

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.

PORTFOLIO HOLDER DELEGATED DECISION

By

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR PHYL DAVIES
(PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR HIGHWAYS, RECYCLING AND ASSETS)**

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**COUNTY COUNCILLOR MARTIN WEALE
(PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR ECONOMY AND PLANNING)**

14 January 2019

REPORT AUTHOR: Dr Greg Thomas, Project Officer (Events/Civil Contingencies)

SUBJECT: Powys Local Toilet Strategy

REPORT FOR: Decision

1. Summary

1.1 This report seeks approval to undertake public consultation on the draft Powys Local Toilet Strategy (See Appendix 1).

1.2 Part 8 of the Public Health (Wales) Act 2017: Provision of Toilets came into force on 31 May 2018 and places a duty on each local authority in Wales to prepare and publish a local toilet strategy for its area. Local authorities in Wales now have the responsibility to:

- Assess the need for toilet provision for their communities;
- Plan to meet those needs;
- Produce a local toilets strategy; and
- Review the strategy, update, and publicise revisions.

1.3 Local authorities must prepare and publish their strategies within one year from 31 May 2018. The duty to prepare a local toilets strategy does not require local authorities to provide and maintain public toilets directly. The Local Authority must take a strategic view on how facilities can be provided and accessed by their local population. Upon review of this strategy, Powys County Council is required to publish a statement of progress. The strategy should contribute toward achieving accessible and clean toilets wherever people live, work, or visit.

1.4 A draft strategy has been prepared that incorporates identification and mapping, population assessment and health impact assessment, as well as public involvement. This draft strategy is attached as Appendix 1 and has been prepared in line with Welsh Government guidance for the preparation of local toilet strategies.

2. Proposal

- 2.1 A draft Powys Local Toilet Strategy (Appendix 1) has been prepared that incorporates feedback following a period of public engagement, population assessment, and identification and mapping.
- 2.2 The draft strategy sets out proposed actions that may be pursued over the next two years in order to promote access and increase the provision of local toilets. In line with Welsh Government guidance, the Council is required to undertake a 12 week period of public consultation on the draft Powys Local Toilet Strategy, and it is proposed to report the outcome of the consultation to Cabinet together with a final draft strategy for consideration and approval. The final Powys Local Toilet Strategy must be published by 31 May 2019.

3. Options Considered / Available

- 3.1 The Council is required by legislation to prepare a Local Toilet Strategy so 'do-nothing' is not an option. The only options available are to amend the proposed actions set out in the draft strategy.

4. Preferred Choice and Reasons

- 4.1 That Powys County Council agree to approve the release of the draft Powys Local Toilet Strategy to public consultation. This will ensure that Powys County Council is able to publish the strategy by 31 May 2019, meeting the requirements of the Public Health (Wales) Act 2017.

5. Impact Assessment

- 5.1 Is an impact assessment required? Yes
- 5.2 If yes is it attached? Yes

6. Corporate Improvement Plan

- 6.1 This proposal contributes fully to Vision 2025, and the wider ambition to be an open and enterprising council. Thus far the Draft Powys Local Toilet Strategy has been written in a way that has engaged with residents, and in moving to the public consultation phase, this will continue.
- 6.2 Specifically, the Draft Powys Local Toilet Strategy contributes to the four goals of Vision 2025 in the following manner:
- The economy – good quality public toilets are a key to ensuring that residents and visitors can make full use of public spaces.
 - Health and care – the provision of good quality publicly accessible toilets are crucial to ensuring the wider health of the population. For some, with health conditions, publicly accessible toilets allow them to enjoy Powys without needing to worry about finding the nearest toilet.

- Learning and skills – publicly accessible toilets allow young people to make the most of the outdoor learning and recreation opportunities that the landscape of Powys provides.
- Residents and communities – the Draft Powys Local Toilet Strategy has an emphasis on business/community led provision, and as such communities will have an active role in the delivery of toilet provision.

7. **Local Member(s)**

The Draft Powys Local Toilet Strategy will equally apply to all areas of Powys.

8. **Other Front Line Services**

Does the recommendation impact on other services run by the Council or on behalf of the Council? Yes.

Service areas have been involved in the preparation of the draft toilet strategy, and will have further opportunity to comment as part of the consultation process. The finalised actions will need to be taken forward by service areas, so the strategy will require a continued input and commitment from a range of service areas.

9. **Communications**

Have Communications seen a copy of this report? Yes

Have they made a comment? Yes. “The report is of public interest and requires use of news release and appropriate social media to publicise the decision and consultation.”

10. **Support Services (Legal, Finance, Corporate Property, HR, ICT, Business Services)**

10.1 Legal: the recommendation can be supported from a legal point of view.

10.2 Finance - The Finance Manager Environment and Resources notes the contents of the report.

11. **Scrutiny**

Has this report been scrutinised? No.

12. **Data Protection**

Not applicable.

13. Statutory Officers

13.1 The Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer) commented as follows:
“I note the legal comments and have nothing to add to the report.”

13.2 The Head of Financial Services (Deputy Section 151 Officer) notes the content of the report.

14. Members' Interests

The Monitoring Officer is not aware of any specific interests that may arise in relation to this report. If the Portfolio Holder has an interest, he/ she should declare it, complete the relevant notification for and refer the matter to Cabinet for decision.

Recommendation:	Reason for Recommendation:
To approve the draft Powys Local Toilet Strategy for public consultation.	To comply with Part 8 of the Public Health (Wales) Act 2017, requiring the development and publication of a Local Toilets Strategy.

Relevant Policy (ies):			
Within Policy:	Y	Within Budget:	Y

Relevant Local Member(s):	N/A
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Person(s) To Implement Decision:	Peter Morris, Sue Ling, Greg Thomas
Date By When Decision To Be Implemented:	14 January 2019

Is a review of the impact of the decision required?	N
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Background Papers used to prepare Report: