



Public Convenience Closures: Well-being Impact Assessment Report

This report summarises the likely impact of the proposal on the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Denbighshire, Wales and the world.

Assessment Number: 1300

Brief description: The closure of DCCs public conveniences

Date Completed: 29/02/2024 19:46:40 Version: 6

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Responsible Service: Highways and Environmental Services

Localities affected by the proposal: Whole County,

Who will be affected by the proposal? All county residents

Was this impact assessment completed as a group? Yes

Summary and Conclusion

Before we look in detail at the contribution and impact of the proposal, it is important to consider how the proposal is applying the sustainable development principle. This means that we must act "in a manner which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

Score for the sustainability of the approach

2 out of 4 stars

Actual score : 17 / 36.

Summary for each Sustainable Development principle

Long term

The current position, with the PCs being subsidised by DCC, is not sustainable. However, we aim to find a sustainable and long-term solution which will enable PCs to still be provided without the support of the council.

Prevention

No effect on climate issues

Integration

This decision is one being taken from a financial perspective by DCC. If we are able to transfer ownership and operation of the facilities to third parties then there will be no change in the current as-is. If this is not possible then there will be a negative impact on the wellbeing of residents and facility users.

Collaboration

There has been little time or opportunity to consult or collaborate up to this moment. A full and proper consultation with Town and Community Councils, local members and local businesses will be conducted as part of the holistic approach. This will allow us to understand how much appetite there is for taking ownership of these assets in the individual locations and how much take up there is likely

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to be to the Community Toilet Scheme.

Involvement

The proposals will be carried forward in parallel with a Public Consultation process on a new revised Toilet Strategy for the DCC. This will go out via the usual comms processes and will consult public opinion on how DCC intends to ensure there are toilet facilities available to county residents and visitors. Local members will also be consulted via the usual internal methods, Scrutiny Committee will also be able to review the proposals prior to any formal Cabinet decision

Summary of impact

Well-being Goals	Overall Impact
A prosperous Denbighshire	Negative
A resilient Denbighshire	Negative
A healthier Denbighshire	Negative
A more equal Denbighshire	Negative
A Denbighshire of cohesive communities	Negative
A Denbighshire of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language	Neutral
A globally responsible Denbighshire	Neutral

Main conclusions

To simply close the facilities entirely will have a detrimental impact on the well being of residents and visitors to the County. If the facilities are transferred to other operators or replaced with facilities made available via the CTS then there will be little to no change in the current as-is. However, it is

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currently unknown whether the facilities can be transferred and this will only be ascertained once the decision is made to go ahead with the proposal and work through options with third parties.

The likely impact on Denbighshire, Wales and the world.

A prosperous Denbighshire

Overall Impact

Negative

Justification for impact

This is likely to detrimentally affect tourism and could mean certain areas lose Coach Friendly status if the facilities are closed entirely. If they are transferred or other options replace them, this would maintain the current as-is.

Further actions required

DCC could look to maximise the use of the Community Toilet Scheme. This could potentially give some financial benefit to local businesses who would signpost the availability of toilets on their premises. The added benefit of this may be that convenience users might also spend money in the retail or hospitality premises that take up this opportunity.

Positive impacts identified:

A low carbon society

None

Quality communications, infrastructure and transport

None

Economic development

Adoption of the CTS may see some incremental increase in trade by businesses who take up this scheme. Facilities users may be more likely to purchase other items whilst visiting the store/premise

Quality skills for the long term

None

Quality jobs for the long term

None

Childcare

None

Negative impacts identified:

A low carbon society

None

Quality communications, infrastructure and transport

None

Economic development

This could detrimentally affect local tourism in the associated areas

Quality skills for the long term

None

Quality jobs for the long term

None

Childcare

Possible reduction in child changing facilities if other options aren't made available or the facilities are closed

A resilient Denbighshire

Overall Impact

Negative

Justification for impact

There is no impact on resilience

Further actions required

N/A

Positive impacts identified:

Biodiversity and the natural environment

[TEXT HERE]

Biodiversity in the built environment

[TEXT HERE]

Reducing waste, reusing and recycling

[TEXT HERE]

Reduced energy/fuel consumption

[TEXT HERE]

People's awareness of the environment and biodiversity

[TEXT HERE]

Flood risk management

[TEXT HERE]

Negative impacts identified:

Biodiversity and the natural environment

[TEXT HERE]

Biodiversity in the built environment

[TEXT HERE]

Reducing waste, reusing and recycling

[TEXT HERE]

Reduced energy/fuel consumption

[TEXT HERE]

People's awareness of the environment and biodiversity

[TEXT HERE]

Flood risk management

[TEXT HERE]

A healthier Denbighshire

Overall Impact

Negative

Justification for impact

The removal of the public conveniences has the potential to detrimentally affect the wellbeing of the elderly and those with particular health needs or disabilities, that rely on quick access to such facilities if the facilities are closed entirely.

Further actions required

There is the potential to pass operation of these facilities over to Town and City Councils or other third party operators. Whilst this would still mean DCC ceases to operate the facilities, they would not be removed completely.

Positive impacts identified:

A social and physical environment that encourage and support health and well-being

[TEXT HERE]

Access to good quality, healthy food

[TEXT HERE]

People's emotional and mental well-being

[TEXT HERE]

Access to healthcare

[TEXT HERE]

Participation in leisure opportunities

[TEXT HERE]

Negative impacts identified:

A social and physical environment that encourage and support health and well-being

Removing toilet provision from the areas it currently exists is likely to be of detriment to those with disabilities who need quick access to toilets from time to time.

Access to good quality, healthy food

[TEXT HERE]

People's emotional and mental well-being

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By removing such facilities, there is the potential to add stress to vulnerable individuals with particular disabilities or needs who rely on the ability to access toilet facilities in public spaces.

Access to healthcare

[TEXT HERE]

Participation in leisure opportunities

Individuals with disabilities or other health issues may choose not to attend events being held in places such as Rhyl or Llangollen if they need toilet access and this has been removed.

A more equal Denbighshire

Overall Impact

Negative

Justification for impact

People with medical problems or higher levels of need will be detrimentally impacted in terms of well-being due to possible reduced availability of toilets.

Further actions required

There is the potential to pass operation of these facilities over to Town and City Councils or other third party operators. Whilst this would still mean DCC ceases to operate the facilities, they would not be removed completely. There is also the opportunity to increase the number of subscribers to the community toilet scheme which could reduced the financial burden to the council whilst potentially leading to increased toilet access opportunities.

Positive impacts identified:

Improving the well-being of people with protected characteristics. The nine protected characteristics are: age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage or civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation

[TEXT HERE]

People who suffer discrimination or disadvantage

[TEXT HERE]

People affected by socio-economic disadvantage and unequal outcomes

[TEXT HERE]

Areas affected by socio-economic disadvantage

[TEXT HERE]

Negative impacts identified:

Improving the well-being of people with protected characteristics. The nine protected characteristics are: age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage or civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation

Removing toilet provision from the areas it currently exists is likely to be of detriment to those with disabilities who need quick access to toilets from time to time.

People who suffer discrimination or disadvantage

[TEXT HERE]

People affected by socio-economic disadvantage and unequal outcomes

[TEXT HERE]

Areas affected by socio-economic disadvantage

[TEXT HERE]

A Denbighshire of cohesive communities

Overall Impact

Negative

Justification for impact

People may be less inclined to visit popular tourist spots if there is a rise in the frequency of people relieving themselves in the streets and a reduction in the overall attractiveness of the areas due to illegal activities. That said, DCC currently deals with a significant amount of damage to the facilities caused by anti-social behaviour by teenagers and those with drug problems. Closing the facilities may remove this as an issue.

Further actions required

By maximising the CTS and looking to transfer the assets to third party operators the closure of the facilities can potentially be avoided whilst removing them from DCC budgets. Greater links with Police in the area may be needed to curb potential anti-social behaviour in these areas or deal with teenagers who have a history of congregating in the current facilities who may be displaced elsewhere.

Positive impacts identified:

Safe communities and individuals

PCs can be (and sometimes are) magnets for anti-social behaviour. They are often the subject of vandalism, and they are sometimes used as places to take or deal drugs.

Community participation and resilience

[TEXT HERE]

The attractiveness of the area

[TEXT HERE]

Connected communities

[TEXT HERE]

Rural resilience

[TEXT HERE]

Negative impacts identified:

Safe communities and individuals

A possible rise in anti-social behaviour could lead people to view areas of Denbighshire as less safe

Community participation and resilience

A possible rise in anti-social behaviours could lead people to be less willing to become involved in planning events for the towns or attending events. This may have a greater impact on the elderly.

The attractiveness of the area

[TEXT HERE]

Connected communities

[TEXT HERE]

Rural resilience

Residents or visitors may to be less inclined to participate or attend events in these locations. This could have an adverse effect on communities in rural areas such as Llangollen and Corwen.

A Denbighshire of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language

Overall Impact

Neutral

Justification for impact

n/a

Further actions required

n/a

Positive impacts identified:

People using Welsh

[TEXT HERE]

Promoting the Welsh language

[TEXT HERE]

Culture and heritage

[TEXT HERE]

Negative impacts identified:

People using Welsh

[TEXT HERE]

Promoting the Welsh language

[TEXT HERE]

Culture and heritage

[TEXT HERE]

A globally responsible Denbighshire

Overall Impact

Neutral

Justification for impact

n/a

Further actions required

n/a

Positive impacts identified:

Local, national, international supply chains

[TEXT HERE]

Human rights

[TEXT HERE]

Broader service provision in the local area or the region

[TEXT HERE]

Reducing climate change

[TEXT HERE]

Negative impacts identified:

Local, national, international supply chains

[TEXT HERE]

Human rights

[TEXT HERE]

Broader service provision in the local area or the region

[TEXT HERE]

Reducing climate change

[TEXT HERE]