

Report to	Cabinet
Date of meeting	17 th December 2024
Lead Member / Officer	Cllr. Barry Mellor – Lead Member for Environment and Transport
Head of Service	Paul Jackson Head of Head of Highways & Environmental Services
Report author	Kimberley Mason (Corporate Project Manager)
Title	Draft Local Toilet Strategy

1. What is the report about?

- 1.1. This report presents the draft Local Toilets Strategy, which will be consulted on following Cabinet approval.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

- 2.1. The purpose of this report is to present the Local Toilet Interim Needs Assessment and the draft Local Toilet Strategy for Denbighshire and to seek approval from Cabinet for public consultation.

3. What are the Recommendations?

- 3.1. That Cabinet acknowledges the work completed so far following a review of the needs of the local population which was undertaken via a public consultation and approves the final needs assessment. The Interim Needs Assessment can be viewed in [Appendix 2](#).
- 3.2. That Cabinet approves the draft strategy and action plan included within in line with the Public Health (Wales) Act 2017: Provision of Toilets.

- 3.3. Delegate authority for the Lead Member Highways and Environment to agree any minor editorial changes required to the draft strategy before public consultation.
- 3.4. That Cabinet confirms that it has read, understood, and taken account of the Well-being Impact Assessment, attached in [Appendix 3](#) as part of its consideration.

4. Report details

Background

- 4.1. The Welsh Government agreed the adoption of the Public Health (Wales) Act (Act) in 2017. This Act brings together a range of practical actions for improving and protecting health.
- 4.2. Part 8 of the Act introduces the provision of toilets and specifically local toilets strategies. The overall aim of the legislation is to ensure that all local authorities assess the needs of its community in relation to the provision of public conveniences and that it takes a strategic and transparent approach to best meet those needs.
- 4.3. The Act places a duty on local authorities to prepare and publish a Local Toilets Strategy which must include an assessment of need for toilets, including changing facilities for babies and changing places facilities for disabled people.

Draft Local Toilets Strategy

- 4.4. Following a review of the needs of the local population the draft strategy is attached in [Appendix 1](#). The strategy currently published on our website (Public Toilet Strategy 2022 – 2027) has not been ratified.
- 4.5. Frequently asked questions (FAQs) have been drafted in response to comments received during the Interim Needs Assessment consultation that was undertaken between 22nd July and 15th September 2024. These FAQs can be viewed at [Appendix 4](#).
- 4.6. If approved by Cabinet, the next step will be to undertake a public consultation of Denbighshire's draft Local Toilets Strategy.

5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?

5.1. Completion of the Local Toilets Strategy will contribute to:

- A prosperous Denbighshire: supporting economic growth
- A healthier and happier, caring Denbighshire: Helping people to live independently providing support

6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

- 6.1. Denbighshire's draft Local Toilets Strategy has been produced internally so there is no cost associated with its production.
- 6.2. The Council will continue to offer a maximum grant of £500 per annum under the Community Toilet Scheme, to assist individual businesses in opening their toilet facilities to the public.
- 6.3. A Communications Plan has been developed and there will need to be communications and engagement support so that Denbighshire's draft Local Toilets Strategy can go out to public consultation.

7. What are the main conclusions of the Well-being Impact Assessment?

- 7.1. A Well-being Impact Assessment has been carried out as part of the draft Local Toilets Strategy. The strategy does not disproportionately affect one group over another and is therefore expected to have a positive impact on all protected characteristics. It will include an action plan of how Denbighshire County Council proposes to meet the identified need.

8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?

- 8.1. Corporate Executive Team and Lead Member for Environment and Transport.
- 8.2. A public consultation was carried out on the Local Toilet Interim Needs Assessment, from 22nd July to 15th September. This generated 1,419 responses that have helped

inform the draft Local Toilets Strategy, which sets out the steps the local authority proposes to meet that need.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

9.1. Denbighshire County Council, like every Local Authority in the UK, is facing a period of significant and continued budget pressures and it is more important than ever to ensure that we are making the best use of local resources. We therefore must change the way we provide certain services as we seek to utilise more creative ways of providing some services such as public conveniences. Cabinet and Council approved proposals to set a balanced budget for 2024/25 including the public conveniences.

10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

10.1. A number of risks to the project have been identified and can be viewed in [Appendix 5](#).

11. Power to make the decision

- Local Government Act 1972, section 123
- Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, section 20
- Highways Act 1980, section 114
- Town and Country Planning Act 1990, section 106
- Local Government Act 2000, section 2
- Equality Act 2010