinet Report - Corporate Director Communities on the Review of Public Conveniences and Levels of Service dated 16th June 2015

Appendix - Summary of Proposed Opening and Closing Times

Location	Proposal Set Out in 15 th June Report	Future Proposed Opening / Closing Times
Maesteg Bus Station	Mon – Sat 09.00 – 18.00 Sun – Closed	Mon – Sat 09.00 – 18.00 Sun – Closed
Bus Station, Bridgend	Mon-Sat 08.30 – 19.00 Sun 14.30 – 17.30	Mon-Sat 08.30 – 19.00 Sun 08.30 – 17.30
Cheapside, Bridgend	Mon – Sun 08.00 – 18.00	Mon – Sat 09.00 – 18.30 Sun 08.30 – 17.00
John Street, Porthcawl	Winter: Mon - Sun 09.00 – 18.00 Summer: Mon – Sun 9.00 – 20.00	Winter: Mon – Sat 09.00 – 18.00 Sun 10.00 – 18.00 Summer: Mon – Fri 09.00 – 20.00 Sat – Sun 09.00 – 18.00
Griffin Park, Porthcawl	Winter: Mon – Sun 09.30 – 17.30 Summer: Mon – Fri 09.30 – 19.30	Winter: Mon – Sat 09.30 – 17.30 Sun 10.30 – 17.30 Summer: Mon – Fri 09.30 – 19.30 Sat – Sun 09.30 – 17.30
Rest Bay, Porthcawl	Winter: Mon – Sun 08.00 – 15.30 Summer: Mon – Sun 08.00 – 20.00	Winter: Mon – Sun 08.30 – 15.30 Summer: Mon – Sun 08.30 – 18.00