

Local Toilets Strategy – Review of the 2019 Local Toilets Strategy

In July 2017, the Public Health (Wales) Act 2017 received Royal Assent, bringing together a range of practical actions for improving and protecting health. Part 8 of the Public Health (Wales) Act 2017: Provision of Toilets came into force on 31 May 2018 and places a duty on each local authority in Wales to prepare and publish a local toilets strategy for its area. The has no funding for additional provisions attached to it.

Local authorities in Wales now have the responsibility to:

- assess the need for toilet provision for their communities;
- plan to meet those needs;
- produce a local toilets strategy; and
- review the strategy, update and publicise revisions.

The Caerphilly County Borough Council's Local Toilets Strategy was published in May 2019. This document details a review of that Strategy.

Caerphilly CBC has a duty to review the local toilets strategy within a year of each ordinary election for its area. As such, the most recent election date in Wales was Thursday 5 May 2023 so the latest date for review is 4 May 2023. There was also a requirement to perform and publish an interim progress report setting out the steps taken in line with the strategy at two years commencing from the date of the last published strategy and to publish the interim progress report within six months of the end date of the two-year period. Therefore, following publication in May 2019, the review was to take place before the end of May 2021 and be published before the end of November 2021. However, due to competing demands associated with officers redeployed to the Covid 19 pandemic, it was not possible to deliver such an interim report.

As such, this review of the strategy provides a statement of the steps taken in accordance with the strategy and, a summary of the steps, together with the revised strategy.

The duty to prepare a local toilets strategy does not require local authorities to provide and maintain public toilets directly. The authority will continue to adopt an enabling approach by promoting the use of existing toilets in Council buildings such as libraries.

The Local Authority must take a strategic view on how facilities can be provided and accessed by their local population

Review of 2019 Local Toilet Strategy Summary

	2019 Options	Review and Progress	2023 Options
1.	Explore all options available including working with the private sector, voluntary services and Community Councils to make more local toilets available in places where they are most needed.	<p>The Council has worked with third parties to successfully re-open the toilet facilities at Bargoed, Risca, Blackwood, and Caerphilly Bus Stations.</p> <p>The Council has also worked with Gelligaer Community Council, to successfully re-open the toilet facilities at the bus stop in Ystrad Mynach and in Nelson.</p> <p>Businesses have again been surveyed to establish if they are prepared to allow their facilities to be used by the public (without purchasing items), display a sign, and be identified via the data maps. Nine such businesses provided consent.</p> <p>New provision will be provided at the developing transport hub in Caerphilly. These modern toilets will assist commuters and those utilising the night time economy offerings.</p>	Explore all options available including working with the private sector, voluntary services and Community and Town Councils to make more local toilets available in places where they are most needed.
2.	Promote equal opportunities to provide appropriate, accessible and effective services and facilities to all sections of the community without prejudice or bias.	This approach is embedded in all strategies and operational work.	Promote equal opportunities to provide appropriate, accessible and effective services and facilities to all sections of the community without prejudice or bias.
3.	Ensure that the toilet logo sticker will be displayed at entrances at all appropriate Council buildings and private businesses that have agreed to being	Toilet logo stickers are displayed at entrances to appropriate Council buildings where toilets are accessible without entering secure work areas. Stickers are provided to partner providers for display.	Ensure that the toilet logo sticker will be displayed at entrances at all appropriate Council buildings and private businesses that have agreed to being mapped.

	mapped.		
4.	Work with Aneurin Bevan University Health Board and health care providers; to encourage them to make the facilities available to the public, participate in the mapping scheme and to display the toilet logo sticker, in appropriate premises.	Health care settings have again been surveyed to establish if they are prepared to allow their facilities to be used by the public, to display a sticker and be identified via the data maps. Five such settings provided consent, compared to three in the previous survey.	Work with Aneurin Bevan University Health Board and health care providers; to encourage them to make the facilities available to the public, participate in the mapping scheme and to display the toilet logo sticker, in appropriate premises.
5.	Improve awareness and information available on toilet provision in the Borough by updating information on the Caerphilly CBC website and will regularly update the Lle open access data repository with WG.	<p>The Strategy will be published on the council's website, with a link to the Welsh Government's National Toilet Map. The map is interactive and provides details relating to locations, facilities provided, opening hours etc. Updated spreadsheets detailing such information will be provided to Welsh Government as necessary.</p> <p>The Appendix 1 tables included in the 2019 Strategy have been reduced to a list of the locations and post codes within the 2023 Strategy. The extensive tables detailing facilities, opening times etc. have been removed from the revised strategy, as the information is available via the National Toilet Map.</p>	Improve awareness and information available on toilet provision in the Borough by updating information on the National Toilet Map .
6.	Provide online information maps, physical maps and information sheets, and downloadable information accessed via mobile phone technology.	<p>This option has been superseded. The preferred option is digital by default. There is no longer a need for local authorities to publish the locations on their website via a map. Welsh Government are also transitioning from the Lle website to the National Toilet Map. The map is accessible via mobile phones and as the data is open source, in time companies may use the data to produce apps that pin point locations and facilities etc.</p> <p>Additional signposting to the nearest toilets is to be provided in</p>	No Action Required

		<p>town centres.</p> <p>Hard copy maps and spreadsheets will not be produced as they become outdated and require reprinting.</p>	
7.	<p>Work with partners to improve provision near key night-time gathering points such as taxi ranks, car parks, railway/bus stations and stops.</p>	<p>As stated in item 1 above, third party operators are managing the former Council public toilets. These are located at transport locations.</p>	<p>Continue to work with partners to improve provision near key night-time gathering points such as taxi ranks, car parks, railway/bus stations and stops.</p>
8.	<p>Review cleansing operations and standards on a periodic basis to ensure the most efficient and effective provision within allocated resources.</p>	<p>Business premise operators have a duty to maintain their toilets in a clean condition. Third party partner provision is inspected by Environmental Health Officers when they inspect premises, and the public can report failings for investigation.</p> <p>Council buildings are subject to daily cleaning and are monitored by the Facilities Management Team and/or and building management teams depending on the type of premise.</p>	<p>Periodically review cleansing operations and standards within the facilities to ensure hygienic provision.</p>
9.	<p>Continue to work with the Police and residents, community groups and others to ensure that facilities are as safe as possible.</p>	<p>The Council has a good working relationship with Gwent Police, particularly via the Community Safety network, with Police officers embedded with the Community Safety Team. The Police also engage with business proprietors and link with Licensing Officers and the Licensing objectives, particularly in relation to night-time economy. Reports relating to antisocial behaviour, vandalism and substance misuse within such facilities are reported to the Police for investigation.</p>	<p>Continue to work with the Police and residents, community groups and others to ensure that facilities are as safe as possible.</p>
10.	<p>Not charge residents to use toilet facilities in council buildings where there is provision.</p>	<p>There is no charge for the use of toilets within appropriate council buildings.</p>	<p>Not charge residents to use toilet facilities in council buildings where there is provision.</p>
11.	<p>Explore options for providing facilities for the homeless/rough</p>	<p>Dedicated facilities are not available for rough sleepers.</p>	<p>Explore options for signposting suitable facilities for the</p>

	sleepers.		homeless/rough sleepers.
12.	Ensure that the Events Safety Advisory Group continues to provide advice and guidance on temporary toilet facilities to be provided at organised events.	Event organisers are requested to supply details of toilet facilities to the Events Safety Advisory Group (ESAG) when planning an event. ESAG members provides appropriate advice and may check the provision when visiting the event.	Ensure that the Events Safety Advisory Group continues to provide advice and guidance on temporary toilet facilities to be provided at organised events.
13.	Ensure that sustainable development and energy is taken into consideration facilitating the provision of local toilets.	Sustainable development and energy considerations are embedded into all new builds and where appropriate into retro fitting existing locations. New provision will be provided at the developing transport hub in Caerphilly. These modern toilets will assist commuters and those utilising the night time economy offerings.	Ensure that sustainable development and energy is taken into consideration when building new toilets or adapting existing provision.
14.	Ensure that officers raise the need for changes to Planning Policy and legislation in relation to toilet provision and access.	Planning Officers have raised the matter with Welsh Government. Additionally, developers are encouraged to consider provision when designing new developments.	Ensure that officers raise the need for changes to Planning Policy and legislation in relation to toilet provision and access.