

Leicester
City Council

WARDS AFFECTED

Aylestone, Beaumont Leys, Belgrave, Castle, East Knighton, Rowley Fields, Rushey mead, St Augustines, Western park, Westcotes and Wycliffe

FORWARD TIMETABLE OF CONSULTATION AND MEETINGS:

Cabinet

16th June 2003

PROVISION OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

Report of the Director of Environment, Regeneration and Development

1. Purpose of Report

To advise Members of the options to re-open public conveniences in the City.

2. Summary

- 2.1. The provision of public toilets is a non-statutory provision. Twelve toilets were closed to meet the ER&D departmental budget strategy targets as a contribution to the overall Council Budget Strategy for 2001/02.
- 2.2. Public satisfaction with public toilets declined and in the November 2001 Residents survey, showed a net dissatisfaction. The public have continued to protest about the lack of public conveniences in the city, particularly in the city centre although there are facilities in shops and pubs.
- 2.3. Two facilities in the city centre at The Market Place and St Margaret's Bus Station are staffed at a cost of £90,000 per site. No charge to visitors is made at present.
- 2.4. The remaining twelve are cleaned daily by a mobile service at a cost of £40,000. It is recognized that this service requires improvement.
- 2.5. At current usage rates, a charge of 20p per visit could generate an annual income of £89,000. The income would therefore generate additional resources to improve the current service in unattended public toilets and enable other sites to be re-opened. A survey is currently being undertaken into the condition of the facilities.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1. To approve the charge of 20p per visit at the two existing staffed public conveniences.
- 3.2. To approve the phased re-opening of public conveniences subject to availability of resources.
- 3.3. To refer the decision on which sites to re-open to the Arts, Leisure and Environment Scrutiny Committee.

4. Financial and legal Implications

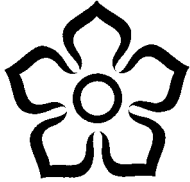
- 4.1. A start-up cost of £22,000 is required to install turnstiles at the two sites to collect the charges.

5. Report Author/Officer to contact:

John Hackman, Service Director, Environmental Services ext 6504
Margaret Frith, Policy Officer ext 7123

DECISION STATUS

Key Decision	No
Reason	N/A
Appeared in Forward Plan	No
Executive or Council Decision	Executive (Cabinet)



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PROVISION OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1. Report

- 1.1. The closure and deterioration of public toilets has caused public dissatisfaction, evident in the results of the 2001 Residents survey and continued requests for additional provision.
- 1.2. Two sites at the City Centre Market and St Margaret's Bus Station are currently staffed. The Beaumont Leys Shopping Centre toilets have been refurbished by the City Council and in future will be managed by the shopping centre. Twelve other sites are open though unattended and cleaned daily by the councils mobile service. (Improvements are required to this service). They are listed in Appendix 1.
- 1.3. The status of the remaining closed sites is detailed in the table attached at Appendix 2. In summary:
 - 3 sites have been sold at auction
 - 6 sites - inadvisable to re-open
 - 7 sites – possible to re-open subject to available resources.
- 1.4. Officers preferred option would be to reopen the toilets at the Haymarket to serve Charles Street bus station. This would meet the greatest demand for facilities in the city centre. However, it requires negotiation with the owners of the Haymarket Centre and would incur staffing costs, estimated at £100,000. The facility could be managed by the shopping centre in the same way as Beaumont Leys. This option may incur a charge to visitors.
- 1.5. Other options would be to open sites which would provide facilities city wide on main routes to the city. These would be unstaffed and free of charge but would increase the duties of the mobile cleaning service.
- 1.6. Generation of income from the two currently staffed sites would provide resources to re-open some of the closed sites on a phased programme, subject to financial resources to maintain the facilities. A charge of 20p per visit would generate an estimated income of £89,000 in total, plus any additional income from the proposed Charles Street Bus Station site when opened.

FINANCIAL, LEGAL AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS

1. Financial Implications

A start-up cost of £22,000 is required to install turnstiles at the two sites to collect the charges.

2. Legal Implications

None

3. Other Implications

OTHER IMPLICATIONS	YES/NO	Paragraph Within Supporting information	References
Equal Opportunities	No		
Policy	No		
Sustainable and Environmental	No		
Crime and Disorder	No		
Human Rights Act	No		
Elderly/People on Low Income	No		

4. Background Papers – Local Government Act 1972

Local Environmental Services Best Value Review
Report to Arts, Leisure and Environment Scrutiny Committee, 18th February 2002

5. Consultations

Cleansing DSO

6. Report Author

John Hackman, Service Director, Environmental Services ext 6504
Margaret Frith, Policy Officer ext 7123

Public Toilets

Toilets currently open

Location	Status	No. Staff	Costs
City Centre Market	Attended	6 staff	£90,000 (staff)
St Margarets Bus Station	Attended	6 staff	£90,000 (staff)
Newarke Street (Car Park)	Unattended	Mobile Service, daily cleaning. 2 staff	£40,000
Infirmery Square	Unattended		
Foundary Square	Unattended		
Humberstone Park	Unattended		
Mandella Park	Unattended		
Knighton Lane	Unattended		
Cossington Street	Unattended		
Belgrave Road/Dorset Street	Unattended		
East Park Road	Unattended		
Clarendon Gardens	Unattended		
Thurcaston road	Unattended		
Aikman Avenue	Unattended		
Western Park (by Bowling Green)	Closed due to vandalism		
Beaumont Leys Shopping Centre	Refurbished and to be managed by shopping centre		

Public Toilets

Toilets currently closed

Location	Status	Future	Suggested Priority
Calais Hill	Closed due to vandalism /repairs/alternative activities	Have been sold at Auction	
Narborough Rd/ Hinckley road Junction	Closed due to vandalism /repairs/alternative activities	Have been sold at Auction	
Yeoman Street	Closed due to vandalism /repairs/alternative activities	Have been sold at Auction	
Groby Road	Closed due to vandalism /repairs/alternative activities	Advice is not to re-open	
Home Farm	Closed due to vandalism /repairs/alternative activities	Advice is not to re-open	
Western Park, by gates	Closed in budget reductions, 2002/03	Advice is not to re-open	
Nedham Street	Closed in budget reductions, 2002/03	Advice is not to re-open	
Belgrave Hall	Closed in budget reductions, 2002/03	Advice is not to re-open	
Melton Road	Closed in budget reductions, 2002/03	Police Authority Interested Advice is not to re-open	
London Road	Closed in budget reductions, 2002/03	£1,300	1
Aylestone Hall	Closed due to vandalism/repairs/alternative activities	£6,000	2
Narborough Road bus terminus	Closed in budget reductions, 2002/03	£2,000	3
Western Park (Top)	Only Gents open	£1,200	4
Charles St Bus Station	Closed	£100,000	5
Humberstone Park	Closed	£6,000	6
Cottesmore Road	Closed	£15,000	If one is required, it should be Cottesmore Road

We are in discussion with the Police Authority concerning their interest in the Melton Road toilet as they wish to extend their car park.