

Subject:	Response to the Publicly Accessible Toilets Scrutiny Panel Recommendations		
Date of Meeting:	Council 12th December 2013 Policy & Resources Committee - 5 th December 2013		
Report of:	Executive Director Environment, Development & Housing		
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Ward(s) affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE**1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:**

- 1.1 This reports sets out the response to the recommendations of the Scrutiny Panel on Publicly Accessible Toilets.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the committee notes the evidence, findings and recommendations of the Scrutiny Panel on publicly accessible toilets.
- 2.2 That the committee agrees the actions and comments summarised in Appendix 1 to this report, in response to the Panels recommendations.
- 2.3 That the committee forward its response to Full Council for information

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 In September 2012 a request to scrutinise public toilet provision in Brighton & Hove was endorsed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in response to the budget debate around this service and acknowledging of the importance of accessible toilets, in particular for people with health conditions, older people, children and visitors to the city.
- 3.2 The scrutiny panel considered how to maintain or expand provision of publicly accessible toilets when public funds for the service are likely to reduce. The recommendations from the committee aimed to deliver the following outcomes:
- Managing the service and the assets the council owns more effectively
 - Looking to the community and businesses in the city to open up their toilets to the public
 - Ensuring publicly accessible toilets continue to meet the needs of their users.

3.3 The scrutiny report (Appendix 2) sets out the scrutiny process, summarises evidence, findings and recommendations.

4. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION

4.1 The scrutiny panel heard evidence from five groups who particularly depend upon publicly accessible toilets as detailed in the report attached as Appendix 2. These groups will be engaged as part of the development of the action plan recommended by the scrutiny panel. Consultation will take place with other stakeholders including relevant representatives from the business sector.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

5.1 There are no direct financial implications associated with the recommendations in this report. The financial implications associated with carrying out the actions recommended by the Scrutiny Panel will be reported at a future committee meeting.

Finance Officer Consulted: Steven Bedford Date: 25/10/13

Legal Implications:

5.2 There are no legal implications arising from the recommendations in the report. Any equalities or other legal implications will be assessed as part of the review of the proposed action plan.

Lawyer Consulted: Elizabeth Culbert Date: 29/10/ 2013

Equalities Implications:

5.3 The scrutiny process has identified the importance of a high standard of accessible toilet provision, particularly to certain groups within the community. Reducing the availability of accessible toilets can have a significant impact on the quality of life of people and the proposed Action Plan will be subject to an Equalities Impact Assessment.

Sustainability Implications:

5.4 There are no sustainability implications for this report. Sustainability implications of future toilet provision will be considered as part of the Action Plan.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

5.5 Public toilets are prone to anti-social behaviour. Preventing anti-social behaviour will be a key consideration in the Action Plan.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

5.6 The scrutiny process has identified a number of risks to the future provision of public toilets which relate mainly to the ongoing revenue and capital costs.

Opportunities to minimise these risks will be explored as part of the production of the Action Plan.

Public Health Implications:

- 5.7 The provision of accessible public toilets is particularly important for elderly people and people with some disabilities or medical conditions. Insufficient provision of toilets can significantly hamper their ability to get around the city. These factors will be considered in developing the Action Plan and as part of the Equalities Impact Assessment.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 5.8 Corporate and city wide implications will be considered as part of the Action Plan.

6. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):

- 6.1 The scrutiny process identified a number of options to be explored in relation to the future provision of public toilets. These will be considered and evaluated as part of the development of the Action Plan.

7. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 The recommendations have been developed by the scrutiny panel considering the future provision of public toilets.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Officer Response to Scrutiny Recommendations
2. Report of the Scrutiny Panel on Publicly Accessible Toilets.