

	<b>REPORT TO CABINET TO BE HELD ON 18 JUNE 2019</b>	
	<b>Key Decision</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Corporate Aims All</b>	<b>Forward Plan Ref No</b>	<b>N/A</b>
	<b>Cabinet Portfolio Holder</b>	<b>Cllr Janet Jefferson</b>

**REPORT OF: Director (NE) 19/134**

**WARDS AFFECTED: Northstead Ward, Weaponness and Ramshill Ward**

**SUBJECT: PUBLIC CONVENIENCES**

**RECOMMENDATION (S):**

Cabinet is recommended to:

- a) Approve the installation of a temporary public convenience on Royal Albert Drive for the 2019 summer tourist season (until the end of September 2019 subject to appropriate planning consent).
- b) Re-open and refurbish the Holbeck Clock public convenience.
- c) Approve £51k of one off costs to deliver the above noting the effect that it will have on the 2019/20 projected outturn position.
- d) Note, the potential for budgetary growth in the 20/21 Medium Term Financial Strategy should the full budgetary savings from public conveniences not be achieved.

**REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION (S):**

To provide and reinstate public toilets on Royal Albert Drive and in South Cliff Gardens near Holbeck Clock.

## **HIGHLIGHTED RISKS:**

See attached risk matrix.

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The Council's Cabinet considered a report on 21 May 2013 on the market testing of the public convenience service. The report, in essence, explained that the costs involved in outsourcing the service were unaffordable due to the financial climate. It was resolved that the market testing of the public convenience service should be discontinued and the service be retained in-house. Furthermore, Cabinet agreed to establish an Officer/Member Working Group and requested Officers to prepare a draft Business Plan detailing the service improvements and potential efficiencies.
- 1.2 The Officer/Member Working Group reported to Cabinet in December 2013 (report ref 13/391). Included in the report were proposals to close a number of toilets so the report recommended referral of the proposals to Overview and Scrutiny Committee for review and the outcome of this Scrutiny review was reported to Cabinet in October 2015 (report ref 15/286). The Portfolio Holder commended the work of the Task Group and the principles for managing the Council's facilities which were now accepted. However, it was agreed that the proposals for the service were not sustainable in light of the fiscal challenges facing the Council and a more comprehensive plan encompassing every facility in the Borough was required.
- 1.3 The Council's Cabinet received a further report in February 2016 (report ref. 16/48) which outlined a draft plan for the future provision of public conveniences. Approval was given to undertake full consultation on the proposals outlined in the plan.
- 1.4 The full Provisional Plan for Public Conveniences was approved by the Council's Cabinet in July 2016 (report ref: 16/155). Following this approval Officers moved to implementation of the plan and a further report seeking approval for the delivery phase was considered by Overview and Scrutiny on 5 April 2017 (report ref: 17/91). Following this review process, a further report was then considered by the Council's Cabinet on 16 May 2017 (report ref: 17/113) which approved the closure of Royal Albert Drive and Holbeck Clock toilets.
- 1.5 Officers have subsequently been asked to consider options to re-open public toilets on Royal Albert Drive and at Holbeck Clock.

### **2. CORPORATE AIMS**

- 2.1 This report supports all of the Council's Corporate Aims

### **3. BACKGROUND AND ISSUES**

- 3.1 The provision of public conveniences is a non-statutory function for local authorities; however, Scarborough Borough Council recognises the importance of good public space management and the benefits that such facilities can bring to an area. This recognition needs to be placed in the context of decreasing budgets and consideration given to alternative methods of service provision.
- 3.2 The current plan, as approved, sets out a clear vision for public toilets in the Borough of Scarborough:
- “To adopt a sustainable approach to public convenience provision in the Borough of Scarborough that positively contributes to public health, well-being and the prosperity of the community.”*
- 3.3 Supporting this vision is a number of clear aims:
- To facilitate the provision of public conveniences directly, through partnership and through devolution of responsibility to the wider public and private sectors.
  - To ensure that all facilities are maintained to a high standard, accessible to all and effectively signposted and promoted.
  - To ensure that public conveniences are delivered in a sustainable manner with due regard to affordability and the environment.
- 3.4 The Council’s Medium Term Financial Strategy identifies a budget savings requirement from the public convenience service of £300k to be delivered over a three year period to 2019/20. Work undertaken to date has delivered £242k of this saving and the further £58k has yet to be identified.
- 3.5 It is recognised that the provision of high quality, accessible public toilets in the appropriate location, is a fundamental priority for the adopted public convenience plan. It is also recognised that the provision of public toilets could be considered essential in areas with a large tourism economy.
- 3.6 There are a number of costs associated with the delivery of a public convenience. These costs include maintenance and repair, utility costs such as water and electricity, costs associated with sewage treatment and general cleaning costs.
- 3.7 The previous toilet on Royal Albert Drive was demolished to make way for development in that location. It is understood that the new development will contain publicly accessible toilets and while this development progresses it is possible to install a temporary public toilet in this location for a maximum of 28 days with full planning consent required for a longer period.
- 3.8 There has been considerable, continued public interest in the future provision of facilities in these locations.
- 3.9 The HLF South Cliff Restoration Project includes the provision of additional toilet facilities within the gardens but not at the Holbeck clock site.

## **4. CONSULTATION**

- 4.1 Consultation will be undertaken with Ward Councillors in advance of the Cabinet meeting.

## **5. ASSESSMENT**

- 5.1 It is possible to install a temporary prefabricated toilet block on Royal Albert Drive for the 2019 summer season subject to appropriate planning consent and associated budget. This would consist of a 'hired-in' prefabricated unit with appropriate screening and landscaping to ensure it fits in with the local environment and would require the utility connections to be re-established in this area. It is important to note that the Council would be fully liable for any damage caused to this prefabricated building during the course of its hire. Should the wider redevelopment of this area not progress, it would be prudent to look at alternatives for future seasons – outright purchase or the Council building a facility here.
- 5.2 In order to achieve the installation of a temporary toilet on Royal Albert Drive for the 2019 summer season a budget of £28k would be required to hire and connect the facility. If it is decided to retain the installation of this facility beyond the end of September 2019 additional hire costs will be incurred which are not identified within this report.
- 5.3 It is possible to re-open Holbeck Clock toilets subject to the provision of an appropriate budget to undertake a general refurbishment of the site to ensure it is safe for the public to use. Provision of facilities within the area over the long-term will be part of the wider redevelopment of the gardens. In order to re-open this block a one off investment of £6k would be required.
- 5.4 There would be additional revenue costs incurred for both toilets which include utilities, maintenance, cleaning and consumables. To open both these sites an additional revenue budget of £17k will be required.
- 5.4 Vincent Pier toilets can suffer from long queues on exceptionally busy days. Signage has been installed directing people to West Pier toilets and it is envisaged that the toilets on Royal Albert Drive will offer additional capacity and further mitigate against this problem.
- 5.5 It would not be possible to charge for the use of these toilets at either Holbeck Clock or Royal Albert Drive. Therefore, there may be a negative impact upon income at Vincent Pier Toilets as more people may choose to use the free facilities at Royal Albert Drive instead. No allowance has been included for this in the additional revenue budget identified.

## **6. IMPLICATIONS**

### **(a) Policy**

There are no new policy implications that arise from this report.

### **(b) Financial**

The proposals contained within this report will lead to additional unbudgeted costs of £51k. Members should also note that the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy includes a requirement to deliver a further £58k saving from the public convenience budget and, at present, there are no definite plans in place to deliver this.

Adoption of these proposals together with the unachieved savings will lead to a potential budget shortfall of £109k this year. Should Members approve this expenditure then this will be reflected in the first quarterly monitoring report that will be presented to Cabinet in September 2019.

### **(c) Legal**

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

### **(d) Equalities and Diversity**

The provision of public conveniences which are accessible for all is a key aim of this plan and this supports the Council Equalities and Diversity agenda. A full Equalities Impact Assessment was undertaken as part of the development of the Public Convenience Provision Plan.

### **(e) Staffing Issues**

The proposals contained in this report will require the appointment of additional part time staff to facilitate the cleaning of these facilities.

### **(f) Planning, Environmental, Health and Safety, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder**

The provision of accessible public conveniences contributes to protecting the environment, promoting sustainability and reducing crime and disorder. The proposals outlined in this report will help reduce any issues associated with people urinating in public in the areas served by these toilets.

Planning consent will be required for the provision of a temporary toilet on Royal Albert Drive.

**(g) Communications**

The re-opening of these toilets will be widely publicised through press release, social media and on the Council's website.

*Nicholas Edwards*

**Nick Edwards**  
**Director**

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**Background Papers:**

Please give details of all publicly accessible (non private) background papers applicable to the report.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUERIES ABOUT THIS REPORT OR WISH TO INSPECT ANY OF THE BACKGROUND PAPERS, PLEASE CONTACT THE AUTHOR.

## Risk Matrix

Risk Ref	Date	Risk	Consequences	Mitigation	Current Risk Score	Target Score	Service Unit Manager/ Responsible Officer	Action Plan
1	18/06/19	Installation and refurbishment costs exceed allocated budget	Further funding required	A prudent contingency sum has been included in the budget provision	C3	B2	OTCM	
2	18/06/19	Prefabricated unit unavailable to hire	Unable to install temporary toilet	There are a number of identified suppliers of temporary buildings although costs may vary	B2	A1	OTCM	
3	18/06/19	Planning consent is not granted for Royal Albert Drive toilet	Unable to install toilet	Pre-application discussions with be held with planners	C3	A1	OTCM	
4	18/06/19	Damage to hire toilet at Royal Albert Drive	Additional costs incurred	CCTV coverage in the area may offer some deterrent	C3	C3	OTCM	

## Glossary of Terms

Risk	An event which may prevent the Council achieving its objectives
Consequences	The outcome if the risk materialised
Mitigation	The processes and procedures that are in place to reduce the risk
Current Risk Score	The likelihood and impact score with the current mitigation measures in place
Target Risk Score	The likelihood and impact score that the Council is aiming to achieve
Service Unit Manager	The Service Unit or Officer responsible for managing the risk
Action Plan	The proposed actions to be implemented in order to reduce the risk to the target score

## Risk Scoring

Impact	5					
	4					
	3					
	2					
	1					
		A	B	C	D	E
	Likelihood					

### Likelihood:

A = Very Low  
 B = Not Likely  
 C = Likely  
 D = Very Likely  
 E = Almost Certain

### Impact

1 = Low  
 2 = Minor  
 3 = Medium  
 4 = Major  
 5 = Disaster