

**Senior Officer Decision**

**Consultative meeting:** Cabinet & Council

**Consultative meeting date:** 1 Dec Cabinet, 8 Dec Council



**Exempt from publication**

No

**Title: Public Toilets Review Report to Cabinet 1 Dec & Council 8 Dec 2021.**

**Links to:**

**(i) Officer report to consultative meeting**

[Agenda for Cabinet – Wednesday 1 Dec 2021, 6.00pm – item 9](#)

[Agenda for Council – Wednesday 8 Dec 2021, 6.00pm – item 9b](#)

**(ii) Recording of consultative meeting**

[Cabinet meeting YouTube](#)

[Full Council YouTube](#)

**(iii) Minutes of consultative meeting**

[Minutes 01122021 Cabinet](#)

[Minutes 08122021 Full Council](#)

**Recommendation:**

**Cabinet 1 Dec 2021 minute 122** - Having received the report and noted the contents, members;

RECOMMENDED that;

Senior Officers approve

1. the proposals and the categorisation of the public toilet stock outlined in section 4 together with the specific mitigations (in section 4.6) to protect access.

2. For the 8 sites to be confirmed as Cat B & C (section 4.10) and the 6 sites where further discussions are required to confirm categorisation (section 4.12), delegate authority to the Portfolio Holder for Coast, County & Environment in consultation with the Portfolio Holders for Economy & Asset Management and Leisure, Sport & Tourism and the Strategic Leads for Finance and Housing, Health & Environment to complete negotiations with interested parties (including the Towns and Parishes) and to complete the related documentation to affect transfers (including the mitigations set out in section 4.6). Where leases with community partner organisations cannot be struck within 12 months continue to negotiate with all Town/Parish Councils to seek to retain Category B and C toilets through Parish and Town Precepts for another 12 weeks. Honiton King's Street to be kept open until April 2023 to afford Honiton Town Council further time.

3. Implementation of paid access at Category "A" toilets sites following refurbishment. Payment to be by Contactless payments at 40p with cards being made available for people without card or mobile phone.

4. That in the future more reliable data for toilets EDDC own, should be provided so that the usage of toilets can be assessed to show how popular toilets are at certain points of the day / year.

5. That the Council write to all relevant local businesses and make a powerful case for them to offer the use of their toilets to non-paying customers who may have disabilities and illnesses that aren't always visible, given the findings of the local consultation which shows the high extent of local need.

6. That the Council writes to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities & Local Government and our 3 MPs to request that he lobbies the Treasury for a fund to be created to help Councils further invest in public toilet provision and to make toilets a mandatory rather than discretionary service given their positive role in ensuring people with health issues can live their lives to their full potential.

Cabinet recommends to Council;

7. that the Transformation Reserve be used to fund the Cat B & C sites where an alternative use is proposed, allowing them to remain open until these transfers are complete (for up to a year as set out in 5.10 and until April 2023 for King's Street, Honiton) to minimise the impact of closed public toilet sites on those with protected characteristics.

8. That the Transformation Reserve be used to assist with legal and transfer fees for town or parish councils taking on the running of any B & C sites through this review.

REASON:

A review of public toilet stock and investment in its buildings was overdue and now necessary due to the budget deficit and proposed medium term financial plan's saving against the provision of the public toilet service.

**Full Council 8 Dec 2021 minute 55b** - Having received and noted minutes from Cabinet on 1 Dec, the recommendations contained within the minutes, including those for Council were recommended for Senior Officer approval.

(b) Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 1 December 2021. Minute numbers 114 -125

The Chair said that this item had been added to the agenda as a matter of urgency due to the fact that on 1st December Cabinet reversed its earlier recommendation on 3rd November in relation to the Honiton Community Governance Review and so the Council position had been revised. **In**

**addition recommendations relating to the use of the transformation fund**

needed to be approved as soon as possible.

Following a vote the Chair confirmed that the above minutes were received and noted and recommendations contained therein recommended for approval.

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## Authority

**Decision of Council on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2021 to delegate decision making to officers until 23.59 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022. [Minutes 26th July 2021 Council Meeting](#). Senior Officer Decision of 10<sup>th</sup> December 2021 to implement Council's wish to extend the arrangements until 23.59 on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2022. [Senior Officer Decision Record 10th December 2021](#)**

## Officer Decision

### Consultations:

I was present at / have watched the recording of the consultative meeting which considered this item

Yes  No

Detail any other consultations carried out:

N/A

### Other considerations:

Do the legal and finance comments and equalities impact, climate change and risk assessments as detailed in the officer report remain the same.

Yes  No

If no, provide the updated assessment below;

### Decision:

To approve the recommendations made at Cabinet and Council in relation to the Public Toilet Review, minutes of the meetings and recommendations contained therein as detailed in the Recommendation section above.

**Reasons for decision:**

The consultative meeting of Cabinet and Full Council considered and debated the officer report and recommendations and amended the report's proposed recommendations to reflect their considerations and debate.

The minutes of all the meetings and recommendations contained therein, be approved. There is nothing I am aware of that suggests any alternative decision should be taken.



Signed

Dated 17 December 2021

Senior Officer job title and name: Andrew Hancock, Service Lead – StreetScene.

**For Democratic Services use.**

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