

Chief Executive's Budget Proposal

OPTION: Public Conveniences

2015/16	2016/17	TOTAL
£000s	£000s	£000s
140	-	140

SUMMARY OF OPTION

The Council manages ten public convenience facilities which are located mainly in retail and coastal areas across the borough. The provision of public conveniences is not a statutory function and there is no legal obligation on Wirral Council to provide this service.

This budget option would be to seek out community organisations that may wish to take on the full delivery, maintenance and operational costs of running the facilities in their area. If no suitable organisations could be identified then it is recommended that the facilities be permanently closed.

IMPACT ON RESIDENTS

The public convenience facilities managed by the Council are located in retail and coastal areas which during the summer months in particular can be popular with shoppers and visitors, especially if the weather is good.

However, in some of the popular areas where these facilities are based there are potentially alternative toilet provisions in shops and Council buildings that members of the public could use. In areas where there are alternative toilet provisions, improved signage could be placed advising where the nearest alternative provisions exist.

The number of service users of these facilities is unknown as the facilities are cleaned by mobile attendants and no counting system is use. However, anecdotally the high use sites in popular coastal areas such as West Kirby and New Brighton are thought to be used by thousands of service users every year.

Although in some areas alternative provisions exist, in other locations there are no local alternative toilet provisions. In these areas visitors and potentially shoppers may be put off from visiting if the public conveniences were closed.

Local businesses may benefit from the withdrawal of these services as market forces may identify a chargeable service for toilets that can be offered to meet demand.

IMPACT ON PARTNERS

No direct implications.

IMPACT ON COMMUNITY, VOLUNTARY AND FAITH SECTOR

This budget option would provide the opportunity for community organisations to operate a facility around the times that more suit the needs of their local community. Currently the reduced resources associated with this service severely limit the opening times of the facilities.