



Public Conveniences - Savings Proposal: 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 Public Health (Wales) Act 2017 required Local Authorities to take a strategic view across their local area of how toilets can be provided and accessed by the local population, considering a range of options to make facilities available to the public. The Act does not require Local Authorities to provide or maintain public toilets themselves. It does require them to consider all available options for providing public toilets through direct provision or working with private businesses to make facilities available to the public. Denbighshire's Local Toilet Strategy, currently in draft format, sets out the Council's plan to continue providing public toilets on a cost neutral basis. In order to deliver this we have reviewed the public toilets in Denbighshire and determined that it is not possible to continue to provide the existing level of service in the current financial climate and that some facilities are unsustainable. We no longer have sufficient budget to subsidise public toilets. We have considered how much facilities are used, where there are other toilets available, and the identified need in each city, town and village in the recent Needs Assessment. We have written to City, Town and Community Councils (CTCCs) and offered them an opportunity to take on ownership of the facilities through a community asset transfer, only a very small amount of positive responses were received to this request. We then promoted the Community Toilet Scheme (CTS) to invite businesses in their local area to apply for the scheme. We are currently identifying toilets in Council buildings including libraries that can be available for public use. By making toilets in Council buildings available for the public to use and continuing to promote our CTS, which both make facilities available to use free of charge, we are aiming to increase provision of public toilets. This may also provide a better standard of toilets compared to the aging public toilets that are being closed, with more facilities, such as baby change, accessible toilets and Changing Places.

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Responsible Service: Highways and Environmental Services

Localities affected by the proposal: Whole County,

Who will be affected by the proposal? The changes will affect the general public at large to some extent, including people with protected characteristics.

Was this impact assessment completed as a group? Yes

Who has been involved in the development of this impact assessment? HoS, other DCC officers, Corporate Project Team, Strategic Planning Team.

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

3 out of 4 stars

Actual score : 31 / 36.

Summary for each Sustainable Development principle

Long term

The proposal seeks to provide a sustainable approach to public convenience provision in Denbighshire. Taking the approach in this proposal, the Council aims to maintain appropriate levels of provision following on from the recent Needs Assessment, instead of a significant reduction in facilities in the County by ensuring PCs remain open where there is an identified need. Promotion of the Community Toilet Scheme will mitigate any reduction in facilities.

Prevention

The current position is not sustainable based on the budget allocated and the operational cost. The Council does not have many levers of control in this area except a reduction of service which we are trying to avoid. The proposal includes a range of measures to reduce the overall cost of the service and make them more sustainable to provide.

Integration

The Council is continually looking for improvement and partners where possible. An example of this is that the Council is in the process of agreeing in some instances that City, Town & Community Councils take over the running of PCs. This can offer an alternative potentially more local and viable solution than the Council can afford. The Community Toilet Scheme will also be promoted, in particular in those areas where facilities are proposed for closure where there is no identified need.

Collaboration

Discussions are ongoing with a number of City, Town & Community Councils to transfer the running of the public conveniences to them as they may be able to operate them at a lower cost than Denbighshire County Council. There may be opportunities where the third sector such as charities, community groups and the private sector may be able to assist or provide some of the services currently offered by the Council.

Involvement

The Needs Assessment consultation attracted 1,419 respondents and the strategy consultation received over 450 responses. Charities attended a workshop to input into the Needs Assessment and findings of the STAND NW CIC survey were used when drafting the strategy, which was subject to consultation and is currently being reviewed. Local Members will be consulted and Communities Scrutiny Committee will review any proposals prior to formal Cabinet decision.

Summary of impact

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

Main conclusions

Denbighshire's Local Toilet Strategy, currently in draft format, sets out the Council's plan to continue providing public toilets on a cost neutral basis. In order to deliver this we have reviewed the public toilets in Denbighshire and determined that it is not possible to continue to provide the existing level of service in the current financial climate and that some facilities are unsustainable. We no longer have budget to subsidise public toilets, so we have to recoup all running costs from paid-for facilities. We have considered how much facilities get used, where there are other toilets available and where there is an identified need, to ensure the service can continue in a way that is sustainable under current and future financial pressures whilst meeting the needs of residents and visitors to Denbighshire. There will be a requirement to actively pursue mitigation so that the impact is not detrimental to areas with coach friendly status or blue flag beach status. Whilst not desirable, this proposal forms part of our wider approach to managing the challenging budget situation, which all local authorities are experiencing, to sustain other vital public services upon which residents and vulnerable and disadvantaged groups rely.

The More Equal goals sets out some potential unintended negative consequences for people with protected characteristics. This is supported by evidence (e.g. STAND NW CIC survey), and feedback from engagement and consultation.

Discussions are also ongoing with CT&CCs to transfer the running of the public conveniences to them as they may be able to operate them at a lower cost than Denbighshire County Council. Without taking this approach the service offered may cease or significantly reduce in some areas. This would have a far greater negative impact to the Council's Corporate Well-being Objectives than these proposals. We are therefore looking to work collaboratively with CT&CCs to keep local toilets open and to apply for grant funding where available to make improvements to existing toilets. Options have been explored to undertake a Community Asset Transfer, and this has already taken place with Corwen Town Council and there is interest from Ruthin Town Council with the facilities in Cae Ddol if refurbishment can be undertaken through the existing LUF project.

In areas where there is an identified need, facilities will remain open, a review of the charging, opening hours and staffing will take place to work towards a cost-neutral position to ensure this is sustainable in the longer term.

DCC will look to maximise the use of the Community Toilet Scheme (CTS). This could potentially give some financial benefit to local businesses who would signpost the availability of toilets on their

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premises. Feedback from the Public Consultation on the Public Toilet Needs Assessment and Draft Local Toilet Strategy showed that those visiting a CTS would be more likely to make them buy something from the business even if it is not a requirement to do so.

In areas where there is an identified need, there will be a free to use option through our Council buildings, libraries and the interest in the CTS, as well as a pay for use option to best meet the identified need for each area.

One of our actions will be to update the WBIA as and when evidence is gathered around the particular impact on specific communities and the severity of the impact, also bearing in mind the cumulative impact of all savings proposals. This is a factor to be considered if we increase charges as we need to acknowledge a disproportionate negative impact on people with low income.

This process has enabled a broader consideration of options available for providing toilets for use by the public of which some provision will still remain free of charge for users. This presents an opportunity to move the discussion on to accessible toilets and ways we can enhance access by tapping into other facilities (PCs in supermarkets etc). Accessible public toilets can further equality, diversity and inclusion and deliver positive impacts across the well-being goals. Anglesey Health Impact Assessment reference is useful to consider: "The HIA raises the question whether there really is an issue of a lack of Public Toilets or if it's merely a failure to tap into an as yet unrealised source of Publicly Accessible Toilets, which often meet higher standards."

The likely impact on Denbighshire, Wales and the world

A prosperous Denbighshire

Overall Impact

Negative

Justification for impact

Considering the impact of the economy and in particular in Denbighshire the importance of tourism. Potential closure of facilities could detrimentally affect tourism and could mean certain areas lose Coach Friendly status / Blue Flag Beach status if the facilities are closed entirely, therefore it is important to identify ways in facilities can remain open and sustainable where there is an identified need. This is being explored through the installation of a cashless payment system upon entry, a review of opening hours and cleaning schedule and charge per use.

Staffing levels, and charge per use will be investigated to ensure these are as cost-neutral as possible to ensure sustainability of provision. Alternative provision has been identified in our Council buildings and libraries and the Community Toilet Scheme has been and will continue to be promoted.

Despite the Council's aim to retain facilities, ensuring they are sustainable, the risk of redundancies for staff at each site may have a negative impact if they are not redeployed elsewhere.

Further actions required

Securing the provision of toilet facilities into the future requires a strategic approach that maximises available provision across the public, private, and voluntary sector. The financial climate means that it is important to consider now how local toilet provision can be maximised for existing and future generations. The breadth of the proposals seeks to balance some additional income with other changes that will be less noticeable operating costs or support from CT&CCs that keep toilets open.

The Council will look to minimise any negative impact by making facilities available in our Council buildings and libraries. Additionally, the CTS will enable businesses signed up to the scheme, to allow the public to use their toilet facilities free of charge without the expectation that users will make a purchase in approved locations during their opening hours.

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A full and proper consultation with CT&CCs, Local Members and local businesses has been conducted as part of the holistic approach. The Council wrote to all relevant local councils offering them an opportunity to run public toilet(s) as a community resource for residents and visitors alike. Options have been explored to undertake a Community Asset Transfer, and this has already taken place with Corwen Town Council and there is some interest Ruthin Town Council. There is also an option to consider the transfer of facilities to Denbighshire Leisure Limited so that provision can remain open, discussions are ongoing.

Signage and signposting was flagged as important by the STAND NW CIC survey

Positive impacts identified:

A low carbon society

The proposed installation of a cashless payment system in public toilets to reduce cash collections across the County.

Quality communications, infrastructure and transport

Community toilets form part of community assets/infrastructure and there are some existing facilities that meet high standards in terms of facilities that are free of charge, adapted for use by people with protected characteristics and have high standards of cleanliness.

Economic development

Adoption of the Community Grant Toilet Scheme (CTS) extends the public toilet availability within an area and contributes towards the health and social inclusion of residents and visitors alike. It also supports local businesses economically, by making areas more accessible and allows visitors to increase their length of stay. Feedback from the Public Consultation on the Needs Analysis shows there is clear evidence to suggest that people would support businesses/service providers who are providing CTS, even if this is not a requirement.

The hours of opening of the alternative facilities may offer a variety of opening hours which would not cause significant disadvantage.

Quality skills for the long term

No known impacts

Quality jobs for the long term

No known impacts

Childcare

No known impacts

Negative impacts identified:

A low carbon society

Review of staffing, risk of redundancies if closure of any facilities takes place and if a cashless payment system is installed in facilities where cash collections will no longer be required

Quality communications, infrastructure and transport

Loss of provision in some areas where there is a lack of alternative facilities may have a negative impact. The needs assessment will be critical in determining the level of need in each area.

Economic development

Installation of a cashless payment system could impact on a person's access to facilities which may put pressure on businesses not signed up for the CTS to offer their facilities to the public free of charge.

Closure of any facilities could impact on the economic development of a city, town or village if people decide not to visit the area due to a lack of facilities.

Quality skills for the long term

No known impacts

Quality jobs for the long term

If a review of staffing is undertaken to make the cost of running the facility more sustainable, cleaners etc. may lose their jobs and a greater burden placed on cafes and restaurants. There may be

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impacts to contracts and salaries for those currently employed, with some also potentially facing redundancies.

Peripatetic workers rely on public conveniences as convenient facilities to relieve themselves during working hours.

Potential TUPE to DLL if facilities are transferred could result in worse terms and conditions for those staff.

Childcare

Closures could affect those who provide childcare, in terms of where they visit based on whether facilities are available.

A resilient Denbighshire

Overall Impact

Positive

Justification for impact

Public toilet provision has no direct impact on the biodiversity and ecosystems of Wales, although some investment when maintaining and servicing toilets can reduce carbon emissions where they reduce electric and water usage. The Council collects data on the overall costs of power and water usage in each toilet.

Installation of the cashless payment system at sites would reduce energy/fuel consumption as cash collections would not be required.

Further actions required

Continued investment across all services that will reduce energy or utility costs.

The provision of public toilet facilities will need to minimise the impact on the environment.

Opportunities for more eco-friendly toilets available within the community through the Community Toilet Scheme will be explored as part of the review.

Positive impacts identified:

Biodiversity and the natural environment

No known impacts

Biodiversity in the built environment

No known impacts

Reducing waste, reusing and recycling

No known impacts

Reduced energy/fuel consumption

Reduction on carbon footprint if some DCC operatives are no longer required at public conveniences sites to collect cash once the cashless system is installed

People's awareness of the environment and biodiversity

No known impacts

Flood risk management

No known impacts

Negative impacts identified:

Biodiversity and the natural environment

No known impacts

Biodiversity in the built environment

No known impacts

Reducing waste, reusing and recycling

No known impacts

Reduced energy/fuel consumption

No known impacts

People's awareness of the environment and biodiversity

No known impacts

Flood risk management

No known impacts

A healthier Denbighshire

Overall Impact

Neutral

Justification for impact

The removal of any public conveniences has the potential to detrimentally affect the well-being of the everyone in terms of social isolation, in particular older people, those with particular health needs or disabilities, families/carers of people with needs/disabilities. Should these facilities become unavailable these groups can be disproportionately affected by poor provision, which is understood to have particular negative impacts on older people, as some may be less likely to leave their homes without having confidence that adequate facilities will be available to them. This can contribute to increased social isolation and inactivity, as well as affecting people's ability to maintain independence and dignity in later life. The Council is therefore exploring how the facilities can remain open and be sustainable under the current allocated budget.

Closure of public toilets may have a restrictive effect upon the willingness of certain groups to access public space, socialise and shop. This in turn can lead to isolation and negatively impact upon a person's well-being. Disabled people, older people, mothers and fathers of young children and carers and people with chronic health problems all need easy access to toilet facilities. Some older people, children and adults suffer from incontinence problems and other health related issues that require them to use the toilet more frequently. Lack of toilet facilities could result in older people staying at home. Young children are less likely to be able to wait to use the toilet and parents/carers

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with babies may need baby changing facilities. Pregnant women are more likely to need the toilet more frequently and will be disadvantaged if there are a lack of facilities. Carers who look after older people, disabled and young people may be disadvantaged. Lack of toilet facilities prevents disabled people from taking part in everyday activities and going out. Evidence about isolation and access to services (WIMD) - <https://conwyanddenbighshirelsb.org.uk/home/english-wellbeing-assessment/english-living-in-isolation-access-to-services/>

Increasing costs may deter people from using public toilets or visiting certain places in the County. The service does however provide low cost RADAR keys that provide access to more accessible toilets for extended periods of the day.

The Council collects data on the usage levels of toilets through fee income and water usage and the installation of a cashless payment system would continue to be monitored through the collection of usage data.

The overall impact is neutral while we mitigate any negative impacts. This will be monitored and reviewed as the proposal progresses.

Further actions required

The proposal is informed by research and evidence and seeks to balance costs with maintaining provision through less noticeable operational change, e.g opening hours and cleaning schedule. The Council makes provision for RADAR keys for certain groups. Discussions are also ongoing with City, Town & Community Councils to transfer the running of the public conveniences to them as they may be able to operate them at a lower cost than Denbighshire County Council.

Positive impacts identified:

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

Accessible, clean toilets that are well located in places such as town centres, parks and near public transport hubs or active travel routes can help encourage people to socialise, exercise and stay more physically active, which helps to maximise physical and mental well-being.

Access to good quality, healthy food

No known impacts

People's emotional and mental well-being

Accessible, clean toilets that are well located in places such as town centres, parks and near public transport hubs or active travel routes can help encourage people to socialise, exercise and stay more physically active, which helps to maximise physical and mental well-being.

Access to healthcare

No known impacts

Participation in leisure opportunities

Accessible, clean toilets that are well located in places such as town centres, parks and near public transport hubs or active travel routes can help encourage people to socialise, exercise and stay more physically active, which helps to maximise physical and mental well-being.

Negative impacts identified:

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

Increasing the cost to use the facility may impact accessibility for some people, as well as the installation of a cashless payment system. Provision of, and access to, toilets is an issue that affects public health. Accessible, clean toilets that are well located in places such as town centres, parks, promenades, cycle trails and walking routes can help encourage people to take exercise and stay more physically active and not become socially isolated. Removing some toilet provision from the areas it currently exists is likely to be of detriment to people visiting such places.

Access to good quality, healthy food

No known impacts

People's emotional and mental well-being

Increasing the cost to use the facility may impact accessibility for some people, as well as the installation of a cashless payment system.

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Removing some facilities can impact on a person's physical and mental health. 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

Whilst any change to public convenience provision may not affect access to health care, access to suitable public conveniences does enable people to ensure their personal health needs are met.

Participation in leisure opportunities

Individuals with disabilities or other health issues may choose not to attend leisure opportunities, due to a lack of provision.

A more equal Denbighshire

Overall Impact

Negative

Justification for impact

Potential changes to the Council's Fees and Charges and opening hours of facilities would not disproportionately affect one age group over another, however closure of facilities may impact on all protected characteristics in that area.

The proposals will help maintain provision without losing access to toilets. There may be some impacts due to rising costs but this is balanced against keeping toilets open, keeping them in a good condition and responding to vandalism that does impact on provision.

Vulnerable customers are more likely to be affected by this proposal, however, all alternative options are being explored.

Further actions required

The proposals seek to balance costs with maintaining provision through less noticeable operational changes e.g. opening hours and cleaning schedule.

The Council makes provision for RADAR keys for certain groups.

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Discussions are ongoing with City, Town & Community Councils to transfer the running of the public conveniences to them as they may be able to operate them at a lower cost than Denbighshire County Council.

STAND NW CIC survey findings highlight the importance of signage and signposting, providing clarity about where PCs are located and which are accessible and universal.

The closure of any site is part of the delivery of the Local Toilet Strategy. We will ensure stakeholders are kept informed and we aim to work collaboratively with CT&CCs and Elected Members, who are representatives in our communities, and hope they will provide feedback from their residents from different characteristic groups. Engagement will also continue with charities and the STAND NW CIC survey will continue to be referred to.

One of our actions will be to update the WBIA as and when evidence is gathered around the particular impact on specific communities and the severity of the impact, also bearing in mind the cumulative impact of all savings proposals. This is a factor to be considered if we increase charges as we need to acknowledge a disproportionate negative impact on people with low income.

Positive impacts identified:

Advancing equality and improving the well-being of people with protected characteristics, including fostering good relations between people with protected characteristics and those without. The nine protected characteristics are: age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage or civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation

No known impacts

Advancing equality and improving the well-being of people who suffer discrimination or disadvantage

Installation of cashless payment systems will help retain facilities open where possible, ensuring public toilets are available across the County where there is an identified need.

Advancing equality and improving the well-being of people affected by socio-economic disadvantage and unequal outcomes

Installation of cashless payment systems will help retain facilities open where possible, ensuring public toilets are available across the County where there is an identified need.

Areas affected by socio-economic disadvantage

No known impacts

Negative impacts identified:

Advancing equality and improving the well-being of people with protected characteristics, including fostering good relations between people with protected characteristics and those without. The nine protected characteristics are: age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage or civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation

Installation of cashless payment system may impact upon the willingness of certain groups to access public space, socialise and shop. This in turn can lead to isolation and negatively impact upon a person's well-being.

- Age - Older people tend to rely on the use of public toilets. Those with mobility issues will have a limiting access to other toilets in their area. Although public toilets are closing in some areas the Local Toilet Strategy is looking to work with local businesses and opening up toilets in Council buildings to fill gaps in the provision of local toilets across the county.

Information on the location of toilets that are available for public use will be available on the council's website to ensure the public can find out where the nearest toilet is.

Businesses who are part of the CTS will display a sign in a prominent position to inform the public that the toilets are available for use.

The impact on the group will be both positive and negative:

Positive – increased provision of accessible toilets which may be of a better standard than the aging council run public toilets.

Negative – some accessible toilets are closing and may not be replaced with alternatives in the local area, this is dependent on the availability of businesses to sign up to the CTS and the location of suitable council buildings.

- Disability - people of all ages, their carers and families rely on accessible public toilets with changing facilities.

The impact on the group will be both positive and negative:

Positive – increased provision of accessible toilets which may be of a better standard than the aging council run public toilets.

Negative – some accessible toilets are closing and may not be replaced with alternatives in the local

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area, this is dependent on the availability of businesses to sign up to the CTS and the location of suitable council buildings.

- Gender reassignment - those undergoing or who have completed gender reassignment may be disproportionately impacted if some public toilets are closed. Transgender people may face discrimination due to people's perception about their gender which may impact on their privacy, dignity and safety.

The older public toilet facilities in Conwy are predominantly separated into male/ female facilities whereas many facilities that have been upgraded are unisex.

Although local toilets are closing in some areas the Local Toilet Strategy is looking into the availability of non-gender specific toilets in businesses across Denbighshire to ascertain if it is possible to increase the number that are accessible to the public.

- Marriage or Civil Partnership - It is thought there will be no differential impact on this protected group.

-Pregnancy and maternity - impact on expectant mothers and those with babies in need of changing facilities and the availability of breast feeding friendly facilities. Although local toilets are closing in some areas the Local Toilet Strategy is looking into the availability of baby changing facilities in businesses across Denbighshire to ascertain if it is possible to increase the number that are accessible to the public.

- Race - It is thought that there will be no differential impact on this protected group but we will endeavour to collect equality monitoring data on this protected characteristic where possible to monitor any potential impact. Consideration must be given to: "The absence of single-sex toilets in buildings where space precludes provision may be discriminatory to people with some religions or beliefs regarding the use of a toilet by a person of one sex after use by another sex. The test of reasonableness may be difficult to evaluate without further spatial guidance." Source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/toilet-provision-in-buildings-other-than-dwellings-technical-consultation/outcome/equality-impact-assessment-for-the-provision-of-toilets>

- Religion or belief - It is thought that there will be no differential impact on this protected group but we will endeavour to collect equality monitoring data on this protected characteristic where possible to monitor any potential impact.

- Sex - Women and girls may be disproportionately impacted if some public toilets are closed.

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Women and girls may need to use the toilet more often due to being on their period or going through the menopause. Women only toilets (as opposed to universal) may impact on the feeling of safety for women. Although public toilets are closing in some areas the Local Toilet strategy is looking into the availability of non-gender specific toilets in businesses across Denbighshire to ascertain if it is possible to increase the number that are accessible to the public in the county.

- Sexual orientation - it is thought there will be no differential impact on this protected group.

However this will all be mitigated through the availability of free to use public toilets in Council buildings and through businesses signed up to the CTS.

Advancing equality and improving the well-being of people who suffer discrimination or disadvantage

There could be negative impacts to homeless individuals who use public toilets as somewhere to wash as well as a toileting facility. Homeless people may also suffer from stigma, and may not be or may not feel welcome in some establishments.

Changes to the fee to use the facility may impact on accessibility for some people.

Advancing equality and improving the well-being of people affected by socio-economic disadvantage and unequal outcomes

It is thought that the closure of toilets will have no differential impact on socio-economically disadvantaged groups as it affects people from all socio-economic backgrounds the same.

Changes to the fee to use the facility may impact on accessibility for some people, in particular those on lower incomes who may be disproportionately affected if some public toilets are closed or charges increase.

Areas affected by socio-economic disadvantage

It is thought that the closure of toilets will have no differential impact on socio-economically disadvantaged groups as it affects people from all socio-economic backgrounds the same.

Changes to the fee to use the facility may impact on accessibility for some people and impact on public health if they are unable to access a toilet.

A Denbighshire of cohesive communities

Overall Impact

Neutral

Justification for impact

The provision of public toilets within communities, will make them more attractive places for people to live, work, and play with safe services provided in communities.

People may be less inclined to visit popular tourist spots if public toilets are closed in this area.

However, a review of the current facilities' opening hours and charge to use to allow them to remain open should not have a particular impact on cohesive communities.

Further actions required

The Council will look to minimise any negative impact by making facilities available in our Council buildings and Libraries. Additionally, the Community Toilet Grant scheme will enable businesses signed up to the scheme, to allow the public to use their toilet facilities free of charge without the expectation that users will make a purchase in approved locations during their opening hours.

A full and proper consultation with City, Town and Community Councils, local members and local businesses has been conducted as part of the holistic approach. The Council wrote to all relevant local councils offering them an opportunity to run public toilet(s) as a community resource for residents and visitors alike. Options have been explored to undertake a community asset transfer, and this has already taken place with Corwen Town Council and there is some interest from Ruthin Town Council, both providing service provision for rural communities.

In areas where there is an identified need, some facilities will remain open, a review of the charging, opening hours and staffing will take place to work towards a cost-neutral position to ensure this is sustainable in the longer term.

We will continue to work with North Wales Police, Town/Community Council, residents, local businesses, voluntary sector partners and community groups to ensure that public toilet facilities are as safe as possible and ensure that as many facilities are available where and then they are needed.

Positive impacts identified:

Safe communities and individuals

If facilities are transferred to CT&CCs it could have a positive impact in terms of keeping public toilets open and reducing the risks associated with crime and vandalism in disused premises. Two Town Councils have already expressed an interest in taking over ownership and discussions are ongoing with all others to determine whether this will be possible.

Community participation and resilience

If facilities are transferred to CT&CCs it could have a positive impact in terms of keeping public toilets open and reducing the risks associated with crime and vandalism in disused premises. Two Town Councils have already expressed an interest in taking over ownership and discussions are ongoing with all others to determine whether this will be possible.

The attractiveness of the area

If facilities are transferred to CT&CCs it could have a positive impact in terms of keeping public toilets open and reducing the risks associated with crime and vandalism in disused premises. Two Town Councils have already expressed an interest in taking over ownership and discussions are ongoing with all others to determine whether this will be possible.

Connected communities

If facilities are transferred to CT&CCs it could have a positive impact in terms of keeping public toilets open and reducing the risks associated with crime and vandalism in disused premises. Two Town Councils have already expressed an interest in taking over ownership and discussions are ongoing with all others to determine whether this will be possible.

Rural resilience

If facilities are transferred to CT&CCs it could have a positive impact in terms of keeping public toilets open and reducing the risks associated with crime and vandalism in disused premises. Two Town Councils have already expressed an interest in taking over ownership and discussions are ongoing with all others to determine whether this will be possible.

Negative impacts identified:

Safe communities and individuals

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PCs can (and sometimes are) magnets for anti-social behaviour; subject to vandalism. The council has had to spend money on repairs to the Botanical Gardens in Rhyl in particular, as well as in other areas, following vandalism last year.

There is an increased risk of vandalism and antisocial behaviour on the site of an empty building should closure occur. 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 behaviour could lead people to be less willing to become involved in planning events for the towns or attending events. A closure could affect a person's confidence and appetite to go out, contributing to a sense of social isolation.

The attractiveness of the area

If public convenience buildings are closed they could become potential eyesore sites

Connected communities

PCs help with tourism, shopping, sight seeing and connecting experiences for daytrippers

Rural resilience

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

A Denbighshire of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language

Overall Impact

Neutral

Justification for impact

Any changes and upgrades will contribute to the Council ensuring balanced budget and therefore continue to offer services that provide vital services to vulnerable groups as well as services that support a vibrant culture. That being said, the overall impact is felt to be neutral.

Further actions required

Discussions are also ongoing with a number of City, Town & Community Councils to transfer the running of the public conveniences to them as they may be able to operate them at a lower cost than Denbighshire County Council.

Positive impacts identified:

People using Welsh

It is thought there will be no differential impact on people's use of the Welsh language. We will ensure all information relating to local toilets is provided in bilingual format.

Promoting the Welsh language

DCC Public Toilet Strategy and Needs Assessment will be fully bilingual, which is a mandatory requirement. Signposting and mapping publicly available toilets bilingually will be important so that those who need to visit a facility can easily access information about the location, opening/closing times, accessibility and suitability of the toilets.

Culture and heritage

Whilst the changes will contribute to the Council operating with a balanced budget and therefore continue to offer vital services, including services that contribute to the vibrant culture of the county, the overall impact is expected to be neutral - particularly with the mitigations around tourism. As already stated, there will be a requirement to actively pursue mitigation so that the impact is not detrimental to area with coach friendly status or blue flag beach status.

Negative impacts identified:

People using Welsh

No known impacts

Promoting the Welsh language

No known impacts

Culture and heritage

No known impacts

A globally responsible Denbighshire

Overall Impact

Neutral

Justification for impact

As already stated, we are fulfilling our duty under The Public Health (Wales) Act 2017 that requires Local Authorities to take a strategic view across their local area of how toilets can be provided and accessed by the local population, considering a range of options to make facilities available to the public. The Act does not require Local Authorities to provide or maintain public toilets themselves. It does require them to consider all available options for providing public toilets through direct provision or working with private businesses to make facilities available to the public.

Reducing our carbon footprint by installing a cashless payment system at facilities to reduce the requirement for cash to be collected from sites on a regular basis. The proposed changes have no impact on a Globally Responsible Wales.

Further actions required

Although there will be closures of public toilets in some areas, delivery of the Local Toilet Strategy aims to continue providing public toilets on a cost neutral basis by working with local businesses and CT&CCs to increase the number and improve the standard of toilets that are available for public use in Denbighshire. This will meet the goals of the Well-being of Future Generations Act giving consideration to prosperity, resilience, health, equality, culture and global responsibility.

Positive impacts identified:

Local, national, international supply chains

No known impacts

Human rights

In accordance with article 14 of the Human Rights Act 1998 we will work to ensure no protected characteristic is treated less favourably than any other in relation to accessing public toilets.

Broader service provision in the local area or the region

Provision of public toilets could increase through successful promotion of the CTS.

Reducing climate change

No known impacts

Negative impacts identified:

Local, national, international supply chains

No known impacts

Human rights

Could increase anti-social behaviour and harassment issues

Broader service provision in the local area or the region

No known impacts

Reducing climate change

No known impacts