



Report of the Cabinet Member for Community (Services)

Cabinet – 23 March 2023

Swansea Public Toilet Strategy – Revised 2023

Purpose:	To seek approval from Cabinet for Swansea Council's revised Public Toilet Strategy.
Policy Framework:	Part 8, Public Health Act (Wales) 2017
Consultation:	Access to Services, Finance, Legal.
Recommendation(s):	It is recommended that Cabinet: 1) Approves the revised Swansea Public Toilet Strategy 2) Approves future actions for delivery as set out in paragraph 3 and delegates authority to the Director of Place and Cabinet Member for Community Services to make any amendments or changes to the delivery plan.
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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. This strategy, along with its action plan, was approved by Swansea Council's Cabinet, on 18th November 2021.
- 1.5 Welsh Government guidance requires that each public toilet strategy is reviewed within one year of local council elections and revised, if necessary.
- 1.6 This report brings the revised strategy for formal approval, along with its action plan.

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 revised strategy, its action plan and the documents from which it has been derived can be found in the appendices to this report.

3 The Review of the Strategy

- 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 strategy's governance is overseen by a Working Group made up of Swansea Council officers; the work of this group is informed by a wider Stakeholder Group, made up of representatives of different bodies representing the people of Swansea.

- 3.3 These groups conducted an initial review of the strategy and its action plan. The main outcome was to simplify the content of the strategy whilst retaining its basic structure and focus. The strategy's action plan was updated to reflect progress made since it was last approved by Cabinet.
- 3.4 The revised documents were then submitted for a public consultation, which took place between 21st November and 18th December 2022. The results of which can be found in Appendix D.
- 3.5 Following the public consultation, further amendments were made to the strategy's action plan.

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 There are no new financial commitments within this strategy.

6. Legal Implications

- 6.1 This strategy will ensure that the Council is 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 1 Draft Swansea Toilet Strategy

Appendix 2 Swansea Toilet Strategy – Appendices

Appendix 3 Swansea Toilet Strategy – Integrated Impact Assessment Screening