



**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
MUNICIPAL YEAR 2018/19**

**HEALTH & WELLBEING SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE**

12th February 2019

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF
COMMUNICATIONS AND INTERIM
HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

Agenda Item No.

**CONSULTATION ON THE DRAFT
LOCAL TOILETS STRATEGY FOR
RHONDDA CYNON TAF.**

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to consult Members of the Health & Well-being Scrutiny Committee on the draft Local Toilets Strategy for Rhondda Cynon Taf.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1 Comment on the draft Local Toilets Strategy, and
- 2.2 That the feedback and comments of the Health & Well-being Scrutiny Committee form part of the formal consultation feedback to the Cabinet.

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Council is currently undertaking a public consultation for a minimum of 12 weeks, in line with the statutory requirement to develop and publish a Local Toilets Strategy, as required by Part 8 of the Public Health (Wales) Act 2017

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 On the 24th January 2019, the Director of Public Health, Protection and Community Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member, Cllr Rhys Lewis, made a delegated officer decision to approve the commencement of a 12 week public consultation on the draft Rhondda Cynon Taf Toilets Strategy.

- 4.2 The delegated decision agreed:
1. To approve the initiation of the draft Local Toilet Strategy for public consultation for a minimum of 12 weeks, in line with statutory requirement to develop and publish a Local Toilet Strategy, as required by Part 8 of the Public Health (Wales) Act 2017.
 2. That the Director of Public Health, Protection consider the consultation responses with a view to preparing a Final Draft Strategy for consideration by Cabinet in May 2019.
- 4.3 The Act places a duty on each Local Authority in Wales to prepare and publish a Local Toilet Strategy for its area. The Strategy is developed following the completion of a needs assessment to:
- Assess the community's need for toilets, including changing facilities for babies and changing places facilities for people with disabilities;
 - Provide details of how to meet the identified need;
 - Produce a local toilet strategy; and
 - Review the strategy, update and publicise revisions.
- 4.4 A draft Strategy has been prepared that incorporates feedback following a public consultation as part of the Assessment of Need that was undertaken for four weeks, beginning in October 2018. Local Authorities must aim to prepare and publish their strategies by 31st May 2019. 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.
- 4.5 In relation to the Council provision of public toilets, it is of note that the current provision of public toilet facilities across the County Borough has been maintained for over five years. The Council facilities has also in recent years benefited from investment of over £350,000. The Council does not charge for use of our public toilets.
- 4.6 The draft Strategy in Appendix 1 sets out further options that may be considered over the next two years to enhance and maximise the use of existing facilities and to promote additional, appropriate and accessible facilities

5 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 A full Equality Impact Assessment will be undertaken, informed by the consultation feedback and included in the subsequent report to Cabinet prior to any decision being made on the proposal.

6 CONSULTATION / INVOLVEMENT

- 6.1 A public twelve week consultation exercise commenced on the 4th February 2019 and ends on the 29th April 2019. This includes:
- Online questionnaire via RCTCBC website;
 - Social Media alerts;
 - Face to face discussions at various community venues
- 6.2 The views of this Scrutiny Committee will make an important contribution to the consultation exercise and inform the deliberations of Cabinet

7 FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

- 7.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report. However, financial implications may arise if and when the matters under consideration are implemented.

8 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

- 8.1 The Council has a statutory duty to develop and publish a Local Toilets Strategy, as required by Part 8 of the Public Health (Wales) Act 2017.

9 LINKS TO THE CORPORATE AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT.

- 9.1 The Local Toilets Strategy contributes to a number of the Wellbeing Objectives within the Council's Corporate Plan 2016-2020 as set out in the attached Record of Delegated Officer Decision report (Appendix 2).

10 CONCLUSION

- 10.1 Members of the Health & Well-being Scrutiny Committee are requested to consider the information presented in this report and are invited to comment on the Draft Local Toilets Strategy.



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO ACCOMPANY RECORD OF DELEGATED DECISION

17th JANUARY 2019

DEVELOPMENT OF A LOCAL TOILETS STRATEGY FOR RHONDDA CYNON TAF

REPORT OF DIRECTOR PUBLIC HEALTH, PROTECTION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE RELEVANT PORTFOLIO HOLDER, COUNCILLOR RHYS LEWIS

Author: Amy Lewis, Health and Wellbeing Improvement Manager

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to seek approval to undertake a public consultation on the draft Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council Local Toilets Strategy.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

- 2.1 The draft Local Toilets Strategy is approved for public consultation for a minimum of 12 weeks.
- 2.2 The Director of Public Health, Protection and Community Services will consider the consultation responses with a view to preparing a final draft Strategy for consideration by Cabinet in May 2019.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To comply with the statutory requirement to develop and publish a Local Toilets Strategy, as required by Part 8 of the Public Health (Wales) Act 2017.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Act places a duty on each Local Authority in Wales to prepare and publish a Local Toilets Strategy for its area, with specific responsibility to:

- Assess the community's need for toilets, including changing facilities for babies and changing places facilities for people with disabilities;
- Provide details of how to meet the identified need;
- Produce a local toilets strategy; and
- Review the strategy, update and publicise revisions.

- 4.2 Local Authorities must prepare and publish their strategies by 31st May 2019. 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.

- 4.3 The Council has maintained the current provision of public toilet facilities across the County Borough for over five years and has, in recent years invested over £350,000 in maintaining the current provision. The Council does not charge for use of our public toilets.
- 4.4 The strategy aims to review the quality and quantity of local toilets throughout the County Borough and to provide or facilitate the provision of clean, safe, accessible and sustainable toilets for residents and visitors to the area at locations where the need for such facilities has been identified.
- 4.5 To achieve this strategy we will:
- Identify the current level of provision of public toilets;
 - Analyse the findings of the completed assessment of need activities for toilets available for use by the public in their area;
 - Consider the requirements of the general population;
 - Identify the needs for particular user groups;
 - Identify any gaps in current provision;
 - Adopt the use of new technologies and communications that is envisaged will lead to an increased awareness of the locations of public toilets; and
 - Provide information setting out the steps which we propose to take to meet this need.
- 4.6 A draft Strategy has been prepared that incorporates feedback following a public consultation as part of the Assessment of Need that was undertaken for four weeks, beginning in October 2018.
- 4.7 The draft Strategy sets out options that may be considered over the next two years to enhance and maximise the use of existing facilities and to promote additional, appropriate and accessible facilities.
5. **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**
- 5.1 Access to toilet facilities is important to everyone but can become even more important as people become older. Improved access to toilet facilities will give older people confidence to leave their home and maintain independence and dignity in later life.
- 5.2 People who have young children and babies will have an increased need to use toilet and changing facilities.
- 5.3 Access to toilet facilities is important to everyone but can become even more important to people with a disability or health condition. In mapping publicly accessible toilet provisions, we have identified what disabled facilities are available at each location.
- 5.4 The strategy aims to improve the quantity and quality of toilet provision for all. Some facilities will be gender neutral/accessible toilets.
- 5.5 During the Assessment of Need consultation, respondents were asked whether their response to the survey had been influenced (positively or negatively) by the range of

protected characteristics as specified in the Equality Act 2010. The issues raised included gender identity, gender reassignment, problems relating to a range of disabilities and health issues, use of facilities by parents with children, issues regarding disabled toilet facilities not being of adequate size for wheelchairs to enter, requirement of hoists for disabled individuals, etc.

6. CONSULTATION/INVOLVEMENT

- 6.1 Engagement with other Local Authority services, community groups and the public was undertaken to understand what is currently available and how any gaps can be mitigated.
- 6.2 A public consultation was undertaken for four weeks between 17th October and 14th November 2018 to assess the needs of residents and people working or visiting the county Borough. Engagement mechanisms included:
- Online via the Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council website, social media;
 - Email alerts and correspondence;
 - Face to face discussions at various community venues;
 - Paper questionnaires requested by groups and residents.
- 6.3 A range of organisations were engaged with, by sending the questionnaires directly to them for response including Rhondda Cynon Taf Access Group, RNIB, Wales Council for the Deaf, Cwm Taf Community Health Council, 50+ Forums and Rhondda Cynon Taf Older Persons Advisory Group, RCT Citizens Panel, Tourism, Third Sector Organisations, Carers Support Project, etc.
- 6.4 A total of 97 respondents completed the questionnaire and have been included in the analysis. These have been used to influence the content of the strategy.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

- 7.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report. However, financial implications may arise if and when the matters under consideration are implemented.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

- 8.1 Part 8 of the Public Health (Wales) Act 2017.

9. LINKS TO THE CORPORATE AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT.

- 9.1 In order to succeed, our Local Toilet Strategy needs to integrate with other existing priorities and plans such as the Council's Corporate Plan 2016-2020 and the Cwm Taf Wellbeing Plan 2018-2023.
- 9.2 The Council is committed to a clear vision in which Rhondda Cynon Taf is a County Borough that has high aspirations, is confident and promotes opportunity for all and focuses on three priorities: Economy – building a strong economy; People – promoting independence and positive lives for everyone; Place – creating neighbourhoods where

people are proud to live and work. The Local Toilets Strategy can contribute to a number of the Wellbeing Objectives within the Council's Corporate Plan 2016-2020 to make the vision a reality.

- 9.3 The Cwm Taf Wellbeing Plan 2018-2023 contains three objectives: Thriving Communities – to promote safe, confident, strong, and thriving communities improving the wellbeing of residents and visitors and building on our community assets; Healthy People – to help people live long and healthy lives and overcome any challenges; Strong Economy – to grow a strong local economy with sustainable transport that attracts people to live, work and play in Cwm Taf; with a cross-cutting objective of Tackling Loneliness and Isolation – we will work in new ways to channel the undoubted strengths of our communities, including volunteering to tackle more effectively the loneliness and isolation which often exists within many of them.
- 9.4 These plans set the strategic direction at a regional and local level. The Local Toilets Strategy cuts across a number of these objectives and aims to support them. Publicly accessible toilets are needed by every one of us at some point where we live, work or visit and so the provision touches on all areas of the Council in some way.
- 9.5 Due regard has been made to the five ways of working, as contained within the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 when preparing, reviewing, consulting on and publishing this Strategy. The following information demonstrates how the Strategy has considered the five ways of working approach.
- 9.6 Long Term: The Strategy has identified current levels of publicly accessible toilet provision and considers ways that the use of existing facilities can be enhanced and maximised going forward. The Strategy also includes an objective to promote additional, appropriate and accessible facilities, with supporting actions.
- 9.7 Prevention: Undertaking the process of developing the Local Toilets Strategy can be viewed as a prevention scheme to address the challenges faced by the Local Authority in providing public toilet facilities. Key prevention aims of the Strategy are to identify key toilet facilities in the Borough, identify additional facilities that can be brought into wider use to supplement existing facilities or as replacements and identify opportunities for creating new facilities to modern, inclusive specifications. The promotion of wellbeing now prevents health related problems in the future and reduces demand on public services.
- 9.8 The Assessment of Need public consultation revealed that some respondents felt that the lack of facilities has stopped them from visiting certain locations. If the objectives and action points contained within the Strategy are to be realised, then it is envisaged that the Strategy will contribute towards the prevention of loneliness and social isolation that many people experience.
- 9.9 Integration: To be effective in delivering positive outcomes, this Strategy cannot stand alone and has sought to link in with other plans and strategies including the Council's Corporate Plan 2016-2020 and the Cwm Taf Wellbeing Plan 2018-2023.
- 9.10 Collaboration: In preparing this Strategy, the Council has collaborated internally across departments, with other Local Authorities in Wales to share ideas and ways of working, sought involvement from other organisations including Cwm Taf University Health Board,

sought to work in partnership with businesses to improve the number of publicly accessible toilets which can be mapped and available. There has also been engagement with community groups to enhance toilet provision.

- 9.11 Involvement: An Assessment of Need public consultation was undertaken for four weeks between 17th October and 14th November 2018 to assess the needs of residents and people working or visiting the County Borough and this is detailed in Section 6 of this report.
- 9.12 The Local Toilets Strategy will also support the Council to contribute to many of the Wellbeing Goals contained within the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, including a healthier Wales, where people's physical and mental wellbeing is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood; a more equal Wales, which enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances; and a Wales of cohesive communities, ensuring attractive, viable, safe and well connected communities.

10. CONCLUSION

- 10.1 The Council is required to undertake a public consultation on the draft Local Toilets Strategy in order to seek views from a wide range of stakeholders on the objectives and actions contained within the draft Strategy. The consultation will commence in January 2019.
- 10.2 The results of the consultation will be considered and the draft Strategy finalised. The Local Toilets Strategy will then be subject to final approval by Cabinet, with a view to it being published by 31st May 2019, in accordance with the requirements of the Statutory Guidance.

Other Information:-

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee



LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

17TH JANUARY 2019

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR PUBLIC HEALTH, PROTECTION AND COMMUNITY
SERVICES IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE RELEVANT PORTFOLIO HOLDER
COUNCILLOR RHYS LEWIS**

**DEVELOPMENT OF A LOCAL TOILETS STRATEGY FOR
RHONDDA CYNON TAF**

Background Papers

None.

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COFNOD O BENDERFYNIAD WEDI'I DDIRPRWYO GAN SWYDDOG
RECORD OF DELEGATED OFFICER DECISION

Penderfyniad Allweddol | Key Decision ✓

PWNC | SUBJECT:

Development of a Local Toilets Strategy for Rhondda Cynon Taf

DIBEN YR ADRODDIAD | PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:

The purpose of the report is to seek approval to undertake a public consultation on the draft Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council Local Toilets Strategy.

In accordance with the Council's Scheme of Delegation, this report has been prepared to accompany the intended officer decision of the Director Public Health, Protection and Community Services as described below.

PENDERFYNIAD WEDI'I DDIRPRWYO | DELEGATED DECISION:

Approve the draft Local Toilets Strategy for public consultation for a minimum of 12 weeks, in line with the statutory requirement to develop and publish a Local Toilets Strategy, as required by Part 8 of the Public Health (Wales) Act 2017.

The Director of Public Health, Protection and Community Services to consider the consultation responses with a view to preparing a Final Draft Strategy for consideration by Cabinet in May 2019.



Llofnod y Prif Swyddog
Chief Officer Signature

PAUL MEE

Enw (priflythrennau)
Name (Print Name)

24/01/19

Dyddiad
Date


Mae'r penderfyniad yn cael ei wneud yn unol ag Adran 15 o Ddeddf Llywodraeth Leol 2000 (Swyddogaethau'r Corff Gweithredol) ac yn y cylch gorchwyl sy wedi'i nodi yn Adran 5 o Ran 3 o Gyfansoddiad y Cyngor.

The decision is taken in accordance with Section 15 of the Local Government Act, 2000 (Executive Functions) and in the terms set out in Section 5 of Part 3 of the Council's Constitution.



RHONDDA CYNON TAF

YMGYNGHORI | CONSULTATION



LLOFNOD YR AELOD YMGYNGHOROL O'R CABINET
CONSULTEE CABINET MEMBER SIGNATURE

24/01/2019

DYDDIAD | DATE

LLOFNOD SWYDDOG YMGYNGHOROL
CONSULTEE OFFICER SIGNATURE

DYDDIAD | DATE

RHEOLAU'R WEITHDREFN GALW-I-MEWN | CALL IN PROCEDURE RULES.

A YW'R PENDERFYNIAD YN UN BRYD A HEB FOD YN DESTUN PROSES GALW-I-MEWN GAN Y PWYLLGOR TROSOLWG A CHRAFFU?:
IS THE DECISION DEEMED URGENT AND NOT SUBJECT TO CALL-IN BY THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:

NAC YDY | NO✓

Rheswm dros fod yn fater brys | Reason for Urgency:

.....

Os yw'n cael ei ystyried yn fater brys - llofnod y Maer/Dirprwy Faer/Pennaeth y Gwasanaeth Cyflogedig yn cadarnhau cytundeb fod y penderfyniad arfaethedig yn rhesymol yn yr holl amgylchiadau iddo gael ei drin fel mater brys, yn unol â rheol gweithdrefn trosolwg a chraffu 17.2:

If deemed urgent - signature of Mayor or Deputy Mayor or Head of Paid Service confirming agreement that the proposed decision is reasonable in all the circumstances for it being treated as a matter of urgency, in accordance with the overview and scrutiny procedure rule 17.2:

.....
(Maer | Mayor)

.....
(Dyddiad | Date)

DS - Os yw hwn yn benderfyniad sy'n cael ei ail-ystyried yna does dim modd galw'r penderfyniad i mewn a bydd y penderfyniad yn dod i rym o'r dyddiad mae'r penderfyniad wedi'i lofnodi.

NB - If this is a reconsidered decision then the decision Cannot be Called In and the decision will take effect from the date the decision is signed.



AT DDEFNYDD Y SWYDDFA YN UNIG | FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Rhagor o wybodaeth | Further Information:

Cyfadran Directorate:	Public Health, Protection and Community Services
Enw'r Person Cyswllt Contact Name:	Amy Lewis
Swydd Designation:	Health and Wellbeing Improvement Manager
Rhif Ffôn Telephone Number:	01443 744844

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DYDDIADAU CYHOEDDI A GWEITHREDU | PUBLICATION & IMPLEMENTATION DATES

CYHOEDDI | PUBLICATION

Cyhoeddi ar Wefan y Cyngor | Publication on the Councils Website:- 24th January 2019

DYDDIAD | DATE

GWEITHREDU'R PENDERFYNIAD | IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISION

Nodwch: Fydd y penderfyniad hwn ddim yn dod i rym nac yn cael ei weithredu'n llawn nes cyn pen 3 diwrnod gwaith ar ôl ei gyhoeddi. Nod hyn yw ei alluogi i gael ei "Alw i Mewn" yn unol â Rheol 17.1, Rheolau Gweithdrefn Trosolwg a Chraffu.

Note: This decision will not come into force and may not be implemented until the expiry of 3 clear working days after its publication to enable it to be the subject to the Call-In Procedure in Rule 17.1 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules.

Yn amodol ar y drefn "Galw i Mewn", caiff y penderfyniad ei roi ar waith ar / Subject to Call In the implementation date will be

30th January 2019
DYDDIAD / DATE

WEDI'I GYMERADWYO I'W GYHOEDDI: ✓ | APPROVED FOR PUBLICATION : ✓

