

ENVIRONMENT AND ATTRACTIVE 12 SEPTEMBER 2011 CITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR CITY SERVICES

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update members about the current provision of public toilets in the City.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Members have received previous reports informing of public convenience provision in the City and work that has been instigated to explore alternative methods of provision, initially in the Coalfield area.

3.0 CURRENT PROVISION IN THE CITY

- 3.1 Public conveniences are currently provided at the following locations:

Area	Location
North	Dene Lane (Female only) Park Parade (Male/Female/Disabled) Southwick Green (Male/Female/Disabled) Harbour View (Male/Female/Disabled) South Bents (Male/Female/Disabled) Marine Walk (Male/Female/Disabled) Cat and Dog Steps (Male/Female/Disabled) Sea Lane (Male/Female) currently closed
East	City Centre - Park Lane (Male/Female/Disabled) City Centre - Transport Interchange (Male/Female/Disabled)
West	Barnes Park (Male/Female/Disabled)
Coalfield	Easington Lane (Male/Female/Disabled) Hetton Town Centre (Male/Female/Disabled)
Washington	Concord Bus Station (Male/Female/Disabled) Fatfield – Bonemill Lane (Male/Female) Columbia - Westwood Gardens (Open urinal)

- 3.2 The toilets on Newcastle Road have now been demolished to allow for an improvement scheme to Thompson Park funded by SIB grant from the Area Committee.
- 3.3 As part of the regeneration plan for the resort area through Roker and Seaburn the conveniences located adjacent cat and dog steps are to be refurbished this autumn.

- 3.4 The Seaburn Shelter is to be redeveloped through the winter of 2011/2012 with new public convenience provision retained within the structure.

4.0 MEETING DEMAND THROUGH ALTERNATE PROVISION

- 4.1 Officers have submitted a proposal to the developer of the Seaburn shelter for them to enter in to a management agreement with the local authority for them to take on the responsibility for daily cleaning / management of the toilets. This proposal has been agreed in principal and the further views of the developer are currently awaited ahead of costs and management arrangements being discussed.
- 4.2 A task and finish group with Members of the Coalfields Area Committee investigated the potential of developing a community toilet scheme in Houghton le Spring. This in response to a perceived high demand from residents and the lack of any Council operated public conveniences. The Task and Finish group recognised that the cost of developing a new facility would likely be prohibitive, but that a community toilet scheme involving existing occupiers of properties in the town centre in a formal partnership could offer a workable alternative.
- 4.3 The centre of Houghton was surveyed to identify premises with toilets. The Area Response Manager subsequently contacted relevant local businesses to ascertain if they were willing to consider participation in a community toilet scheme. The majority of respondents advised that the matter would need to be referred to head office. As such participation in the community toilet scheme has been added to the survey work being undertaken by the Business Investment Team in relation to the Coalfield Area Committee's task and finish group's work in relation to the "Improving shopping centre's" priority.

5.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 5.1 That the Committee receives a further report on the outcome of the survey in relation to participation in a community toilet scheme in Houghton le Spring.

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