

* HC 39

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES – CLARIFICATION FOR PARISHES

Members were presented with a report that requested consideration of the options for implementing the decision of the Hub Committee in July 2018 (Minute * HC 19 refers) to approve and deliver efficiencies of £50,000 (or more) in 2019/20 in operating the current public toilet service.

The Lead Member for Commercial Services presented the report. During discussion, Members expressed concerns over some parishes being unable to take on the financial liability as set out in the presented report, and smaller parishes within the Dartmoor National Park area being disadvantaged as the public conveniences were used by visitors and tourists rather than for the benefit of residents. In response, the Lead Member for Commercial Services advised that discussions would take place with affected parish and town councils and a report brought back to the Hub Committee at a later date.

In response to concerns from the Lead Member for Health and Wellbeing about the health and wellbeing implications of closure of public conveniences, assurances were given that a full Comprehensive Impact Assessment would be undertaken on any proposed public convenience closures where that closure affected the overall provision in an area and the appropriate Lead Member would be kept informed.

In view of the concerns over affordability for parishes, an amendment to the presented recommendations was put forward as follows:

1. ii. Make a contribution towards the cost of running public toilets equivalent to **50%** of all direct costs
2. that the **50%** contribution be increased

The amendment was **PROPOSED, SECONDED** and on being put to the vote declared **LOST**.

It was then **RESOLVED** that the Hub Committee:

1. in respect of the rural public toilets (listed in Appendix A), resolve that Parish and Town Councils are requested to either:
 - i. Assume responsibility for the public toilets in their area including a transfer of the freehold or leasehold property; or
 - ii. Make a contribution towards the cost of running public toilets equivalent to 75% of all direct costs (which includes staff and management costs).
2. that the 75% contribution be increased over the following three years based upon actual spend as per the payment profile shown in Appendix A, to reach a point where full costs are covered by the Parish and Town Councils.

3. that where a Parish or Town Council agrees neither to accept a transfer of the facility nor make the requested contribution (as set out in Recommendation 1 (i) and (ii)) it will be recommended to Council that the facility will be closed before the end of the financial year 2018/19.
4. that where any facility will benefit from pay on entry equipment in order to reduce overall costs, the council will work with the relevant Town or Parish Council on a business case and implementation programme to achieve best value.