

Scrutiny Briefing Note

The Tourism and Visitor Economy Scrutiny Panel has asked for an update on toilet provision in the resort. This briefing contains the latest position as of November 2022.

Subject: Public Toilet Provision in Cleethorpes

Background/Updates

At a meeting of 28th May 2020 Cabinet received a paper outlining a number of recommendations which, if implemented, could enable the Council to use the savings from the closure of Grant Street to remove the 20p Pay-To-Use charge across all the Resort Public Conveniences.

Officers could further explore the potential lease out of the public conveniences at the Boating Lake. The potential savings associated with a reduced contract for the new facilities at Sea Road and the lease of the Boating Lake Public Conveniences could potentially facilitate the re-opening of the former Public Conveniences at North Promenade, which would result in maintaining an equal provision of Resort facilities but across a more favourable geographical footprint.

Cabinet resolved to Instruct the Director of Resources and Governance (having full regard at this time to public health and other issues arising from the COVID response and at the Director's discretion as to timing) to implement the following:

- a) *Grant Street Public Conveniences to close;*
- b) *Removal of Pay-To-Use entry charges to Public Conveniences throughout the Resort of Cleethorpes;*
- c) *Boating Lake Public Conveniences – explore lease out and provide contract payment to Community interest;*
- d) *Reduction on contract costs at Sea Road – through management of new and reduced provision leased to Danfo; and*
- e) *Explore the reopening of North Promenade Public Conveniences - leased in and sub-leased to Danfo.*

Whilst there was some urgency to see the benefit of free use for the remainder of the season the nature of the delegation gives an opportunity to update Scrutiny on the delegated explorations contained within the cabinet mandate. Therefore, this briefing note provides the latest position following recent progress.

Update as at Nov 2022

- a) *Grant Street Public Conveniences to close.*

In line with the cabinet mandate the Grant St toilets did not re-open following the facility being closed for the Winter period (October to Easter). The toilets were decommissioned and stripped



out and will now become part of the project, currently being reviewed, Grant St car park. Signage has been installed from the outset to ensure the public are signposted to the nearest public convenience facilities.

- b) Removal of Pay-To-Use entry charges to Public Conveniences throughout the Resort of Cleethorpes.*

As a result of a) above and d) below the charges to facilities across the resort were removed at a broadly neutral financial cost to the Council. This was implemented on 10th June 2020.

- c) Boating Lake Public Conveniences – explore lease out and provide contract payment to Community interest.*

This matter was discussed, and the option was marketed however there was no appetite. These toilets therefore were added into the DANFO contract to be managed in the same way as the other toilets in the resort.

- d) Reduction on contract costs at Sea Road – through management of new and reduced provision leased to Danfo.*

This action will be enabled as part of the capital works to provide new public conveniences at Sea Road. A levelling up bid has been submitted to access funding for the development and an outcome is awaited. Ongoing discussions are required with Danfo to discuss how new provision as part of the new development will be managed.

- e) Explore the reopening of North Promenade Public Conveniences*

Discussions have been ongoing with the owner of North promenade toilets. There is an appetite from the owner to bring the toilets back into use, however due to the covid measures placed on the hospitality industry, the owner has been dealing with other priorities. A meeting with the owner took place on 27th Oct 2022 and he has confirmed that his planning application, which will include an apartment, a café and public toilet will be submitted imminently but until this happens officers remain vigilant.

Funding

The public toilets are part of the council's operational estate, this area is already facing budget pressures and the team are constantly looking at ways to mitigate these pressures in line with the Council plan. Therefore, there is no budget available to support the running costs for additional provision, however we continue to look at how the provision can increase without impacting on existing budgets.

As part of the contract to manage the public conveniences Danfo have made investment of £50,000 in the first year of the contract to improve the condition of the facilities they manage. This is supported further with maintaining the facilities by undertaking planned and reactive maintenance.



Recommendation /Next steps

That the Council continues to have dialogue with the owner of North Prom to assist his plans to develop the former toilets and bring some provision back to the North end of the promenade

That conversation continues with the Cleethorpes Coastal Light railway to understand if there is an opportunity for provision at the South end of the resort.

That we continue to explore what provision can be gained from schemes that arise from the Cleethorpes masterplan

That we ensure that the ESAG process is challenging all event organisers in the resort to ensure that the provision of toilets is in keeping with the need/demand, depending on the size/scale and location of the event.

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