

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

**NEIGHBOURHOOD, ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITIES
CABINET MEMBER**

**REPORT ON THE PROPOSED CLOSURE OF AUTOMATIC PUBLIC
CONVENIENCES**

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To seek approval from the Cabinet Member to close two Automatic Public Conveniences (APCs).
- 1.2 The key points in this report are as follows:
 - To reduce the costs of providing toilet facilities in North Lincolnshire.
 - To remove underused facilities, which attract acts of anti-social behaviour.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 There are three different types of toilet provision within North Lincolnshire: attended toilets, non-attended traditional brick type buildings and Automatic Public Conveniences (APCs).
- 2.2 There are five APCs within North Lincolnshire. One is situated in Barton, one in Crowle and three in Scunthorpe (one at the Bus Station, one at Ashby Turn and one in the precinct at the junction with Gilliatt Street). The one in the bus station is a relatively new addition with disabled facilities. The others do not have a disabled facility and have been in operation since they were installed by the three predecessor district councils.
- 2.3 The usage of the three APCs at Crowle, Barton and Ashby Turn has declined steadily over the years. Indeed the one at Barton has had no recorded usage this year. The one in Crowle Market Place is subject to continual anti-social behaviour and vandalism. The Ashby Turn APC seems to have seen a downturn in usage of late due possibly to alternative facilities which are available locally.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

There are two options for consideration:

- 3.1 Option 1 – to close the two APCs at Barton and Ashby Turn Scunthorpe and leave the Crowle APC until consultation is concluded later in the year with regard to provision in Crowle.
- 3.2 Option 2 – to leave open the three APCs at Crowle, Barton, Ashby Turn Scunthorpe.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 4.1 Option 1 – To close the two APCs at Barton and Ashby Turn would ultimately save the council £35,000 per annum in maintenance revenue costs. It would remove targets of vandalism and enable a better streetscene as these facilities are rather old and have an unkempt appearance. Their usage does not reflect value for money.
- 4.2 Option 2 – To maintain the status quo would cause the council to look at investing in new facilities at these sites as the present units are at or near the end of their useful life. This would not be a value for money option bearing in mind the usage levels of the existing units.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)

- 5.1 Financial
By giving the required years contractual notice, the council will save £23,000 in 2010/11 increasing to £35,000 in 2011/12 and thereafter.

6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS (STATUTORY, ENVIRONMENTAL, DIVERSITY, SECTION 17 - CRIME AND DISORDER, RISK AND OTHER)

- 6.1 As stated in the report removal of these underused facilities will reduce vandalism and anti-social behaviour.

7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION

- 7.1 Consideration was given to the closure of the APCs as part of the budget setting process for 2009/10. Consultation with focus groups was a part of this process and the very low usage figures and increasing incidents of vandalism support their closure.
- 7.2 Consultation has taken place with Town and Parish Councils and no objections have been raised at Barton and also no objections have been received from Ashby Ward members. Negotiations are taking

place with Crowle Town Council with regard to future provision in Crowle as it is likely that alternative facilities will become available in the near future.

8. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 8.1 That the Cabinet Member supports the closure of the two Automatic Public Conveniences at Barton and Ashby Turn Scunthorpe.
- 8.2 That further consideration be given to the future of the APC in Crowle later in the year when consultation with the Town Council is concluded.

SERVICE DIRECTOR NEIGHBOURHOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report : None.