



ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting	Wednesday 13 January 2016
Report Subject	Review Of Public Conveniences
Cabinet Member	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Environment
Report Author	Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation)
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Councils Public Convenience provision was reviewed in 2014. The new strategy recognised that isolated Public Toilet facilities regularly attracted anti-social behaviour and that many people would not use the facilities for this reason.

It was proposed that the Council should promote the use of existing toilet facilities, within Council buildings e.g. Libraries and Flintshire Connects Centres, rather than the dedicated and often isolated facilities previously provided.

This final stage of the review will consider the future of the remaining Public Convenience facilities in the County.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	That Scrutiny recommends Cabinet approval of the outcome of the final review of the Public Convenience service provision
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REPORT DETAILS

	EXPLAINING THE BACKGROUND TO THE PUBLIC CONVENIENCE SERVICE
1.01	Following the service review and rationalisation exercise carried out in 2014, the Council now operates dedicated Public Convenience facilities in the following locations:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mold Bus Station • Mold New Street Car park • Duke Street, Flint • Off High Street, Holywell • Station Road, Talacre
1.02	A further review of service provision has now taken place and the following recommendations for the future of the service are suggested.
1.03	<p>Mold Bus Station Facility</p> <p>Recommendation. The site remains the location of a key central Hub for the Councils proposed Community Transport arrangements and therefore a final decision on the future of this facility should be delayed until after the introduction of the new operations. The facility could then form part of a future Corporate Asset Transfer (CAT), subject to the Town Council or third party interest. Additional signage will be provided throughout the town directing visitors to this facility.</p> <p>Timescale for Proposal. The facility will continue to operate and remain within the ownership of the Council until the Community Transport programme has been completed in 2017-18. A decision on the future of the site can then be made.</p>
1.04	<p>Mold New St Facility</p> <p>Recommendation. This facility should be offered to the Town Council to take on the maintenance and the operations at the facility. The Town Council has previously expressed an interest in taking over the facility and will be provided with time to prepare a business case for the CAT bid and to arrange to take on the operations at the facility.</p> <p>If the transfer does not take place, other options for the building will then be considered or it will be demolished if no other options are available. In the event that the facility closes visitors will be signed to the main facility in Mold Bus Station.</p> <p>Timescale for Proposal. Closure on 1st January 2017, if the Town Councils bid for a CAT and offer to take up responsibility for the continued operations at the facility are not progressed.</p>
1.05	<p>Duke Street, Flint Facility</p> <p>Recommendation. This dedicated and isolated facility is away from the Town Centre and rarely used. The recommendation is that the facility will close with visitors signed to the existing Council facilities within the Leisure Centre (Jade Jones) and Connects Centre in Flint Town Centre.</p> <p>Timescale for Proposal - Closure of facility on 1st April 2016.</p>
1.06	<p>Off High Street, Holywell Facility</p> <p>Recommendation. This dedicated facility is located within the Town</p>

	<p>Centre and the T&CC has previously expressed an interest in taking over the facility. If this is not progressed other options within the local Connects centre will be signed within the Town Centre and the facility will close.</p> <p>Timescale for Proposal - Closure on 1st January 2017, if the Town Councils bid for a CAT and offer to take up responsibility for the continued operations at the facility are not progressed.</p>
1.07	<p>Station Road, Talacre Facility</p> <p>As the area is a County promoted 'End Tourist Destination' and the facility has been recently upgraded, the recommendation is that the facility will remain open, operating during the summer months only during 2016-17 whilst options for the local Community Council to take on the operations with the facility forming part of a future Corporate Asset Transfer (CAT). Funding for the management of the facility would be provided from revenue gained by the Community Council through the introduction of parking charges in the village car-parks beyond the County agreed levels.</p> <p>Timescale for Proposal Notification to Community Council in March 2016 to allow time for the CAT to be arranged before the start of the 2017-18 season</p>
1.08	<p>The Public Health Bill unveiled by the Welsh Government in June 2015 places a duty on local authorities to prepare and publish strategies for the provision of toilets for public use within their area. Whilst the Council has closed a number of dedicated facilities, access to other Council owned toilets have been improved. This will form the basis of the strategy when it is required to be produced by the new legislation.</p>

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	Current Budget for Public Convenience service is £93,998
2.02	Business Planning proposals have indicated a saving of £50k will be delivered in 2016 – 17 for the public convenience service

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	With Cabinet Member
3.02	Notification of the proposals will be provided to T&CC in sufficient time for them to consider a business proposals to take on the management of the facilities in their area

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	Not applicable

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	None

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	Contact Officer: S Jones Telephone: 01352 704700 E-mail: Stephen.o.jones@flintshire.gov.uk.

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
7.01	Corporate Asset Transfer (CAT).