

**Report of the Interim Director of Environment and Leisure**

**Broadgate Public Toilet Facilities**

1. Purpose of Report

To review the provision of public toilet facilities at Broadgate in Beeston.

2. Recommendation

**The Committee is asked to note the contents of the report; consider the range of options as set out within the report; support further investigation into the most appropriate and sustainable delivery model; and RECOMMENDS that a further report be bought back to Committee setting out a preferred option.**

3. Detail

With the development and opening of modern, accessible toilet facilities in Beeston Square, the role and necessity of the Broadgate toilets could now be reconsidered.

The Broadgate toilets are located adjacent to Broadgate Park, away from the main town centre activity. This location has contributed to significant operational challenges, particularly in relation to anti-social behaviour with incidents including illicit drug use, misuse of accessible facilities, and a pattern of unacceptable and hazardous conditions. There has been a notable increase in the severity of incidents, including threats made towards Town Centre Attendants when attending the site.

The facility is subject to misuse, with repeated occurrences of extreme fouling, including excrement being deliberately spread across walls and floors, creating health and safety risks for staff and users. In addition, persistent vandalism has resulted in frequent damage to fixtures and fittings, including broken locks, damaged handrails, and the systematic disruption of consumables, such as paper towels being scattered throughout the facility. These issues have led to a high level of reactive maintenance and increased operational costs.

Monitoring and intervention are further constrained due to the distance from the Town Centre Attendant base, limiting the ability to manage incidents effectively and maintain acceptable standards of cleanliness and safety.

It is recommended that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee considers the options in **Appendix 1**, with particular focus on identifying a solution that:

- Ensures safe, accessible and inclusive provision
- Reduces instances of anti-social behaviour
- Represents value for money

- Aligns with evolving models of service delivery, including partnership approaches

Further background information is provided in **Appendix 2**, which includes an earlier report presented to Cabinet on 5 December 2023 regarding the development of a strategy to improve access to public toilet facilities across the Borough of Broxtowe.

4. Financial Implications

The comments from the Interim Deputy Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer were as follows:

The ongoing cost of maintaining a public toilet facility is estimated at around £20,000 per annum.

The cost, and potential savings, of each of the options being considered would need to be fully costed and developed prior to any future Cabinet approval. Some options would require additional revenue and/or capital resources, and these would have to be carefully considered partially for the funding of any capital investment where the Council's limited General Fund capital resources are already committed elsewhere.

5. Legal Implications

The comments from the Head of Legal Services were as follows:

Section 87 The Public Health Act 1936 (as amended) provides that a local authority may provide sanitary conveniences in proper and convenient situations. The provision of public toilets is therefore a discretionary service. The discretion should be exercised reasonably and with a clear, objective rationale.

6. Human Resources Implications

Not applicable.

7. Union Comments

Unison noted the contents of the report.

8. Climate Change Implications

There are no Climate Change implications.

9. Data Protection Compliance Implications

This report does not contain any OFFICIAL(SENSITIVE) information and there are no Data Protection issues in relation to this report.

**10. Equality Impact Assessment**

An Equality Impact Assessment has not been completed at this stage. This will be undertaken once a preferred option for the future provision of the Broadgate toilet facility has been identified. Given the potentially significant service changes under consideration, a full assessment will be required to understand the impacts on all users, particularly those with protected characteristics, and to ensure that any proposed approach is fair, inclusive and compliant with statutory duties.

**11. Background Papers**

Nil.