



# Local Toilets Strategy

(Draft)

2024

# Local Toilets Strategy 2024 (Draft)

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## Background

The Welsh Government agreed the adoption of the Public Health (Wales) Act 2017 (Act) in 2017. This Act brings together a range of practical actions for improving and protecting health.

Part 8 of the Act introduces the provision of toilets and specifically local toilet strategies. The overall aim of the legislation is to ensure that all local authorities assess the needs of its community about the provision of public conveniences and that it takes a strategic and transparent approach to best meet those needs.

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.

Each local authority in Wales must:

- ✓ Assess the need for toilet provision for their communities;
- ✓ Plan to meet those needs;
- ✓ Produce a Local Toilets Strategy; and
- ✓ Review the strategy, update and publicise revisions.

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## Introduction

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 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.

Denbighshire County Council is conducting a comprehensive review of its public toilet facilities to ensure they align with our current budget. This is a long-term process aimed at trying to meet all identified needs.

There is no statutory requirement for local authorities to provide public toilets, however, the Local Toilets Strategy must provide details of how the local authority proposes to meet the identified need. Each local authority must also consider all available options for providing public toilets through direct provision or working with private businesses to make facilities available to the public.

## The Aim of the Strategy

The overall aim of the strategy is to try to meet the identified need for the provision of public toilets in Denbighshire whilst working within the council's budget for public toilets.

To achieve this, we will:

- Compare the current level of public toilet provision across the county with the identified need for public toilets in each town in the county;
- Focus on the provision of public toilets in towns that have an identified need (Corwen, Denbigh, Llangollen, Prestatyn and Rhyl);
- Review the charges for our public toilets;
- Review the operational arrangements and opening hours of our public toilets;

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- Explore options for existing council-run public toilets to be transferred to other organisations/partners;
- Look to promote and expand our Community Toilet Scheme.

This strategy sets out to develop on the work already undertaken on the Interim Needs Assessment and the feedback provided as part of the public consultation.

This strategy outlines an Action Plan to indicate how Denbighshire County Council will work towards meeting the needs of the local population within its current budget for public conveniences.

This Action Plan can be viewed at [Appendix 1](#).

## Community Toilet Scheme

The Community Toilet Scheme (CTS) encourages local businesses to open their toilet facilities to the public free of charge during their opening hours, without any expectation that users will purchase goods or services whilst on the premises. Participating establishments will be required to keep their toilets safe, clean, accessible and well-stocked. The maximum grant payment in Denbighshire County Council's CTS is currently £500 per annum. At the time of writing this strategy, Denbighshire County Council has one CTS toilet in operation at the Wharf Tea Room, Llangollen, but we will look to promote and expand this scheme further across the county as a sustainable solution to toilet provision.

## Changing Places

Standard accessible toilets do not meet the needs of all disabled people as they may often need extra equipment and space to allow them to use the toilets safely and comfortably. These needs are met by Changing Places toilets which will have more space and will be fitted out with additional equipment such as hoists, adult changing tables, showers and grab rails. Denbighshire County Council is currently aware of 2 Changing Places toilets within the county, with further information provided on the Changing Places website:

[Ysbyty Glan Clwyd](#) and [Tesco Prestatyn Superstore](#)

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## How the Strategy links to other plans

### [The Public Health \(Wales\) Act 2017](#)

Part 8 of the Act – Improving and Protecting Health – outlines a local authority's duty to provide local strategies that address the current provision of public toilets and how we will meet the identified need for toilets, including baby changing facilities and changing places for adults.

### [Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015](#)

The Act places a duty on public bodies to deliver services in a sustainable way, working to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by setting and publishing well-being objectives and taking reasonable steps to meet those objectives.

### [Denbighshire County Council's Corporate Plan 2022 – 2027](#)

This 5-year plan sets out the Council's key priorities to support the needs of the citizens who live, work and visit Denbighshire. The recommendations within the strategy contribute to:

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

### [Conwy & Denbighshire Public Service Board Local Well-Being Plan 2013 – 2028](#)

The Public Service Board will work together to improve the economic, social, cultural and environmental well-being of the local area in Conwy and Denbighshire.

### [Strategic Equalities Plan 2020 – 2024](#)

The Equality Act 2010 and the Statutory Duties (Wales) Regulations 2011 require all public bodies to review and publish equality objectives and a Strategic Equalities Plan, considering relevant data and engaging with groups representing each of the protected characteristics.

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## Consultation

### Local Toilet Interim Needs Assessment

A review of the needs of the local population (including changing facilities for babies and changing places facilities for disabled people) was undertaken via a public consultation from 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2024 to 15<sup>th</sup> September 2024. The consultation received 1,419 responses.

As part of the consultation, a workshop was held on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2024 to help refine the Local Toilet Interim Needs Assessment and was attended by representatives from local and national charities and third-sector organisations.

The needs assessment has identified that there is a need for the provision of toilets within the towns of Rhyl, Prestatyn, Denbigh, Ruthin, Llangollen and Corwen. This assessment can be viewed in [Appendix 2](#).

### Reviewing the Strategy

The Act requires local authorities to undertake regular reviews of the strategy and provide progress reports. Denbighshire County Council will review the Local Toilet Strategy within a year of each ordinary election for its area.

We may review the strategy at any time, following which we will publish a statement of the steps that we have taken in accordance with the strategy. If following a review, we decide to revise, we will publish the revised strategy.

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## Appendices

### 1. Action Plan

Denbighshire County Council will:

No.	Objective	Target
1.	Promote equal opportunities to provide appropriate, accessible and effective services and facilities to all sections of the community together with visitors to Denbighshire without prejudice or bias	Ongoing
2.	Review existing provision in towns where there is no identified need for toilet facilities	March 2025
3.	In towns where a need is identified for toilet facilities, review existing provision and monitor cleansing operations/opening hours to ensure the most efficient and effective provision	March 2025
4.	Explore options with Town, City, and Community Councils if there is interest in alternative delivery models or contributions towards funding the cost of providing the toilet facilities	March 2025
5.	Review the charging structure for use to ensure that there is sufficient revenue to provide some provision for toilet facilities whereby a need is required, within the budget available for public conveniences	March 2025
6.	Review opportunities for grant funding to upgrade some facilities to take contactless payments to avoid the requirement to find the right payment charge in change *	March 2026
7.	Review funding opportunities and promote with partner organisations to provide additional 'Changing Places' toilet facilities in Denbighshire	March 2026
8.	Review all existing provision within our Council buildings, including libraries so that this can be made available for public use	March 2025
9.	Liaise with other public bodies such as healthcare providers to see if existing provision can also be made available for public use	March 2025
10.	Promote the Community Toilet Scheme, to make toilet facilities available in places where they are most needed through a dedicated ring-fenced budget.	January 2025 – March 2027



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11.	Continue to work with North Wales Police, residents and community groups to ensure that facilities are as safe as possible whilst reducing anti-social behaviour.	January 2025 – March 2027
12.	Explore alternative options and enhancements for the introduction of environmentally friendly features and ensure that sustainable development and energy is taken into consideration.	January 2025 – March 2027
13.	Improve awareness and information availability on toilet provision in Denbighshire by ensuring public toilets are signposted correctly. Ensure this information is correct on our website and investigate other mapping schemes to promote the availability of Denbighshire's own provision and other provision which is also available for public use.	January 2025 – March 2027

\* Noting actions 8, 9 and 10 to review and provide free-to-use options.

## 2. Denbighshire County Council Local Toilet Interim Needs Assessment



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