



**Cabinet Member for  
Environment Enhancement & Infrastructure Management**

**Cabinet – 18 November 2021**

**Swansea Public Toilet Strategy: Progress Report**

<b>Purpose:</b>	To seek approval from Cabinet on Swansea Council's Public Toilet Strategy and the progress of its action plan.
<b>Policy Framework:</b>	Part 8, Public Health Act (Wales) 2017
<b>Consultation:</b>	Access to Services, Finance, Legal. (This should always list Access to Services, Finance, Legal plus any other key posts or bodies that were consulted during the compilation of the report. Please refrain from using Head of/Director of).
<b>Recommendation(s):</b>	It is recommended that:
1)	Cabinet approves Swansea's Public Toilet Strategy
2)	Cabinet notes progress to date, approves future actions for delivery and delegates any amendments or changes to the delivery plan to the Director of place and Cabinet member for Environment Enhancement & Infrastructure Management
<b>Report Authors:</b>	Chris Howell/Andy Edwards
<b>Finance Officer:</b>	Ben Smith
<b>Legal Officer:</b>	Tracey Meredith
<b>Access to Services Officer:</b>	Rhian Millar

## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 The Public Health (Wales) Act 2017 received Royal Assent on the 3 July 2017. Part 8 of the Act placed a duty on each Local Authority in Wales to prepare and publish a local toilets strategy for its area.
- 1.2 The Act provides that a strategy must include an assessment of the community's need for toilets, including changing facilities for babies and

changing places facilities for people with disabilities. The strategy must also provide details of how the Local Authority proposes to meet the identified need.

- 1.3 The Act is underpinned by guidance from Welsh Government, which Local Authorities are required to have regard to and to read in conjunction with the Act. There is no requirement for the strategies to be presented to the Welsh Government for approval, as the strategies should be subject to Local Authorities' existing scrutiny structures and public scrutiny.
- 1.4 Swansea's initial assessment of need and draft strategy was completed by the British Toilet Association. The consultation on Swansea's published, draft Public Toilet Strategy closed on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2020 and a report was presented to the Economy and Infrastructure Policy Development Committee, on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2020.
- 1.5 This report brings the strategy for formal approval, along with its action plan and a report on its progress.

## **2 Overview of Swansea's Public Toilet Strategy ("the Strategy")**

- 2.1 The Strategy, and its action plan, covers six key areas:
  - Strategy – the process of developing a public toilet strategy for the City and County of Swansea
  - Governance – the governance arrangements for overseeing the development and progress of the strategy;
  - Communication - mechanisms for communication about public toilet provision within the City and County of Swansea and how this will be developed to meet the needs of residents, visitors and businesses;
  - Facilities – the process of reviewing existing public toilet provision within the City and County of Swansea;
  - Development – the development of a plan to ensure that Swansea's public toilet provision meets the current and future needs of local residents, visitors and businesses; and
  - Funding – the development of a sustainable funding plan that enables Swansea Council to maintain and develop its public toilet provision in accordance with the plans set out in this strategy.
- 2.2 The detail of the strategy and the action plan, for which approval is sought, can be found in the appendices to this report.

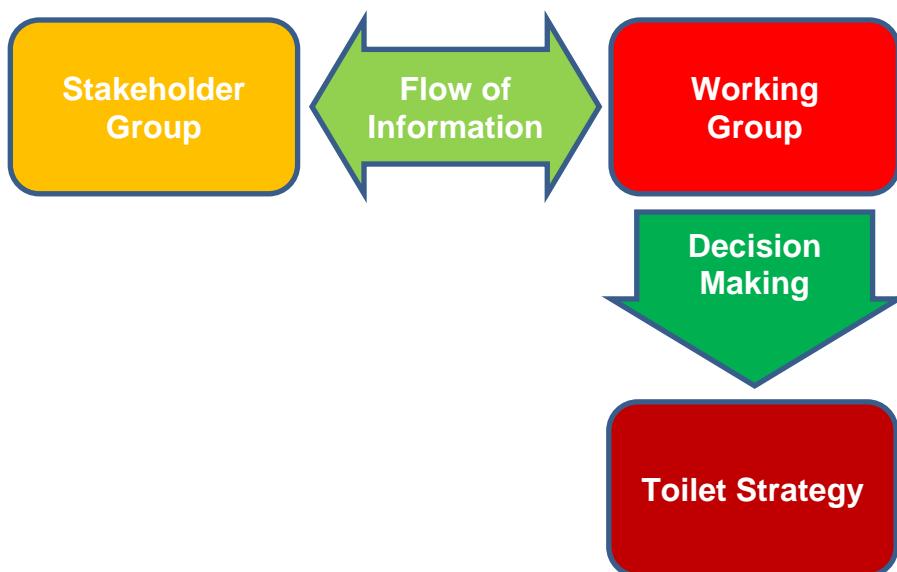
## **3 Progress Report**

- 3.1 Since the draft strategy was written and consulted on, in 2020, Swansea Council has continued to work to deliver improvements regarding the provision of public toilets throughout the city and county.
- 3.2 The Toilet Strategy

3.2.1 The strategy is the subject of this report so that it can be formally adopted and contribute to the work to improve Swansea as a place to live in and a place to visit.

### 3.3 Governance

3.3.1 In line with the Strategy, a formal structure has been established, with an internal working group driving the development of the strategy and the delivery of action plan. This is supported by a stakeholder group, drawn from key groups across the public, private and third sectors. Its purpose is to inform and shape the work of the working group.



### 3.4 Communication

- 3.4.1 The council's website has been updated to provide clear details of where all of our public toilets are, what facilities they have and when they are accessible.
- 3.4.2 Any new facilities made available to the public are being added to the website.
- 3.4.3 Funding has been approved, from the Economic Recovery Fund, to improve the physical signage regarding public toilet facilities. This will be integrated with a new Swansea Toilet Map that is being developed by the British Toilet Association.

### 3.5 Facilities

- 3.5.1 Existing public toilet provision has been reviewed and mapped (see 3.4).
- 3.5.2 A comprehensive programme of condition surveys are currently underway, at all sites controlled by Swansea Council. This information is being used to inform the maintenance and improvement programme.
- 3.5.3 Work has been undertaken to improve the accessibility of toilets, to the general public, in other public buildings.

3.5.4 Swansea Council has invested £200,000, since April 2020, to improve both the physical appearance of its public toilet facilities and to make them easier to clean well.

3.5.5 Toilet cleansing staff have received improved instruction, training, and equipment to maximise the quality of the service provision.

3.5.6 A pilot project has been funded, by the Economic Recovery Fund, to double the frequency of toilet cleaning in key tourist locations in peak season and measure its impact.

### 3.6 Development

3.6.1 Two new “Changing Places” have been installed alongside existing toilet facilities, providing improved accessibility, safety and dignity, for people who have more complex needs when using toilet facilities.

3.6.2 Swansea Marina toilets have been reopened, and new public toilets will be available shortly as part of the new Arena.

3.6.3 Libraries and leisure centres are being assessed for suitability for inclusion on the network of available public toilets.

### 3.7 Funding

3.7.1 Increased investment in condition of public toilet facilities, from existing budgets (see 3.5.4).

3.7.2 Two successful bids have been made to the Economic Recovery Fund (3.4.3 & 3.5.6), for a total of £65,000.

### 3.8 Action Plan Summary

3.8.1 The main areas of progress on the Action Plan are as follows:

- Swansea’s public toilet facilities have been mapped out, with the list made available on the council’s website, and regularly updated.
- The number of facilities, available for use by the general public, have been expanded through the re-opening of facilities, the inclusion of appropriate libraries and leisure centres, and the creation of new facilities.
- The quality of our existing public toilet stock has been improved through a refurbishment programme, which is ongoing.
- The cleanliness, of those facilities managed by Swansea Council, has been improved through the introduction of new cleaning practices and an increase in the frequency of cleaning, at peak times.
- Funding has been secured, through the Economic Recovery Fund, to further improve the mapping of facilities and integrating that with physical signage.
- An Internal Working Group and an External Stakeholder Forum set up to further develop, implement, and monitor Action Plan

3.8.2 Following the adoption of the strategy, the action plan will focus on the following work:

- Complete the programme of condition surveys and use this to information to inform the ongoing maintenance and improvement programme.
- Establish an ongoing programme of maintenance and renewal of public toilet facilities.
- Use the information gained from the cleaning pilot project to develop a long-term plan for the cleaning of the council's public toilet facilities.
- Explore the opportunities of bringing more public buildings into the network of toilet facilities available to the general public.
- Review the existing mapping work and identify priority areas for improving the access to public toilet provision, particularly with regard to facilities for people with additional health needs.
- Review existing provision to look at alternative set ups for some toilet blocks, if considered beneficial, such as converting from separate male and female toilet blocks to gender neutral toilet blocks.
- Identify opportunities for influencing the development new toilet facilities, within Swansea's wider programme of economic development.

#### **4. Integrated Impact Assessment Implications**

4.1 The Council is subject to the Equality Act (Public Sector Equality Duty and the socio-economic duty), the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure, and must in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Acts.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Deliver better outcomes for those people who experience socio-economic disadvantage
- Consider opportunities for people to use the Welsh language
- Treat the Welsh language no less favourably than English.
- Ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

4.1.1 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 mandates that public bodies in Wales must carry out sustainable development. Sustainable development means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the 'well-being goals'.

- 4.1.2 Our Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) process ensures we have paid due regard to the above. It also takes into account other key issues and priorities, such as poverty and social exclusion, community cohesion, carers, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and Welsh language.
- 4.3 This is a low risk proposal as it will deliver an improvement in service provision that should have a positive impact across the population, particularly those whose health conditions bring more complex needs when using toilet facilities. It has been consulted on and supports our ambitions with regard to the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act. Changes to the published action plan and actions arising from subsequent reviews will also be subject to an IIA.
- 4.4 A copy of the IIA screening confirms that a full IIA is not required, and can be found as an appendix to this report

## **5. Financial Implications**

- 5.1 Two successful bids have been made to the Economic Recovery Fund for a total of £65,000.
- 5.2 Swansea Council has invested £200,000, since April 2020, to improve both the physical appearance of its public toilet facilities and to make them easier to clean well.
- 5.3 A further bid to the Economic Recovery Fund is planned, on completion of the condition surveys, to accelerate the ongoing refurbishment of the Council's public toilet facilities.

## **6. Legal Implications**

- 6.1 This strategy will ensure that we are compliant with the relevant parts of Part 8, Public Health Act (Wales) 2017

### **Background Papers:**

Part 8, Public Health Act (Wales) 2017

(<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/anaw/2017/2/part/8/enacted>)

The Provision of Toilets in Wales: Local Toilets Strategies

<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2019-05/the-provision-of-toilets-in-wales-local-toilets-strategies.pdf>

### **Appendices:**

- Appendix A Draft Swansea Toilet Strategy
- Appendix B Swansea Toilet Strategy – Action Plan
- Appendix C Swansea Toilet Strategy – Integrated Impact Assessment Screening