



Integrated Impact Assessment document

(incorporating Equalities, Future Generations, Welsh Language and Socio Economic Duty)

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>Name of the Officer completing the evaluation David H Jones</p> <p>Phone no: 01633 644100 E-mail: davidjones3@monmouthshire.gov.uk</p> | <p>Please give a brief description of the aims of the proposal</p> <p>To update the Council's Local Toilet Strategy prior to re-publishing and sharing on our website and with Welsh Government, in accordance with statutory requirements.</p> |
| <p>Name of Service area</p> <p>Public Protection, SC&H Directorate</p> | <p>Date</p> <p>August 2024</p> |

1. **Are your proposals going to affect any people or groups of people with protected characteristics?** Please explain the impact, the evidence you have used and any action you are taking below.

| Protected Characteristics | Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic | Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic | What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts? |
|---------------------------|---|---|---|
| Age | The revised strategy, working with provider partners, aims to protect existing public toilet facilities. This assists more elderly residents and visitors in our towns and open spaces. | None | By regularly formally inspecting all toilet facilities, they should be suitable and safe for elderly persons. In addition, ensuring suitable baby changing is available helps parents whilst out and about in the county. |

| Protected Characteristics | Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic | Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic | What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts? |
|---------------------------|---|---|---|
| Disability | <p>The aim is to protect existing facilities including disabled toilets. At this time there are 25 publicly available disabled toilets in the county, with others (eg. in supermarkets) provided by the private sector.</p> <p>MCC also provide Changing Places facilities for persons with more profound disabilities in all our (4) Leisure Centres – see 9.1 in the strategy.</p> <p>Although not a recognised ‘disability’, MCC seek to provide a number of ‘stoma-friendly’ public toilets, to aid those using colostomy bags.</p> <p>MCC will promote the ‘Bins for Boys’ national campaign, working with other providers. This is about encouraging sanitary bins that men can readily access.</p> | None | <p>As above, a regular inspection programme will raise any shortfalls to be actioned by providers.</p> <p>There are now 6 Changing Places in the county. The national Changing Places website will list each and advise on facilities available and opening times.</p> <p>When compliant, stoma-friendly toilets will be provided with appropriate signage.</p> |

| Protected Characteristics | Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic | Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic | What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts? |
|-------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Gender reassignment | Providing gender neutral public toilets will be explored as and when any changes are made to current provision. MCC will encourage other providers to do the same. At this time there are 14 unisex toilets currently, eg. in our Leisure Centres and Hubs. | None | There are a number of singular public toilets in the county which are therefore gender-neutral. Knowing where these unisex toilets are located is now provided via the spatial map available both nationally (Data Map Wales) and locally (MCC website) |
| Marriage or civil partnership | None | None | N/A |
| Pregnancy or maternity | Providers are encouraged to provide adequate baby changing facilities, both in public and private toilets. In public facilities there are currently 21 that provide baby changing. | None | Data Map Wales (with a MCC website link) has a toilet map facility. Where baby changing is available is provided on the national map. |
| Race | None | None | N/A |
| Religion or Belief | None | None | N/A |

| Protected Characteristics | Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic | Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic | What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts? |
|---------------------------|---|---|--|
| Sex | <p>MCC and the other public toilet providers have one of the following options –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A singular toilet, (which is therefore unisex) 2. Male and female toilets, eg. in traditional public toilet blocks 3. (2) plus a separate disabled toilet <p>(2) is preferred by most, in high street settings, noting this is likely to be the safer option.</p> | None | Persons can check what facilities are available by town or village prior to visiting, via the spatial map with details of each facility. |
| Sexual Orientation | All public toilets are spatially mapped with details of what is available at each, allowing choice of facility to visit. | None | N/A |

2. The Socio-economic Duty and Social Justice

The Socio-economic Duty requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to reduce inequalities of outcome which result from socio-economic disadvantage when taking key decisions This duty aligns with our commitment as an authority to Social Justice.

| | Describe any positive impacts your proposal has in respect of people suffering socio economic disadvantage | Describe any negative impacts your proposal has in respect of people suffering socio economic disadvantage. | What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts? |
|--|--|---|---|
| | | | |

| | | | |
|---|---|------|-----|
| Socio-economic Duty and Social Justice | The strategy refers to keeping all publicly accessible toilets free to use, making it fair for all. Public toilets are essential to equitable access to public outdoor spaces. | None | N/A |
|---|---|------|-----|

3. Policy making and the Welsh language.

| How does your proposal impact on the following aspects of the Council's Welsh Language Standards: | Describe the positive impacts of this proposal | Describe the negative impacts of this proposal | What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts. |
|---|---|--|---|
| <p>Policy Making</p> <p>Effects on the use of the Welsh language,</p> <p>Promoting Welsh language</p> <p>Treating the Welsh language no less favourably.</p> | <p>All publicly accessible toilets have been mapped out – locally and nationally via Welsh Government – both in English and Welsh. Currently all information on our toilet provision is available via Data Map Wales and MCC's website.</p> <p>Signage provided states 'toiled' and 'toilet' – to be distributed to toilet providers, Leisure Centres, Town Councils, etc.</p> <p>The latest strategy, when formally agreed, will be published in English and Welsh</p> | None | N/A |
| <p>Operational</p> <p>Recruitment & Training of workforce</p> | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| <p>Service delivery</p> <p>Use of Welsh language in service delivery</p> | Any complaints regarding MCC toilet provision would be channelled via our local Hubs. Here callers are advised | N/A | N/A |


| | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|--|--|
| Promoting use of the language | they can relay any concerns, or indeed compliments, in Welsh if they so wish. | | |
|-------------------------------|---|--|--|




4. Does your proposal deliver any of the well-being goals below? Please explain the impact (positive and negative) you expect, together with suggestions of how to mitigate negative impacts or better contribute to the goal. There's no need to put something in every box if it is not relevant!


| Well Being Goal | Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts. | What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts? |
|--|---|--|
| A prosperous Wales Efficient use of resources, skilled, educated people, generates wealth, provides jobs | Town & Community Councils, as reflected in the strategy, have enabled a sharing of public toilet provision across the county. About half of all public toilet blocks are owned and managed by T&CC's. Future transfer of these assets can be further explored as the strategy develops. Private businesses too can contribute to toilet provision in our towns, making good use of limited resources. | N/A |
| A resilient Wales Maintain and enhance biodiversity and ecosystems that support resilience and can adapt to change (e.g. climate change) | As the strategy develops, consideration will be given to electricity and water usage in toilet facilities, with the aim of reducing usage and being more environmentally efficient. | N/A |
| A healthier Wales People's physical and mental wellbeing is maximized and health impacts are understood | The revised strategy aims to maintain, or improve where possible, the quantity and quality of toilet provision for all. Retaining provision encourages people to take exercise and stay more physically active, by encouraging people to go out more, in our towns, villages and open spaces. | N/A |

| Well Being Goal | Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts. | What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts? |
|---|---|---|
| A Wales of cohesive communities Communities are attractive, viable, safe and well connected | Suitable provision will be more attractive to local residents, businesses and visitors. | N/A |
| A globally responsible Wales Taking account of impact on global well-being when considering local social, economic and environmental wellbeing | N/A | N/A |
| A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language Culture, heritage and Welsh language are promoted and protected. People are encouraged to do sport, art and recreation – as above | See 'Healthier Wales' above. Location maps and general information on facilities provided bi-lingually. | N/A |
| A more equal Wales People can fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances | The strategy aims to provide adequate facilities where most needed, eg. in town centres. | N/A |

5. How has your proposal embedded and prioritised the sustainable governance principles in its development?

| Sustainable Development Principle | Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? If yes, describe how. If not explain why. | Are there any additional actions to be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts? |
|---|--|---|
|  <p>Balancing short term need with long term and planning for the future</p> | <p>The strategy provides an assessment of the current publicly available toilets and seeks to work with a range of providers to maintain and improve that provision in the future.</p> | <p>N/A</p> |

| Sustainable Development Principle | Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? If yes, describe how. If not explain why. | Are there any additional actions to be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts? |
|--|---|---|
|  <p>Working together with other partners to deliver objectives</p> <p>Collaboration</p> | <p>The strategy refers to the integral role of our Town & Community Councils, as significant public toilet providers. Gwent Police have also contributed comments to the strategy, noting anti-social behaviour aspects. The delivery of the action plan depends wholly on positive partnership working.</p> | <p>N/A</p> |
|  <p>Involving those with an interest and seeking their views</p> <p>Involvement</p> | <p>Drafting the initial strategy involved a public opinion survey, seeking views from County Councillors, Town & Community Councils, Gwent Police and various MCC departments. All these views have been incorporated into the original and revised strategy.</p> <p>Annually this strategy and associated actions is presented to Place Scrutiny Committee, where feedback and new actions are encouraged.</p> | |
|  <p>Putting resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse</p> <p>Prevention</p> | <p>Liaison with partners aims to seek preventative solutions, eg. through discussions and agreeing actions with Gwent Police.</p> <p>Landlord Services have an annual refurbishment schedule, to prevent damage to the fabric of our public toilet stock.</p> | |

| Sustainable Development Principle | Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? If yes, describe how. If not explain why. | Are there any additional actions to be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts? |
|---|---|---|
|  <p>Considering impact on all wellbeing goals together and on other bodies</p> | <p>Suitable local public toilet provision is important for the well-being of all groups, for parents with babies to older people who may have medical conditions needing ready access to toilets.</p> | |

Council has agreed the need to consider the impact its decisions has on the following important responsibilities: Corporate Parenting and Safeguarding. Are your proposals going to affect any of these responsibilities?

| | Describe any positive impacts your proposal has | Describe any negative impacts your proposal has | What will you do/ have you done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts? |
|---------------------|--|--|---|
| Safeguarding | Providing safe publicly accessible toilets must be done safely, with suitable lighting and regular maintenance. The strategy aims to ensure both service users and providers, eg. cleaning staff, are not exposed to undue risk. | | |
| Corporate Parenting | N/A | | |

6. What evidence and data has informed the development of your proposal?

| |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Public opinion survey January 2019 •Public consultation on draft strategy to May 2019 •Comments from Town & Community Councils, Gwent Police, various MCC departments •Assessment of current public toilet provision, 2019, 2020, 2022, 2023 •Figures from Well-Being Assessment, PSB, April 2017 •Previous report by 'Public Conveniences Working Group' 2009 •Annual scrutiny by MCC committees since 2021 |
|---|

7. SUMMARY: As a result of completing this form, what are the main positive and negative impacts of your proposal, how have they informed/changed the development of the proposal so far and what will you be doing in future?

The revised Local Toilet Strategy provides an assessment of the current toilet provision and has been informed with input from the public opinion survey, various MCC departments, Town & Community Councils, MCC Scrutiny Committees and Gwent Police.

As detailed in this assessment, the impact on the revised strategy is highly positive. There is a mechanism to measure progress over time, via the annual inspections by Environmental Health, and reviewing progress against the actions identified. Protected characteristic groups are supported, eg by ensuring suitable disabled toilet facilities are provided across the county.

Adequate toilet provision in our towns – provided by MCC or Town Councils – ensures residents can get out and about and enjoy local facilities, our shops, markets, etc. 18 blocks across the county demonstrates this Authority’s commitment to resourcing our own public toilets, and our support to those transferred to Town & Community Councils.

In the future the strategy will be kept under review, with progress reports back to Place Scrutiny Committee on a regular basis. This will also track on-going maintenance from MCC Landlord Services, to keep our stock safe to use.

8. ACTIONS: As a result of completing this form are there any further actions you will be undertaking? Please detail them below, if applicable.

| What are you going to do | When are you going to do it? | Who is responsible |
|---|------------------------------|--------------------|
| The further amendments/comments from Members in March 2024 have been incorporated into the revised strategy. Now Cabinet Member approval is sought prior to publishing bilingually and sharing on MCC website. Copy to be shared with Welsh Government too. | September 2024 | David H Jones |
| | | |
| | | |

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| | | |
| | | |

9. VERSION CONTROL: The Equality and Future Generations Evaluation should be used at the earliest stage, such as informally within your service, and then further developed throughout the decision-making process. It is important to keep a record of this process to demonstrate how you have considered and built in equality and future generations considerations wherever possible.

| Version No. | Decision making stage | Date considered | Brief description of any amendments made following consideration |
|--------------------|--|------------------------|---|
| 1 | Strong Communities Select Committee, with Equality & Future Generations Evaluation conducted | May 2019 | Property Services condition survey 2019 incorporated. Rating system agreed. Need to review progress emphasised. |
| 2 | Place Scrutiny Committee, E&FGE completed | January 2023 | Comments from 12th January 2023 incorporated into this version |
| 3 | Place Scrutiny Committee | March 2024 | Comments from 14th March 2024 incorporated into this version |
| 4 | Individual Cabinet Member | September 2024 | Any further comments, during internal consultation from 23 rd August, will be incorporated into strategy prior to agreement. |

August 2024