

POLICY REVIEW AND DEVELOPMENT PANEL REPORT

REPORT TO:	Environment and Community Panel		
DATE:			
TITLE:	Public Convenience Review		
TYPE OF REPORT:	Development		
PORTFOLIO(S):	Housing & Community		
REPORT AUTHOR:	Nathan Johnson / John Hussey		
OPEN		WILL BE SUBJECT TO A FUTURE CABINET REPORT:	Yes

REPORT SUMMARY/COVER PAGE

PURPOSE OF REPORT/SUMMARY:
<p>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.</p>
KEY ISSUES:
<p>The Council operates 22 public conveniences across the borough. The Council has a budget gap to meet in the next five years and the cost of public toilets is £374,000 per annum.</p>
OPTIONS CONSIDERED:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maintain current arrangements.• Close or transfer of costs/responsibility for operation of toilets.
RECOMMENDATIONS:
<p>The Panel are requested to consider the recommendations made by the Informal Working Group and make any appropriate recommendations to Cabinet</p>
REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:
<p>Maintain the service provision but contribute to Council budget savings targets.</p>

REPORT DETAIL

1. Background

- 1.1 At its meeting on 31st August 2016 the Panel discussed provision of public toilets and agreed to form a task group to review arrangements. The task group reported back on 23rd November 2016 - Copy of report attached
- 1.2 Following from the meeting officers have progressed with the Panel recommendations.
- 1.3 Consultation has taken place with relevant parishes and the King's Lynn Area Consultative Committee. It is fair to say that in the main those consulted would prefer for all toilets to be kept open and the cost to be met by the Council. However, as was previously identified, unless toilets have a strategic requirement, for example, serving a car park or transport hub they should be charged locally.
- 1.4 The attached matrix deals with progress and proposals to date for the panel comments

2. Proposal

- 2.1 Public conveniences located in or close to borough council car parks, transport hubs or resort / tourism locations, to remain open and be maintained as current arrangements.
- 2.2 Public conveniences located in unparished areas (King's Lynn) proposals are as follows:

Ferry Street: Revert back to 7 day opening, due to being located adjacent to car parks.
Gaywood: Complete closure with a view to disposal or demolition.
The Walks: Both set of toilets to be included as a charge to King's Lynn Special Expenses.
- 2.3 Public conveniences located in parished areas, proposals are as follows:

Downham Market:
Wales Court: Transferred to the Town Council once refurbished to a traditional standard.
Memorial Field: Include as a charge to Special Expenses
Howdale: Complete closure with a view to demolition.

Heacham Village: Transfer to Heacham Sports & Social Club.

Old Hunstanton: Complete closure with a view to disposal.

Holme: To remain open and maintained as current arrangement, due to facilities being located close the Norfolk Wildlife Trust Nature Reserve and the gateway to the AONB, along with being on the North Norfolk Coast Path and at the end of the Peddars Way

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 The proposals result in a net reduction of between £30-60,000 in the cost of the to the council of toilet provision.

4. Consultation

- 4.1 Consultations were carried with all Parish Council's implicated in the report and a synopsis of the responses can be found

5. Conclusion

6. Background Papers

- 6.1 Informal Working Group – Public Conveniences Review / Report
- 6.2 Recommendations to the Environment and Community Panel
- 6.3 King's Lynn Area Consultative Committee: Minutes from 12th September 2017
- 6.4 Synopsis of Parish Council's responses to the proposals.