

## POLICY REVIEW AND DEVELOPMENT PANEL REPORT

REPORT TO:	Environment and Community		
DATE:	23 <sup>rd</sup> November 2016		
TITLE:	Public Toilet Review		
TYPE OF REPORT:	Development		
PORTFOLIO(S):	Housing and Community		
REPORT AUTHOR:	Nathan Johnson/John Hussey		
OPEN		WILL BE SUBJECT TO A FUTURE CABINET REPORT:	Yes/No Dependent on Panel views

### **REPORT SUMMARY/COVER PAGE**

PURPOSE OF REPORT/SUMMARY:
To present the findings of the Informal Working Group – Public Toilets, which had been established by the Environment and Community Panel with the remit of reviewing the provision of public toilets in the Borough and consider future options.
KEY ISSUES:
The Council operates 22 public conveniences across the Council’s area. The Council has a budget gap to meet in the next five years and the cost of public toilets is £374,000 per annum.
OPTIONS CONSIDERED:
The Informal Working Group met on three separate occasions and discussed a variety of options such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain current arrangements.</li> <li>• Close or transfer of costs.</li> <li>• Charging for toilets.</li> <li>• Leasing opportunities.</li> </ul>
RECOMMENDATIONS:
The Panel are requested to consider the recommendations made by the Informal Working Group and make any appropriate recommendations to Cabinet and refer any relevant matters to the King’s Lynn Area Consultative Committee.
REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:
Maintain the service provision but contribute to Council budget savings targets.

### **REPORT DETAIL**

#### **1. Background**

- 1.1 The borough council operates 22 public conveniences across the council area. A large number of these toilets are located in or close to borough council car parks, transport hubs or resort / tourism locations that are operated in the main by the borough council.
- 1.2 The provision of public conveniences is not a statutory responsibility for the borough council.
- 1.3 Further information and background details were provided via the report to the Environment and Community Panel for the meeting held on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> August 2016.
- 1.4 Following this meeting, the Chair proposed that an Informal Working Group be established to look at the public toilets review.
- 1.5 The Executive Director suggested that the Informal Working Group met two possibly three occasions and report back to the Environment and Community Panel at their meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> November.
- 1.6 The Terms of Reference for the Informal Working Group was agreed as follows: "To review the provision of public toilets in the Borough and consider future options."
- 1.7 The Informal Working Group to comprise of the following Members: Councillors Mrs Bower, Bubb, Mrs S Collop, Crofts and A Tyler.
- 1.8 The Informal Working Group met three occasions (6<sup>th</sup> September, 5<sup>th</sup> October and 9<sup>th</sup> November 2016) to discuss the various options available and make proposals for the panel to consider.

## **2. Timetable**

- 2.1 Due to the need for consultation / negotiation with the various stakeholders, particularly Parish Councils and the King's Lynn Area Consultative Committee (internal and external), it is envisaged that most proposed changes are implement with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018.

## **3. Working Party**

- 3.1 The notes from the Working Party meetings can be viewed on the Intranet or via the Mod Gov App.

## **4. Proposals**

- 4.1 Public Conveniences located in or close to borough council car parks, transport hubs or resort / tourism locations:

### **Northern Area:**

- Heacham South Beach.
- Heacham South Beach.
- Seagate.
- Central Promenade.

- Hunstanton Bus Station.
- Esplanade.
- Bowling green.
- Cliff Top.

**Central Area:**

- Kings Lynn Bus Station.
- Baker Lane.
- St James Multi-Storey Car Park.

Panel and Portfolio Holder to give consideration to the potential of leasing the management and operation of the following public conveniences to a private contractor on the basis that the contractor would be able to introduce turnstiles and charge for admission:

- Central Promenade.
- Seagate.

**4.2 Public Conveniences located in parished areas:**

4.2.1 Discussions to take place with Parish Councils and local stakeholders with regard to the requirement for and the funding of the toilets below. Options are for Parish Councils to take on operation, toilets can be closed or remain open and charged as a local Special Expense.

- Heacham Village
- Old Hunstanton
- Holme
- Burnham Market
- Memorial Playing Field
- Wales Court
- The Howdale

4.2.2 Officers to investigate the Capital costs to refurbish Wales Court toilet block.

**4.3 Public Conveniences located in unparished areas:**

**Central Area:**

- Ferry Street.
- Walks (Broadwalk).
- Walks (Management Building).
- Gaywood.

**Recommendations:**

**Central Area:**

- Ferry Street: 3 month trial of closing Monday – Friday signpost users to Corn Exchange, open at weekends and events.
- Walks (Broadwalk): KLACC to give consideration to charging as a Special Expense
- Walks (Management Building): As above.
- Gaywood: 6 month trial of complete close down, Library willing to allow public use of the toilet facilities within the facility.

## **5. Financial Implications**

- 5.1 The financial implications of the proposals will be dependent on arrangements reached for each toilet block. Detailed arrangements would be reported in Autumn 2017 for inclusion in the 2018/19 financial year and on an ongoing basis.
- 5.2 Overall savings are expected to be in the region of £40-60,000 per annum.

## **6. Panel**

- 6.1 The Panel are asked to consider the report.