

Committee(s)	Dated:
Port Health & Environmental Services	10 March 2015
Subject: Public Conveniences Strategy Update	Public
Report of: The Town Clerk	For Decision

Summary

At the last meeting of the Port Health & Environmental Services Committee, Members resolved that the Town Clerk investigate the possibility of providing a non-statutory service of Public Conveniences through City's Cash funding. This report outlines the results of the investigation and seeks Members views going forward.

Recommendation(s)

Members' views are sought.

Main Report

Background

Members of the Port Health & Environmental Service Committee received a report from the Director of the Built Environment at your November 2014 meeting. The report provided an update on the Public Conveniences Strategy for 2014-17, setting out progress against a number of actions in relation to the strategy. The report also set out the financial savings target agreed through the Service Based Review process, with alternative options for delivering these savings as requested by the Policy and Resources Committee.

Current Position

The new Strategy aimed to ensure that toilets are provided of a type and in locations that meet the needs of potential users. It recognised, for example that attended conveniences worked well during the day, but were not suited to night-time users. Its aims were therefore, through a variety of facilities, to provide adequate toilet provision for commuters, shoppers and tourists as well as address the additional needs of a growing night time economy.

The Strategy provides for daytime toilet provision delivered via attended facilities, supplemented by a Community Toilet Scheme in which local shops and businesses make their toilets available to the public in return for a relatively modest financial return. Night time provision is provided via the installation of 'pop up' style Urilift urinals with all provision being supplemented by 24/7 automatic public conveniences which are a unisex facility.

The report recommended an alternative savings proposal which would achieve the savings target of £320,000 by 2016/17 whilst achieving the City's Strategy for

delivering public conveniences. The proposals retained the recommendation to close the four attended public conveniences as alternative conveniences exist within a conservative five minute walk from the attended facilities. The proposals also included the retention of some of the Automatic Public Conveniences which are unisex (and were originally proposed for closure), as well as the standardisation of opening times for the four retained attended public conveniences. The proposals provided for a well-balanced provision of public toilets, continuing to meet the broad aims of the Strategy within the agreed budget envelope set by Policy and Resources. The recommendations set out in the report were agreed by your Committee.

Conclusion

The Town Clerk has investigated the possibility of providing a non-statutory service of Public Conveniences through City's Cash funding. The use of City's Cash is a matter of Policy and it would therefore be for Policy and Resources Committee to consider this matter.

If the Port Health and Environmental Services Committee are minded to pursue this matter a report demonstrating a compelling business case would need to be made to the Policy and Resources Committee for funding from City's Cash. In addition, the case would need to be made for writing off the associated savings, which had previously been agreed by your Committee.

This alternative saving was accepted by the Policy and Resources Committee and has accordingly been included in the City's financial plans as recently agreed by the Finance Committee and which are to be put forward to the Court of Common Council on 5 March 2015. Given the above rationale this would be difficult to justify.

Members' views are sought.

Appendices

None.

Susan Attard
Deputy Town Clerk

T: 020 7332 3724

E: Susan.Attard@cityoflondon.gov.uk