

## SOUTH HOLLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Report of:** Councillor G Dark, Chairman of the Public Toilets Task Group

**To:** Cabinet Tuesday, 12 February 2019

**(Author:** Christine Morgan, Donna Hall (Democratic Services Officer, Licensing and Business Support Manager)

**Subject** Final Report of the Public Toilets Task Group

**Purpose:** To present the Task Group's Final Report to Cabinet for consideration

### **Recommendation:**

To consider and approve the recommendations in the Task Group's Final Report

## **1.0 BACKGROUND**

### **1.1 Introduction**

1.1.1 The Performance Monitoring Panel established the Public Toilets Task Group on 6 February 2018. It commenced its work on 23 April 2018.

1.1.2 The scope of the Task Group was:

- To review public toilets in the district, looking at location, cleaning regimes, usage, reasons for closure and running costs.
- To use information gathered to ensure value for money, good service, and that the right money was spent in the right place.

1.1.3 The membership of the Task Group consisted of Councillors J R Astill, C J T H Brewis, G K Dark (Chairman) and P C Foyster. Councillor T A Carter was a member of the Task Group at the outset, but came off it in June 2018 when she became a member of the Cabinet.

### **1.2 Review Process**

1.2.1 The Task Group met on a number of occasions. It undertook a visit of all the Authority run public conveniences in the district, to get a clearer idea of the issues. Information was sought from officers, including opening times, running costs, records of reported vandalism, its cost and the length of closure as a result, and records of cleaning and servicing toilets. In addition, the following witnesses were interviewed by the Task Group:

- Ross Hastie – Technical Project Coordinator
- Vicky Stickels – Property Assessor
- Jim Harvey – Operation and Commercial Business Manager

1.2.2 The evidence and information received was analysed collectively to inform the conclusion and recommendations contained within the Final Report, which is attached at Appendix A.

1.2.3 The final report was considered and approved by the Performance Monitoring Panel on 30 January 2019

## 2.0 **OPTIONS**

2.1 Cabinet may:

- Agree the task groups recommendations in the Final Report; or
- Request that alterations be made/further consideration be given to the Final Report
- Do nothing.

## 3.0 **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

3.1 That the recommendations in the task group report are agreed

## 4.0 **EXPECTED BENEFITS**

4.1 The attached report makes a number of recommendations to improve the public toilet facilities in South Holland for consideration by Cabinet

## 5.0 **IMPLICATIONS**

In preparing this report, the report author has considered the likely implications of the decision - particularly in terms of Carbon Footprint / Environmental Issues; Constitutional & Legal; Contracts; Corporate Priorities; Crime & Disorder; Equality & Diversity/Human Rights; Financial; Health & Wellbeing; Reputation; Risk Management; Safeguarding; Staffing; Stakeholders/Consultation/Timescales; Transformation Programme; Other. Where the report author considers that there may be implications under one or more of these headings, these are identified below.

### 5.1 **Constitutional & Legal**

5.1.1 Public toilets are not a statutory requirement but where they are provided must meet statutory requirements. Legal services have been consulted during the preparation of this report.

### 5.2 **Corporate Priorities**

5.2.1 The work of the task group took into account all of the corporate priorities:

- To develop safer, stronger, healthier and more independent communities while protecting the most vulnerable
- To have pride in South Holland by supporting the district and residents to develop and thrive
- To provide the right services, at the right time and in the right way
- To encourage the local economy to be vibrant with continued growth

### 5.3 **Crime and Disorder**

5.3.1 The task group report has taken into account issues such as criminal damage and makes recommendations to attempt to reduce this

#### 5.4 **Equality and Diversity / Human Rights**

5.4.1 The Task Group looked at the provision of disabled toilets and the adult changing facility as part of the review.

#### 5.5 **Financial**

5.5.1 The financial implications of the recommendations have been outlined in the attached report. The finance team have been consulted and are aware of this.

#### 5.6 **Health & Wellbeing**

5.6.1 Public toilets are considered to be an important facility for the general public, as well as those with bladder and bowel conditions. The task group considered this as part of the review.

#### 5.7 **Reputation**

5.7.1 The Task Group considered the reputation of South Holland District Council in respect of the provision and condition of the toilets in the District.

#### 5.8 **Stakeholders / Constitution / Timescales**

5.8.1 The task group identified and considered a number of key stakeholders including relevant officers in Finance, Assets, Environmental Services; the general public and groups with specific needs; Parish Councils and others assisting in opening/closing and daily management of the facilities.

#### 6.0 **WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED**

6.1 All

#### 7.0 **ACRONYMS**

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Background papers:-

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**Key Decision:** N

**Exempt Decision:** N

**This report refers to a Discretionary Service**

**Appendices attached to this report:**

Appendix A Final Report of the Public Toilets Task Group