

<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Hove Cemetery North Toilets</b>		
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>27 June 2017</b>		
<b>Report of:</b>	<b>Executive Director, Economy, Environment &amp; Culture</b>		
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Name:</b>	<b>Richard Bradley</b>	<b>Tel: 01273 294701</b>
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<b>Ward(s) affected:</b>	<b>Hangelton &amp; Knoll</b>		

**FOR GENERAL RELEASE****1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT**

- 1.1 To report back on the public toilet facilities at Hove Cemetery North. These facilities closed in 2012 as part of the agreed budget process. In March 2017 a deputation was made to this committee to consider whether these facilities can be considered for reopening.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 2.1 That the public toilets at Hove Cemetery North closed in 2012 remain closed in line with the budget decision made in 2012.

**3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 3.1 The public toilets at Hove Cemetery North were closed along with five other facilities in order to meet budget savings in 2012. These savings were agreed at full budget council in the budget setting process as part of the medium term financial strategy.
- 3.2 These facilities are in the north of the Cemetery and were available to all users of the cemetery.
- 3.3 The assessment was made using evidence based data and the criteria used when considering any closures or reduction in service, showing that the site had very little footfall with extremely low usage indicated by low water usage. The facility has a separate men's and women's toilet with no accessible facility. There is another gender neutral fully accessible facility within 500m of this facility.
- 3.4 Cityclean were previously responsible for the cleaning of this facility through the public toilets contract at £3,000 per annum. The full cost of this was charged to Bereavement Services, this did not include any building maintenance.
- 3.5 The budget for public conveniences is decreasing with an agreed budget reduction for 2017-2018 of £100,000. In addition there are further savings that have been proposed of £75,000 in 2018/19 and £50,000 for 2019/20 as part of the 2017 – 2020 savings required over this period. These proposed savings

reflect future management of public conveniences, together with a new contract provider. These particular set of toilets do not form part of this contract, given they were closed in 2012.

- 3.6 There is no existing budget for this facility within Bereavement Services, Cityclean or Property & Design.
- 3.7 There have been very few complaints in regards to this closure since 2012 and previous low usage showed very low service demand.
- 3.8 A site condition survey has been carried out by Property & Design. This survey identifies repair work totalling approximately £7,500 excluding professional fees. (Appendix 1).
- 3.9 The existing closed site has separate men's and women's and facility only. A specification has been prepared to show estimated costs for refurbishing one unit into a single gender neutral, accessible toilet with baby change facilities. These costs are estimated at £23,000 excluding professional fees. (Appendix 2).
- 3.10 There are other sites across the city, that do not have toilet facilities including Bear Road, and Portslade Cemeteries as well as other Parks sites.
- 3.11 Several toilets have been closed in 2012-13, 2015-16 and 2016-17 as part of an agreed plan to deliver savings agreed at Budget Council meetings. A comprehensive Toilet Scrutiny Review has also been undertaken, which was approved at Policy & Resource Committee in December 2013. This facility was closed in accordance with the advice and recommendations contained within the agreed scrutiny report.

#### **4. ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 4.1 Several public toilets have been closed in 2012-13, 2015-16 and 2016-17. The reopening of any of these public toilets where closure has been previously agreed at full budget council could lead to requests for other sites to be re-opened for which there is no budget provision.

#### **5. CONCLUSION**

- 5.1 The recommendation is that the public toilets at Hove Cemetery North which were closed in 2012 remain closed in accordance the Budget Council decision of 2012 and subsequently with the Scrutiny Review agreed by Policy & Resource Committee in 2013.

#### **6. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:**

##### Financial Implications:

- 7.1 The existing budget for Public Conveniences aligns with the report recommendations. By re-opening the public toilets at Hove Cemetery North, additional costs for the Council will be incurred such as cleaning, professional fees, staff time, repairs and maintenance. Examples of estimated costs are

included in the body of this report and appendices. There is currently no budget for these additional costs in 2017-18 or future years.

*Finance Officer Consulted: Gemma Jackson*

*Date: 01/06/17*

Legal Implications:

- 7.2 Although section 87 of the Public Health Act 1936 gives local authorities a power to provide public toilets (and to charge for their use), it does not impose a duty to do so. As a result, local authorities provide toilet facilities on a discretionary basis only.
- 7.3 The decision in 2012 to close the facilities which are the subject of this Report was taken following the budget setting process for 2012-2013 which considered relevant criteria and which had regard to an equalities impact assessment.

*Lawyer Consulted: Victoria Simpson*

*Date: 19.5.17*

Equalities Implications:

- 7.4 An equalities impact assessment was completed for all toilets closures for 2012-2013, attached at Appendix 3

Sustainability Implications:

- 7.5 Not applicable

Any Other Significant Implications:

- 7.6 Not applicable

## **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

### **Appendices:**

- 1. Condition Survey
- 2. Specification for single, gender neutral accessible facility
- 3. Budget EIA 2012-2013

### **Documents in Members' Rooms**

- 1. None

### **Background Documents**

- 1. None

