

Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

Integrated Impact Assessment

(includes Equalities, Welsh Language, Sustainability and Biodiversity)



Before completing the Impact Assessment **PLEASE REFER TO THE CORRESPONDING GUIDANCE DOCUMENT** which provides essential background information.

An Integrated Impact Assessment **MUST** be completed for:

1. Any project (i.e. something that has a start and end date and is different from day to day business).
2. Where you are implementing significant change e.g. service provision.
3. For any Council / Cabinet report that is not part of an above mentioned project or significant change.

Title of Project / Report:	Draft Local Toilet Strategy
Officer completing Impact Assessment:	Susan Gow
Lead Officer / Project Manager:	Susan Gow
Service:	Environmental Health
Impact Assessment completion date:	1 st November 2018

Please give a brief description of the aims of the proposal:

The Public Health (Wales) Act 2017 requires each local authority in Wales to prepare and publish a local toilets strategy for its area by 31st May 2019. In line with the statutory guidance Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council, has set out a strategy to address the toileting needs of the community to try to improve both the standards and availability of publicly accessible toilets. The strategy is built around the principles of co-production, through local authority engagement with a broad range of potential providers and users.

1. Merthyr Tydfil Well-being Objectives

Does your proposal help to deliver any of the Council's Well-being Objectives identified below?

Well-being Objectives	Does your proposal have a positive or negative impact on the Council's Well-being Objectives? Please place an X in the relevant box			Why have you come to this decision? Please provide an explanation	What actions have been/will be taken to better contribute to positive impacts and/or mitigate any negative impacts?
	Positive	Negative	N/A		
<p>Best Start to Life Children and young people get the best start to life and are equipped with the skills they need to be successful learners and confident individuals.</p>			X		
<p>Working Life People feel supported to develop the skills required to meet the needs of businesses with a developing, safe infrastructure making Merthyr Tydfil an attractive destination.</p>	X			<p>Provision of well signposted, clean publicly available toilets will enhance the image of the County Borough as an attractive place to visit and work. Poor provision and signposting may deter people from coming here to participate in recreational/ physical activities and impact on the wider economy.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signposting of toilets available for public use. • Increasing the availability of publicly accessible toilets through engagement with businesses and community groups. • Proposed new Council toilets incorporated into the new bus station development.
<p>Environmental Well-being Communities protect, enhance and promote our environment and countryside.</p>	X			<p>The strategy will seek to contribute to a reduction in the level of street fouling, which has been identified as a problem within the town centre where there is inadequate provision of publicly available toilets. The strategy will aim to increase the level of publicly accessible toilets at locations where there are tourist attractions and where people enjoy the countryside such as the Taff Trail.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signposting of toilets available for public use. • Increasing the availability of publicly accessible toilets through engagement with businesses and community groups. • Proposed new Council toilets incorporated into the new bus station development. • Proactive measures to provide temporary accommodation for

Well-being Objectives	Does your proposal have a positive or negative impact on the Council's Well-being Objectives? Please place an X in the relevant box			Why have you come to this decision? Please provide an explanation	What actions have been/will be taken to better contribute to positive impacts and/or mitigate any negative impacts?
	Positive	Negative	N/A		
					homeless and longer term goal of reducing the numbers of rough sleepers through implementation of homeless strategy.
<p><u>Living Well</u> People are empowered to live independently within their communities, where they feel safe and enjoy good physical and mental health.</p>	X			A lack of publicly available toilets can have a significant detrimental impact on peoples physical and mental health e.g. Isolation and loneliness amongst older people or disabled, who may be reluctant to go out because of a lack of public toilets to meet their needs, dehydration caused by persons avoiding drinking to reduce the frequency of toilet stops. Rough sleepers who do not have access to toilet facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signposting of toilets available for public use. • Increasing the availability of publically accessible toilets through engagement with businesses and community groups. • Proposed new Council toilets incorporated into the new bus station development. • Proactive measures to provide temporary accommodation for rough sleepers and longer term goal of reducing the numbers of rough sleepers through implementation of homelessness strategy.

Sources of evidence to support the above:

Health and Social Care Committee's report "Public health implications of inadequate public toilet facilities – report of evidence" (2012). The public health and environmental costs of inadequate toilet facilities highlighted by the inquiry included:-

- effects of inadequate provision of public toilets may include stress, isolation, depression, reduced mobility, effects on bladder and bowel function, dehydration, urinary tract infections and spread of infection;
- there may be a consequential impact on the NHS and on other services;
- the effect of declining provision of public toilets is likely to be disproportionate, affecting certain groups more than others, for example older people, those with certain health conditions, disabled people and parents or carers with young children;
- inadequate provision may also have a negative effect on strategies intended to increase walking and other outdoor pursuits, and to allow older or disabled people to remain independent and mobile.

2. Sustainable Development Principles (The Five Ways of Working)

Does your proposal demonstrate you have met the sustainable development principles (five ways of working)?

Five Ways of Working	How does your proposal demonstrate you have met the five ways of working?	Are there any additional actions to be taken to better contribute to the five ways of working and/or mitigate any negative impacts?
Long Term - Thinking and planning for the long term.	The strategy has identified current levels of publicly accessible toilet provision and considers ways that the number and quality of toilets can be improved going forward. This includes construction of a new bus station incorporating toilet facilities and any changes proposed to the train station. Use of sustainable/green building techniques for refurbishments or new build toilets in Council ownership.	Consider the availability of publicly accessible toilets in relation to the train station, particularly if new trains do not have toilets on board. Engagement with community groups to enhance toilet provision.
Prevention - Preventing problems before they happen.	The strategy links with planning and regeneration. It has considered the wider aspects of regeneration of the County Borough and how this will impact on toilet provision going forward.	Consider the availability of publicly accessible toilets in relation to the train station, particularly if new trains do not have toilets on board.
Integration - Integrating with other strategies.	To be effective in delivering positive outcomes this strategy cannot stand alone and has sought to link in with other Plans and strategies including Local Development Plan, Economic Growth Strategy, Destination Management Plan, Taff Bargoed Valley Regeneration Strategy and Action plan.	Link in with Homelessness Strategy.
Collaboration - Collaborating with others.	In preparing this strategy the Council has collaborated: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • internally across departments, • with other LA's in Wales to share ideas and ways of working, • sought involvement from other public health organisations such as the Cwm Taf Health Board and Leisure Trust, • sought to work in partnership with national and local businesses to improve the number of publicly accessible toilets which can be mapped and signposted. 	Engagement with community groups to enhance toilet provision.

Involvement - Involving people and communities.	A public needs assessment consultation was undertaken between 3 rd -28 th September 2018. Including 50 plus Forum. All national retail chains, local businesses, doctors, dentists and opticians have been contacted to try to gain support and maximize the number of publicly accessible toilet facilities.	Engagement with community groups to seek ways to improve publicly accessible toilets. Publication of article in Contact magazine. Engagement with stakeholders that may have a particular interest in toilet provision e.g Age Cymru, Disability Wales etc,(list provided to Corporate Communications)
Sources of evidence to support the above: Public needs assessment consultation Full 12 week public consultation on draft strategy		

3. Protected Characteristics (including Welsh Language)

Does your proposal directly impact on service users, employees and/or the wider community, including the nine protected characteristic groups and Welsh language as identified below?

Protected Characteristics	Does your proposal have a positive or negative impact on service users, employees and/or the wider community, including the nine protected characteristic groups and Welsh language? Please place an X in the relevant box			Why have you come to this decision? Please provide an explanation	What actions have been/will be taken to better contribute to positive impacts and/or mitigate any negative impacts?
	Positive	Negative	N/A		
Age	x			Access to toilet facilities is important to everyone but can become even more important as people become older. Improved access to toilet facilities will give older people confidence to leave their home and maintain independence and dignity in later life. People who have young children and babies will have an increased need to	Signposting of facilities available for public use by street signage and on line publication on Lle, Dewis and Council websites. The information will include location, opening times, the facilities available, access arrangements etc. Provision of stickers for participating businesses to display. Proposed provision of new public

Protected Characteristics	Does your proposal have a positive or negative impact on service users, employees and/or the wider community, including the nine protected characteristic groups and Welsh language? Please place an X in the relevant box			Why have you come to this decision? Please provide an explanation	What actions have been/will be taken to better contribute to positive impacts and/or mitigate any negative impacts?
	Positive	Negative	N/A		
				use toilet and changing facilities.	toilets in the town centre as part of the relocation of the new bus station.
Disability	x			Access to toilet facilities is important to everyone but can become even more important to those with a disability or health condition. In mapping publicly accessible toilet provision we have identified what disabled facilities are available at each location.	Signposting of facilities available for public use by street signage and on line publication on Lle, Dewis and Council websites. The information will include location, opening times, the facilities available, access arrangements etc. Provision of stickers for participating organisations/businesses to display. Proposed provision of new public toilets in the town centre as part of the relocation of the new bus station
Gender Reassignment	x			The strategy aims (where practical) to improve the quantity and quality of toilet provision for all. Some facilities will be gender neutral /accessible toilets.	Mapping of publicly available toilets will identify gender neutral toilets where they are available.
Marriage and Civil Partnership			x		
Pregnancy and Maternity	x			The draft Strategy aims (where practical) to provide improved quantity and quality of toilets for the benefit of all users including changing facilities for babies etc.	Signposting of facilities available for public use by street signage and on line publication on Lle, Dewis and Council websites. The information will include location, opening times, the facilities available, access arrangements etc. Provision of stickers for participating organisations/businesses to display.

Protected Characteristics	Does your proposal have a positive or negative impact on service users, employees and/or the wider community, including the nine protected characteristic groups and Welsh language? Please place an X in the relevant box			Why have you come to this decision? Please provide an explanation	What actions have been/will be taken to better contribute to positive impacts and/or mitigate any negative impacts?
	Positive	Negative	N/A		
Race			X		
Religion or Belief			X		
Sex (Gender)			X		
Sexual Orientation			X		
Welsh Language	X				All signposting will be in Welsh and English

Sources of evidence to support the above:

Health and Social Care Committee’s report “Public health implications of inadequate public toilet facilities – report of evidence” (2012). The public health and environmental costs of inadequate toilet facilities highlighted by the inquiry included:-

- effects of inadequate provision of public toilets may include stress, isolation, depression, reduced mobility, effects on bladder and bowel function, dehydration, urinary tract infections and spread of infection;
- the effect of declining provision of public toilets is likely to be disproportionate, affecting certain groups more than others, for example older people, those with certain health conditions, disabled people and parents or carers with young children;
- inadequate provision may also have a negative effect on the ability for older or disabled people to remain independent and mobile.

4. Biodiversity

Does your proposal directly impact on Biodiversity?

Biodiversity	Does your proposal have a positive or negative impact on Biodiversity? Please place an X in the relevant box			Why have you come to this decision? Please provide an explanation	What actions have been/will be taken to better contribute to positive impacts and/or mitigate any negative impacts?
	Positive	Negative	N/A		

Biodiversity	Does your proposal have a positive or negative impact on Biodiversity? Please place an X in the relevant box			Why have you come to this decision? Please provide an explanation	What actions have been/will be taken to better contribute to positive impacts and/or mitigate any negative impacts?
	Positive	Negative	N/A		
Maintain and enhance biodiversity and ecosystem resilience			X		
Sources of evidence to support the above:					

5. Summary

As a result of completing this Impact Assessment, how many positive and negative impacts does your proposal have? This section should then be included in the related Council/Cabinet report.

Please see the example provided in the **guidance document**.

	Positive Impacts	Negative Impacts	Not Applicable
1. Merthyr Tydfil Well-being Objectives	3 of 4	0 of 4	1 of 4
2. Sustainable Development Principles - How have you considered the five ways of working: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long term • Prevention • Integration • Collaboration • Involvement 	5 of 5	0 of 5	0 of 5
3. Protected Characteristics (<i>including Welsh Language</i>)	5 of 10	0 of 10	5 of 10
4. Biodiversity	0 of 1	0 of 1	1 of 1

Summary:

The main positive impacts are: enabling access to toilet facilities is important to everyone but can become even more important to those with a disability, young families or health condition. By mapping publicly accessible toilet provision residents and visitors will be able to easily find out where the toilets are located within the County Borough, the opening times and what facilities are available at each location.

There are no negative impacts.

6. Actions

Based on the summary of your positive and negative impacts, identified in Section 5 above, will you need to make changes to your proposal to better contribute to positive impacts and/or mitigate any negative impacts? Please identify any further actions you will need to undertake to better contribute to positive impacts and/or mitigate any negative impacts.

What are you going to do?	Estimated completion date	Who will be responsible?	Timelines/Milestones e.g. 6 months/over a year, etc.	Progress
Undertake a 12 week consultation on the draft Local Toilets Strategy. direct engagement will be made with all relevant organisations, including those previously contacted during the initial needs assessment consultation exercise. A comprehensive list of consultees (including those with protected characteristics) will be made available.	March 2019	Corporate Communications		
Review the consultation feedback. Responses will help to formulate the content of the strategy and future revisions.	April 2019	Environmental Health Manager/Corporate Communication/ Chief Officer for Regeneration and Public Protection		
Review of strategy	May 2021	Chief Officer for Regeneration and Public Protection		

Publish report	November 2021	Chief Officer for Regeneration and Public Protection		
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7. Version Control

The Impact Assessment should be used at the earliest stages of decision making, and then honed and refined throughout the decision making process. Please use the table below to keep a record of this process so that we can demonstrate how we have considered and built in the sustainable development principles where possible.

Version No.	Decision making stage	Date considered	Brief description of any amendments made following consideration

This needs to be signed off by the relevant Head of Service / Chief Officer

8. Sign off section

Approved by: Steven Peters

Job Title: Head of Public Protection and Housing

Approval date: 20th November 2018