

Report of the Area Co-ordinator to the meeting of Keighley Area Committee to be held on Thursday 17 September 2015.

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Subject:

Request to re-open the public toilets in Silsden

Summary statement:

This report considers a petition from local residents to re-open the public toilets in Silsden.

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Portfolio:

Environment, Sport and Sustainability

Overview & Scrutiny Area:

Environment and Waste Management



City of Bradford
Metropolitan District Council

Suzan Hemingway, City Solicitor



1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report considers a petition from local residents to re-open the public toilets in Silsden.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The proposal to close a number of public toilets throughout the district was approved by a meeting of Council on 20 February 2014. The public toilets at Bridge Street, Silsden were amongst these. The intent of the proposal approved by Council was to retain toilet facilities in high-traffic tourist areas, where possible.
- 2.2 It was agreed that Officers would enquire with Parish Councils, Town Councils and other appropriate and established groups such as "Friends of Groups", whether there was an interest in taking over the maintenance and cleaning of the blocks.
- 2.3 On 23rd October 2014 the Keighley Area Committee approved the allocation of resources as shown in the report of the Director of Environment and Sport Document "U" Public Conveniences-Devolution. The allocation of resources allowed for the public toilets at Brook Street and Riverside, Ilkley and Central Park and Bronte Parsonage, Haworth to remain open.
- 2.4 From March 2014 officers were engaged in a dialogue with Silsden Town Councils to identify possible ways to keep the block open and to pass over the site and its associated costs. Unfortunately, after much consideration the Town Council decided that due to the condition of the building and the associated running costs, they would not take over the running of the toilets. The block was subsequently closed at the beginning of April 2015.
- 2.5 A toilet facility is now available at Silsden Town Hall when the Library is open which is Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 10.00am to 4.00pm and on Saturday from 9.30am to 4.00pm. Information about this is shown on notices on the public toilet building.
- 2.6 A petition signed by 1048 people was presented to Council on the 14th July 2015. The petition was requesting the re-opening of the public toilets at Silsden. The decision of Council was that the petition be referred back to the Keighley Area Committee. **A copy of the petition will be available for Members perusal at the meeting.**

3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 Keighley Area Committee has no additional resources to re-open the toilets at Silsden.
- 3.2 The re-opening of the toilets would require an organisation, other than Bradford Council, to identify resources which would include the funding for cleaning, rates, utilities repairs and ongoing consumables e.g. cleaning materials, toilet rolls etc.

3.3 The toilet has been transferred to Asset Management who are responsible for its sale or disposal.

4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

4.1 The budget devolved to Keighley Area Committee for Public Conveniences for 2015/16 is £65,800 which has been allocated to the maintenance of the toilets at Brook Street and Riverside, Ilkley and Central Park and Bronte Parsonage, Haworth.

5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

5.1 None specific

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 There are no Trade Union issues

7.7 WARD IMPLICATIONS

7.7.1 The information in this report is relevant to Craven Ward

7.8 AREA / WARD PLAN IMPLICATIONS

7.8.1 This report is relevant to Craven Ward.

8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

8.1 There are no not for publication documents.

9. OPTIONS

9.1 That Keighley Area Committee adopts the recommendations outlined in this report.

9.2 That Keighley Area Committee adopts the recommendations outlined in this report, with amendments.

9.3 That Keighley Area Committee decides not to accept the recommendations outlined in this report.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 That the Area Committee considers the Petition to re-open the Public Toilets in Silsden as detailed in this report.

11. APPENDICES

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.