

Report of the Area Co-ordinator to the meeting of Keighley Area Committee to be held on Thursday 19 February 2015

AN

Subject:

Public Conveniences

Summary statement:

This report gives a further progress report on the future of public toilet provision in Keighley.

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Overview & Scrutiny Area:

Environment and Waste Management



City of Bradford
Metropolitan District Council

Dermot Pearson, Assistant City Solicitor



1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report gives a further progress report on the future of public toilet provision in Keighley.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Draft budget options published by the Council's Executive in autumn 2013 included proposals to close a number public toilet blocks across the Bradford district. In the Keighley constituency only Brook Street, Ilkley and Haworth (Bronte Parsonage) were proposed to be kept open. Following a public budget consultation process Executive, at its meeting on 18 February 2014, amended this draft budget by withdrawing proposals to close the toilets at Haworth Park and Riverside (Ilkley). This amended proposal was recommended to, and approved by a meeting of Council on 20 February 2014.
- 2.2 At the meeting of 23 October 2014 the committee recommended that a progress report be submitted to this committee in early 2015.
- 2.2 The intent of the proposal approved by Council was to retain toilet facilities in high-traffic tourist areas, where possible.
- 2.3 Since March 2014 officers have been engaged in dialogue with parish councils, friends of parks, town centre partnerships and other interested parties to identify possible ways to keep blocks open (including citizens volunteering to open, close and clean blocks) or agreeing to take over the sites and their associated costs.
- 2.4 In terms of the above:
- Punch Bowl (Silsden) and Sugar Hill (Addingham) - both Local Councils have now engaged a street cleaner whose duties after the end of March, will include opening, closing and cleaning the public toilets. Property Management are in the process of drawing up a tenancy agreement with Addingham Parish Council and this process will soon be followed with Silsden Town Council.
 - East Morton - Keighley Town Council have agreed to take over this toilet block. The process of transferring the building is underway.
 - Crossroads –Officers are in discussions with the newly formed Friends of Crossroads Park who are keen to take over the running of the toilet block subject to affordability.
 - Penistone Hill - there have been no expressions of interest for Penistone Hill and the block has been transferred to Asset Management for sale and/or disposal.
 - White Wells, Ilkley – Discussions are taking place with the café nearby to explore options to enable this block to remain open. A further meeting is to take place in February 2015.

- Keighley market – This block has been transferred to Property Management for sale or disposal.

2.5 As updates on these remaining toilets occur on a weekly basis a further report will be brought to this committee in April 2015.

3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

3.1 There are no other considerations.

4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

4.1 The indicative budget devolved to Keighley Area Committee for 2015/16 will be £65,800 shown in the table below:

Haworth Central Park & Bronte Parsonage

Employees	27,051
Other expenses	7,344
Income	-3,800
	<u>30,595</u>

Ilkley Brook Street & Riverside

Employees	42,511
Other expenses	10,490
Income	-17,800
	<u>35,205</u>

Total **£65,800**

5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

5.1 There are no risk management and governance issues apparent.

6. LEGAL APPRAISAL

6.1 The Council does not have a statutory duty to provide public conveniences.

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

7.1 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

7.1.1 Area Committee decisions in relation to public conveniences will need to be made in line with Equal Rights legislation. This will require the Committee to consider the potential equality impact of any decisions they make.

7.2 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

7.2.1 There are no sustainability implications apparent.

7.3 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS

7.3.1 There are no greenhouse gas emission impacts apparent.

7.4 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

7.4.1 There are no community safety implications apparent.

7.5 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

7.5.1 There are no human rights implications apparent.

7.6 TRADE UNION

7.6.1 Management continues to meet with the trade unions on the closures of toilets.

7.7 WARD IMPLICATIONS

7.7.1 The information in this report is relevant to Ilkley, Keighley East, Keighley Central, Craven and Worth Valley

7.8 AREA / WARD PLAN IMPLICATIONS

7.8.1 As a devolved service members can decide where resources are deployed and/or where budgets can be redirected.

8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

8.1 There are no not for publication documents.

9. OPTIONS

9.1.1 As a devolved service the Area Committee can ultimately make decisions with regards how the budget for public toilets in Keighley is spent. This report is presented primarily as an update for those blocks identified for closure.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 That the Committee notes the progress on the future of public toilet provision in the Keighley Constituency.

10.2 That a further progress report be presented to this Committee.

11. APPENDICES

11.1 None.

12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

- 12.1 “Public Conveniences – Devolution” (Document U), Report of the Keighley Area Co-ordinator to Keighley Area Committee on 23 October 2014.
- 12.2 “Public Conveniences – Devolution to Area Committees” (Document Y), Report of the Keighley Area Co-ordinator to Keighley Area Committee on 22 November 2012.
- 12.3 “Devolution to Area Committees” (Document AG), Report of the Strategic Director of Environment and Sport to the Council Executive, 9 October 2012.
- 12.4 “Devolution of Council Service budgets and responsibilities to Area Committees from 2012-13 onwards” (Document U), Report of the Strategic Director of Environment and Sport to the meeting of the Council Corporate Governance and Audit Committee on 5 October 2012, Devolution to Area Committees.