

**HAMBLETON DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**Report To:** Cabinet  
18 October 2011

**Subject: CHANGES TO PUBLIC CONVENIENCES PROVISION**

**All Wards  
Scrutiny Committees  
Cabinet Member for Partnerships: Councillor T Swales**

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**1.0 PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND:**

- 1.1 The report seeks to inform Cabinet of progress made towards examining the potential of outside bodies taking on and running the public conveniences within the District. This was one of a number of areas of budget savings agreed to be investigated at the 19 October 2010 Cabinet meeting.
- 1.2 Cabinet agreed at the meeting on 25 January 2011 (Minute CA.94) to transfer the capital assets of the public conveniences to Parish or Town Councils prepared to run the service. The Council has agreed to pay a one-off grant of 1.5 times the annual running costs and transfer the freeholds. The transfers are subject to a sliding 10 year clawback in the event of disposal and a right to veto any prospective disposal.
- 1.3 Cabinet reviewed progress on the transfer of the Council's eight Public Conveniences at the meeting on 19 July 2011. Cabinet requested a further report be submitted at their October meeting and that negotiations continue with Northallerton Town Council and other potential parties regarding alternative provision of the Public Conveniences in Northallerton. Cabinet also resolved that the Applegarth facility should close on 1 November 2011 if an agreement is not reached.
- 1.4 The current position is that transfers have been completed at Great Ayton, Osmotherley, Swainby and Stokesley. Transfers are also progressing at Thirsk, Easingwold and Bedale. The following table summarises the position;

<b>Location</b>	<b>Decision to Transfer</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Northallerton, Applegarth	Yes	Northallerton Town Council has resolved to provide public toilets in the Town Hall. HDC to pay a grant on the same basis offered to other Councils. It is anticipated the Town Council will be signed up to the proposal by 1 November
Thirsk, Millgate	Yes	Outstanding repairs completed. Formal transfer date to be confirmed and is anticipated before 1 November.
Great Ayton	Yes	Transfer completed
Osmotherley	Yes	Transfer completed
Stokesley	Yes	Transfer completed
Swainby	Yes	Transfer completed

<b>Location</b>	<b>Decision to Transfer</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Easingwold	Not yet decided	Additional info requested by Town Council. Town Council has not yet formally agreed to a transfer. See 1.7.
Bedale	Yes	Repairs in hand. Formal transfer date to be agreed.

1.5 Northallerton Town Council's Town Hall Management Committee proposed an alternative provision for the Public Conveniences in Northallerton at its meeting on 22 August 2011. The proposal is to make improvements to the existing toilet facilities in the Northallerton Town Hall and to make these facilities available to the public. This was approved at the Town Council meeting on 19 September. The Town Council would require the one-off grant of 1.5 times the annual running costs for the existing Applegarth facilities to support the cost of the works. This reflects the conditions set out in paragraph 1.2 and is in line with the financial offer made to other Councils.

1.6 Cabinet are advised that the Council has received a petition regarding the Applegarth Public Conveniences under the banner of 'Save Your Public Toilets'. The petition included 778 verified signatures. The District Council's funding to assist the Town Council to bring the Town Hall toilets into public use should address this concern.

1.7 Easingwold Town Council considered the transfer proposals again at their meeting on 20 September but have yet to formally approve a transfer. The Town Council have advised that it is an aspiration to take over the toilets but it is not definitely decided. The Town Council will consider the transfer further at the next ETC meeting on 18 October 2011.

## **2.0 DECISIONS SOUGHT:**

2.1 Cabinet are asked to note the current positioning relation to transfers.

## **3.0 LINK TO CORPORATE PRIORITIES:**

3.1 The financial position of the Council underpins the delivery of the Council's Corporate priorities. This report addresses one of the measures which the Council has prioritised to ensure a financially secure position in the future.

## **4.0 RISK ASSESSMENT:**

4.1 There are no significant risks for the recommendations.

## **5.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS:**

5.1 None.

## **6.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND EFFICIENCIES:**

6.1 There are no revenue implications to highlight and there are no capital schemes for Public Conveniences in the current 10 year capital programme.

## **7.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:**

7.1 No implications.

**8.0 SECTION 17 CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998:**

8.1 No implications.

**9.0 EQUALITY/DIVERSITY ISSUES:**

9.1 Any proposed reduction in service if the remaining transfers are not formally implemented could have an impact on visitors to the area and the local community. However the service is discretionary rather than statutory. Any action taken would apply equally and would not differ across any specific groups.

**10.0 RECOMMENDATIONS:**

10.1 It is recommended that Cabinet note the current position in relation to public convenience transfers.

DAVID McGLOIN

**Background papers:** None  
**Author ref:** DJMcG  
**Contact:** David McGloin  
Assistant Director  
Direct Line No: 767044