



## Economy, Residents, Communities and Governance Scrutiny Committee

### Scrutiny Observations to Cabinet on: 21.05.2019 Public Toilets Strategy

The Economy Residents, Communities and Governance Scrutiny Committee met on 17.04.2019 and considered the following documents:

- Public Toilets Strategy – Report of the Portfolio Holder for Economy and Planning together with associated documents used as part of the consultation exercise

The Economy, Residents, Communities and Governance Scrutiny Committee thank the Portfolio Holder County Councillor Martin Weale, Peter Morris, Acting Professional Lead – Development Management, and Greg Thomas, Project Officer Events & Civil Contingencies for attending scrutiny.

Scrutiny's Recommendation	Accept (plus Action and timescale)	Partially Accept (plus Rationale and Action and timescale)	Reject (plus Rationale)
<b>1 That to enable the Council to update the strategy in two years' time that adequate resources be identified;</b>			The implementation of the actions will be accommodated within existing budgets, and many of the actions can be achieved through working practices or by the provision of information via the Council's website.
<b>2 That the strategy include the need for signage / signposting of toilet facilities open to the public;</b>	The actions in the strategy have been numbered and action 1.2 addresses this point.		
<b>3 That the Portfolio Holder for Highways be asked to write to Welsh Government to seek assurances regarding the continuation of</b>	Action 9.1 has been added to the strategy in this respect.		

<p><b>the grant to Town and Community Councils for the provision of toilets on the trunk road, currently within the transport grant;</b></p>			
<p><b>4 That the Highways Service include as a risk on its Service risk register, the possible closure of public toilets operated by Town and Community Councils should the grant from the Council be withdrawn;</b></p>	<p>The Head of Highways, Transport, and Recycling has been asked to consider adding this risk to their Service Risk Register at its next review.</p>		
<p><b>5 That the issue of social isolation for the elderly / informal due to a lack of public toilets be raised as a concern with the Portfolio Holder for Adults and Adult services.</b></p>	<p>The Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and the Head of Adults Services have been informed of this recommendation, and sent a copy of the draft strategy.</p> <p>Cabinet member for Adult Social Care has responded as follows:</p> <p>Effective provision of accessible public toilets is essential to ensure that individuals who have a disability have easy access not only to the facilities themselves, but also to society in general. The strategy's focus on ensuring access in the major towns throughout Powys is welcomed, as is the intention to raise awareness of the locations so that people have ease of access. Working with private and commercial providers is also a</p>		

	sensible approach to increase the availability of toilets across the county.		
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In accordance with Rule 7.27.2 the Cabinet is asked to provide a written response to the scrutiny report, including an action plan where appropriate, as soon as possible or at the latest within 2 months of the date of the Cabinet meeting i.e. by 21.07.2019

Members of the Economy, Residents, Communities and Governance Scrutiny Committee present on 17.04.2019:

County Councillors:

M Barnes, K Curry, M Dorrance, J Gibson-Watt, E M Jones, G Jones, I McIntosh, P Pritchard, D Evans and J Pugh