

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Communities Scrutiny Committee</b>
<b>Date</b>	<b>7th February 2019</b>
<b>Title</b>	<b>Local Toilets Strategy</b>
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	<b>Councillor Gareth Wyn Griffith</b>
<b>Author</b>	<b>Steffan Jones, Temporary Head of Highways and Municipal</b>
<b>Purpose</b>	<b>To raise awareness and give Committee Members an opportunity to scrutinise the Draft Local Toilets Strategy and to propose any feedback prior to its submission to the Cabinet.</b>

## **1. BACKGROUND**

1.1 The purpose of this paper is to update the Committee on the impact of cuts on public toilets and future schemes by raising the awareness of Scrutiny Committee Members to the development of the proposed strategy and to ensure that it is scrutinised and adopted and published by 31 May 2019.

1.2 Following the Her Gwynedd decision and since the report submitted on 27 June 2017 to achieve a cut of £244,000 in the service by delivering the Partnering Scheme with Town and Community Councils, the Council has managed to keep up to 63 toilets open within the County. 34 Community and Town Councils have now committed to the Partnering Scheme which is encouraging and an example of collaborative working for the benefit of Gwynedd residents.

In addition, the County has a provision of 35 community toilets that are part of the Community Toilets Grant Scheme. It is very heartening that so many community and town councils have been part of the Partnering Scheme for the last two years to ensure that an appropriate provision is available in their communities.

1.3 Given that the scheme has been positive, and in order to have more stability and efficient arrangements, the Council is asking Community and Town Councils to commit for the next two years (2019-20 and 2020-21).

## **2.0 LOCAL TOILETS STRATEGY**

2.1 The Public Health Act (Wales) 2017 received Royal Assent on 3 July 2017. The Act brings a range of practical measures together to improve and safeguard health.

Section 8 of the Act presents the work of providing toilets, and specifically local toilet strategies.

2.2 The aim of Section 8 is to improve the way the provision of toilets available for public use is planned, by ensuring that every local authority in Wales assesses the needs of their communities in terms of toilets, and then use a strategic and transparent method of meeting that need in the best possible way.

2.3 The process of developing the strategy has made it possible for us to consider the wider options available in terms of providing toilets for the public. How this is provided can vary from traditional public toilets to new solutions. The aim of this is to get to grips with the current challenges relating to providing facilities within communities, as well as a serious reduction in the service budget.

### 3.0 TIMESCALE

3.1 As noted above, section 8 of the Public Health Act (Wales) 2017 places a responsibility on every local authority in Wales to produce and publish a local toilets strategy for their area. The following key actions and timescale are noted:

<b>Actions</b>	<b>When</b>
Carry out an assessment of need - See the results of the assessment of need in Appendix C to the Strategy	November 2018 - December 2018
Develop a draft Local Toilets Strategy	January 2019
Communities Scrutiny Committee - Submit the Local Toilets Strategy to Scrutiny Committee Members	7 February 2019
Consultation - It is vital that the Council consults on the draft Local Toilets Strategy for a period of 12 weeks	February - April 2019
Cabinet - Submit the Local Toilets Strategy to the Cabinet for approval	May 2019
Publication - It is vital that the Council publishes its Local Toilets Strategy by 31 May 2019	31 May 2019
Interim progress statement - The Council needs to produce and publish an 'interim progress statement' explaining the measures it has taken in accordance with its strategy over the previous two years	Before the end of May 2021
Review the Strategy - submit a period end progress statement - within a year following all usual local government elections	November 2021

### **3. RECOMMENDATION**

- To accept the report and consider the draft local strategy presented:
- Determine if there are any observations to be presented to the Cabinet;