

## CABINET

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| <b>Date of Meeting</b> | Tuesday, 18 <sup>th</sup> February 2020                                       |
| <b>Report Subject</b>  | Public Conveniences in Mold Town Centre                                       |
| <b>Cabinet Member</b>  | Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Streetscene & Countryside |
| <b>Report Author</b>   | Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation)                                |
| <b>Type of Report</b>  | Operational   |

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In May 2019 Cabinet approved the Council's Local Toilet Strategy which had been developed to meet the needs of the Public Health (Wales) Act 2017. The Strategy had been developed following an extensive consultation event and followed the Countywide review of the toilet provision which had been completed in 2016.

The review concluded that only a single high quality public convenience should be provided in Mold Town Centre and that the facility should be located at King Street Bus Station. Cabinet agreed that the existing facility at New Street would close, if the Town Council did not wish to take on the management of the facility.

Since that date the Council has been in extended discussions with the Town Council regarding the future of the New Street facility and a final decision has now been reached by the Town Council who have confirmed that, subject to improvements to the Bus Station facilities detailed in this report, they do not wish to provide support to keep the New Street facility open.

Both the Town and County Council have been working closely on the project and have designed a plan to improve the facility in King Street Bus Station and extend the parking availability at New Street car park, facilitated by the demolition of the existing public convenience facility.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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| 1 | That Cabinet approves the upgrade to the existing public convenience facility at King Street Bus Station and that the toilet in New Street Car Park is demolished to increase parking availability, following the Town Council's decision not to take up the option to take on maintenance liability for the facility. |
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| 2 | That Cabinet approves for the completion of the Bus Station improvements. |
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## **REPORT DETAILS**

| <b>1.00</b> | <b>BACKGROUND OF LOCAL TOILET STRATEGY</b>   |
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| 1.01        | The Public Health (Wales) Act 2017 ('the Act') received Royal Assent on the 3 July 2017. The Act brings together a range of practical actions for improving and protecting health. The introduction of Part 8 of the Act places a duty on local authorities (as defined in section 124 of the Public Health (Wales) Act 2017) to prepare and publish a Local Toilets Strategy for its area.  |
| 1.02        | The duty to prepare a Local Toilets Strategy does not require the Council to provide and maintain public toilets directly nor are they required to provide additional dedicated facilities. They must however take a strategic view on how facilities can be provided and accessed, taking account of such things as location, accessibility, type of facilities, frequency of use and the quality of existing sites, as well as determining whether additional or fewer sites are required by the local population. |
| 1.03        | Since 2012, Flintshire County Council has undertaken two separate reviews of toilet provision across the County. These reviews highlighted that isolated facilities regularly attracted anti-social behaviour, which puts people off using them. As a result, the Council adopted a more enabling approach by promoting the use of existing toilets in Council buildings, such as libraries and Connects Centres which people feel more confident and comfortable using.   |
| 1.04        | The reviews confirmed that a single high quality and well maintained facility should be provided in Mold Town Centre and that the facility should be located in the Bus Station in King Street which would support the Council's aspirations for the Transport Hub which is being developed at the site. Mold Town Council were given the opportunity to take on the management of the New Street facility and the Town Council have been looking into the practicality and cost of the project since that date.     |
| 1.05        | Given that there would be significant costs in bringing the New Street facility up to a suitable standard, particularly due to the age and condition of the below ground drainage system, the Town Council have now agreed to work with the County Council to improve the facilities in King Street and utilise the land currently occupied by the New Street facility to the benefit of the residents in the town by increasing the car parking availability in New Street car park.                                |
| 1.06        | <p>The wider project would consist of the following elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upgrade the existing King Street toilet facility to provide a high standard facility which can be sign posted from the town centre and provide facilities for bus users, visiting Mold or using the Transport Hub on their way to other locations.</li> </ul>   |

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|      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete the bus station improvement works, including the introduction of a one way system over the station and providing a holding point for coach parties visiting the town.</li> <li>• Upgrade the Kiosk adjacent to the public convenience and actively seek to market the building for a small café or coffee vending business.</li> <li>• Demolish the New Street toilet facility</li> <li>• Realign and redesign the car park to increase the capacity by 15 spaces.</li> <li>• Provide 2 Electric Car Charging points.</li> <li>• Resurfacing of New Street car park.</li> </ul> |
| 1.07 | <p>The cost of the scheme will be derived from the following sources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The funding set aside by the County Council to improve the New Street facility prior to Asset Transfer.</li> <li>• Economic Stimulus Funding.</li> <li>• Mold Town Council, from their car park income share.</li> <li>• Car park maintenance budgets for resurfacing works.</li> <li>• National OLEV funding for charging points.</li> <li>• Additional income from additional car parking spaces in New Street car park.</li> </ul>   |
| 1.08 | <p>If approved, the scheme will be subjected to public consultation exercise and further discussions will be held with the bus operators operating from Mold bus station. The consultation process will also include feedback on the option to charge users of the facility, both to ensure funds are available to maintain the facility in future years and to provide a barrier to anti-social behaviour at the facility.</p>   |
| 1.09 | <p>The project work will be managed by staff from the Streetscene and Transportation portfolio and will be completed before the main summer tourist season begins.</p>  |

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| <b>2.00</b> | <b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>              |
| 2.01        | Financial resources are detailed in 1.07. |

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| <b>3.00</b> | <b>IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT</b>                                |
| 3.01        | An Equalities Impact Assessment will be carried out on the new requirement. |

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| <b>4.00</b> | <b>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT</b> |
| 4.01        | With Cabinet Member.                        |
| 4.02        | With Town Council.                          |
| 4.03        | With local businesses and visitors.         |

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| 4.04 | With bus operators. |
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| <b>5.00</b> | <b>APPENDICES</b> |
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| 5.01 | Appendix 1 – plan of bus station following improvement works. |
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| <b>6.00</b> | <b>LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS</b> |
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| 6.01 | None |
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| <b>7.00</b> | <b>CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS</b> |
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| 7.01 | <b>Contact Officer:</b> Stephen O Jones – Chief Officer (Streetscene & Transportation)<br><b>Telephone:</b> 01352 704700<br><b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:Stephen.o.jones@flintshire.gov.uk">Stephen.o.jones@flintshire.gov.uk</a> |
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| <b>8.00</b> | <b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b> |
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| 8.01 | None. |
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