

Wiltshire Council Equality Impact Analysis Record Form 2015

TRANSFER OR CLOSURE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

When reviewing, planning or providing services Wiltshire Council needs to assess the impacts on people.

We must show we have given due regard to the General Equality Duties in relation to our policies, strategies, services and functions as set out in Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010:

The three aims we **must** have due regard for:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it

Service Area: Highway and Transport

Title of policy/ practice/ service of function Transfer of Public Conveniences To Town and Parish Councils Where Possible or Permanent Closure of Public Conveniences

Section 1 Why are you completing the Impact Assessment?

Change to policy

Section 1.1 : Information about the new policy or change to the policy (explain the proposal and reason for the change)

In response to continuing reductions in funding from Government the Council is reviewing its provision of public conveniences across the county, with the proposal to transfer to parish and town councils where possible if not possible closure.

The Council owns and maintains 27 public toilet blocks across the county. The toilets are cleaned and maintained under contract by Balfour Beatty Living Places. The operation and maintenance of public conveniences in Wiltshire costs £120,000 approx per annum. This includes the costs of cleaning, together with general maintenance and small supplies.

Under the Public Health Act 1984, WSC is under no statutory obligation to provide public conveniences

Those public conveniences proposed for transfer, and if this is not possible closure, are located at:

	Location	Town
1	West Central Car Park	Devizes
2	The Green	Devizes
3	Station Car Park	Bradford on Avon
4	St Margarets Car Park	Bradford on Avon
5	Church Street	Melksham
6	Town Centre	Melksham
7	Bath Road	Melksham
8	Warminster Road	Westbury
9	High Street Car Park	Westbury
10	George Lane Car Park	Marlborough
11	Newlands Road	Corsham
12	The Street	Castle Combe
13	Monkton Park	Chippenham
14	Bath Road	Chippenham
15	Borough Parade	Chippenham
16	The Pippin	Calne
17	Boroughfields	Royal Wootton Bassett
18	High Street	Cricklade
19	Salisbury Street	Amesbury
20	Coach Station & Car Park	Salisbury
21	Central Car Park	Salisbury
22	Market Place	Salisbury
23	Culver Street Car Park	Salisbury
24	The Borough	Downton
25	Market Place	Wilton
26	Central Car Park	Warminster
27	Lakeside Park	Warminster

At the meeting of Council on the 24th February 2015 it was proposed that the nominated toilets would be offered to the town and parish councils, where possible and this option be consulted on.

This proposal will now be subject to a wider public consultation to fully understand the impact of the proposed transfer or closure on communities.

In order to find out the public's views on potential toilet transfer a consultation exercise will run from 1st April to 31st May 2015.

Discussions with Town and Parish Councils

Discussions will be on-going with Town and Parish Councils about the transfer of public conveniences to their ownership.

The relevant Parish and Town Councils were written to concerning the proposal to transfer the conveniences.

Results from the consultation exercise will be sent to Parish and Town Councils.

Section 2: What evidence has been used in the assessment?

(List the consultation/engagement undertaken and data or intelligence you have gathered.)

Public consultation on potential permanent closures.

Public consultation will be carried out between the 1st April and 31st May.

Online survey forms will be made available and in addition comments will be invited by letter and email. Notices will be posted in all locations where toilets are proposed for possible transfer/ closure.

The questionnaire will invite respondent's comments on the proposed transfers and ask for their comments on alternatives to transfer/ closing of the toilets.

Section 3: What are the community impacts of your proposal?

1. Transfer of the public conveniences will have no effect on stakeholders.
2. Closure of public toilets may have:
 - a. A restrictive effect upon the willingness of certain groups to access public spaces, socialise and shop. This in turn can lead to isolation and negatively impact upon a person's well being. Disabled people, older people, mothers and fathers of young children and carers and people with chronic health problems all need easy access to toilet facilities.
 - b. Lack of toilet facilities at the right time and right place contributes to dirty streets that are unsanitary, unpleasant and can spread infection. Public toilets in places like parks help to encourage people who may need regular toilet access to take exercise and stay physically active.
 - c. Public toilet provision is an important issue for areas relying on tourism income, or seeking to develop their profile as a visitor destination. Tourists choose their destinations based on previous experience, looking up feedback on the internet and knowledge of local facilities. Meeting visitor needs is vital to secure repeat trade and build a sustainable economy.

3.1. Equality Impact Assessment

With reference to the analysis above, for each of the 'protected characteristics' below please record your conclusions with evidence around equality impact in relation to the savings proposal/service change.

Protected Group Findings – Highlight potential negative impact or missed opportunities for promoting equality

If not possible to transfer and closure occurs:

Age (includes all age groups)

Older People (60+) –

Are more likely to suffer from incontinence problems and other health related issues that require them to use the toilet more frequently. Lack of toilet facilities will result in older people staying at home.

Children –

Young children are less likely to be able to wait to use the toilet and mothers with babies may need baby changing facilities.

Disability (includes mental health, physical & sensory)

Some of the toilet locations identified for closure include disabled access.

Those with mobility problems may find it harder to get to alternative facilities.

People with illnesses such as Colitis, Crohn's Disease, IBD,

Prostate Cancer could be disadvantaged as these illnesses require frequent trips to the toilet.

Lack of toilet facilities prevent disabled people from taking part in everyday activities and going out.

Gender (Sex)

None identified

Gender reassignment

None identified

Marriage and civil partnership (discrimination)

None identified

Pregnancy and maternity

Pregnant women are more likely to need the toilet more frequently and will be disadvantaged if there are a lack of facilities.

Race (includes ethnic origins, colour and nationality)

None identified

Religion and belief including non-belief

None identified

Sexual orientation (includes heterosexual, gay, bisexual)

None identified

Non-statutory Socio-economic (low income individuals & families)

None identified

Rural Isolation

None identified

Other (Are there other groups other than those already considered e.g. carers, staff)

Carers who look after older people and young people may be disadvantaged. See sections on disability and age.

3.2: What is the cumulative equality impact of your proposal?

You may have identified an impact on the lives of a group as a result of your individual savings proposal. However, taken together with other savings changes the cumulative impact of these decisions may be considerable and the combined impact may not be apparent where decisions are taken in isolation.

None identified

Section 4: ACTION PLAN

Please completed where all negative impacts have been identified, and the steps that could be taken to mitigate this impact or to promote improved equality of opportunity or good relations.

Identified Issue/Negative Impact	Action needed to mitigate impact	Who is responsible	Expected outcomes from carrying out action	By When
Reduced toilet facilities in selected locations within the county.	Continue to discuss with Parish Councils and Town Councils and other organisations concerning the transfer of facilities to avoid the necessity for closure	Tim Woolford	Closure of facilities are kept to a minimum	On going
	Undertake full analyse of results of consultation when this closes on the 31 st May.	Tim Woolford	Understand the other options for provision or impacts of toilet closures are known and understood by the Council	30th June 2015
	Circulate consultation analyse to Parish and Town Councils to assist them with there discussions	Tim Woolford	Parish and Town Councils are able to make full use of the responses from the public consultation in their own decision making processes	31st July 2015
	Transfer/ Close	Tim Woolford		31st March 2016

Section 7. Monitoring and review/ mainstreaming into service plans

Please indicate whether any of your actions have been added to service or work plans and your arrangements for monitoring and reviewing progress/ future impact?

Actions will be entered into relevant officers work plans.

Section 8: Publishing the completed assessment

How will the assessment, consultation & outcomes be published and communicated.

The assessment will be published on the Council's website

Section 9: Sign Off

Completed by: Adrian Hampton

Date: 26th February 2015

Reviewed by: Tim Woolford

Date: 20th January 2016