

PETITION FOR PUBLIC TOILETS IN EARL SHILTON
REPORT OF THE DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE (CORPORATE
DIRECTION)



Hinckley & Bosworth
Borough Council

A Borough to be proud of

WARDS AFFECTED: EARL SHILTON

1. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To allow members the opportunity to debate a petition which has been received in accordance with the Petitions Scheme.

2. **RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 Members can either:

- a) note the petition and take no further action;
- b) request a full report to Council to include all financial implications of the requested course of action with recommendations as appropriate.

3. **BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT**

- 3.1 A petition has been received which is entitled 'Campaign for Public Toilets for Earl Shilton', with the text "We, the undersigned, call on Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council to keep its promise to provide a new public toilet facility for Earl Shilton's shopping area. Our community deserves its fair share of Borough Council resources and new ladies and gents facilities are vital for a town the size of Earl Shilton". The petition has been verified and 328 signatures have been counted.
- 3.2 Under the Council's Petitions Scheme, if a petition receives a certain number of signatures (this varies depending on whether it is a 'borough' issue or one that affects only a certain parish or town), the petition will be debated by Council.
- 3.3 The issue of public toilets for Earl Shilton is considered to be a local issue affecting the town of Earl Shilton, therefore 176 signatures are required to trigger a Council debate. This petition received 334 verifiable signatures and therefore clearly meets the criteria.
- 3.4 At this stage the matter is before Council to debate the merits of the request and decide whether further action should be taken and further consideration should be given to the petition. A decision on whether or not a toilet is to be provided is not to be made at this meeting.
- 3.5 By way of background regarding the provision of toilets in Earl Shilton, Members are reminded that the previous facility was removed in 2009 following complaints about the poor quality and maintenance of the toilets. The matter was reviewed and it was found that the pre-fabricated structure, which was not DDA compliant, had come to the end of its life and the cost of replacing and subsequently maintaining a new toilet facility was prohibitive. Due to the high cost of the facility and low usage, it was calculated that in 2006/07 the cost of the toilet had been £20.30 per use. Following a further fall in usage this increased to £26.26 per use in 2007/08.
- 3.6 Following removal of the toilet, and agreement was in place with the Lord Nelson public house for use of their toilets, however this was found to be unsuitable as it was

only available after 12 noon daily, was not DDA compliant. There was also a toilet available for public use in the church.

3.7 In 2011/12 an arrangement was entered into with Leicestershire County Council to use the toilet in the library. This is, however, restricted to the opening hours of the library.

3.8 If Members wish to give consideration to the action requested in the petition, it would be necessary for a report to be presented to Council due to the projected costs being in excess of £50,000. At this stage full costings and implications would be presented to members to enable a decision to be made.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (KP)

4.1 As outlined in recommendation b), a full report detailing financial implications will be brought to Council if this decision is made. As outlined 3.8, it is estimated the cost of a facility, if approved would be over £50,000. In line with the financial procedure rules this will require approval by Council in order to establish this budget. Based on the nature of the spend, the budget will be deemed capital and will therefore require financing through one of the following means:

- Borrowing – if this method of financing was used, the General Fund would be required to fund the revenue cost of servicing this debt. The exact value of this will depend on the life of the asset.
- Revenue Contributions to Capital from the General Fund
- Reserves – There are no reserves currently earmarked for spend of this nature

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS (EH)

5.1 There are no legal implications at this stage other than those in the body of the report.

6. CORPORATE PLAN IMPLICATIONS

6.1 This report supports the corporate aim of Empowering Communities by providing a voice for the community via the Petition Scheme.

7. CONSULTATION

7.1 Consultation not necessary at this stage, but a clear steer received from the community via the petition.

8. RISK IMPLICATIONS

8.1 It is the Council's policy to proactively identify and manage significant risks which may prevent delivery of business objectives.

8.2 It is not possible to eliminate or manage all risks all of the time and risks will remain which have not been identified. However, it is the officer's opinion based on the information available, that the significant risks associated with this decision / project have been identified, assessed and that controls are in place to manage them effectively.

8.3 The following significant risks associated with this report / decisions were identified from this assessment:

Management of significant (Net Red) Risks		
Risk Description	Mitigating actions	Owner

Breach of the petition scheme by not considering the request	Ensure the petition is considered, documented and communicated	Rebecca Owen
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9. KNOWING YOUR COMMUNITY – EQUALITY AND RURAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 This report supports all groups within the community by ensuring provision is made for people with disabilities, that provision does not conflict with the beliefs of individuals and communities, and considers a request made by residents of a town outside of the special expenses area. This report does not, however, make recommendations which will impact any community at this stage.

10. CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

10.1 By submitting this report, the report author has taken the following into account:

- Community Safety implications
- Environmental implications
- ICT implications
- Asset Management implications
- Human Resources implications
- Planning Implications
- Voluntary Sector

Background papers: None

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