

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

**HIGHWAYS AND NEIGHBOURHOODS
CABINET MEMBER**

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES - SCUNTHORPE TOWN CENTRE

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

1.1 To approve the provision of new public toilet facilities in Scunthorpe Town Centre.

1.2 The key points in this report are as follows:

- Concerns have been raised by members of the public and other stakeholder groups concerning the adequacy of toilet provision in Scunthorpe town centre following the demolition of the Central toilets in 2011.
- The council has looked at options to respond to these concerns.
- A proposal to provide some new facilities has emerged.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2.1 The Central toilets that were located off Library Square in Scunthorpe were unavoidably demolished as part of the demolition of the Carlton Street multi storey car park in 2011. At that point a decision was made to open up the toilet facilities at 20-21 Visual Arts Centre (20-21) and the Central Library for public use in lieu of these facilities. Since then, the council has received some concerns raised by some members of the public and other interested stakeholders around the sufficiency of toilet provision in the town centre.

2.2 The current council provision of public conveniences within Scunthorpe town centre comprises the following:

- Central Library - single cubicle male and female, disabled and baby change.
- 20-21 Visual Arts Centre - multi cubicle female, single cubicles for male, urinals, disabled and baby change.
- Britannia Corner - multi cubicle male and female, single cubicles for disabled and baby change
- Scunthorpe Bus Station – movable single cubicle, multi-use facility.

- Dunstall Street - multiple cubicle male and female with separate disabled cubicle.
- Gilliatt Street – movable single cubicle, multi-use facility.
- The Parishes multi storey multi-use facility.

2.3 In response to the concerns raised by the public etc, the council has explored a number of options to provide additional public conveniences in Scunthorpe Town Centre. These have included:

- Additional movable type facilities in the Library Square/Church Square area.
- New build permanent facilities in the Library Square/Church Square area.
- Upgrading of existing facilities located in the Central Library and 20-21 Visual Arts Centre and improved directional signage in the town centre.
- Conversion of an empty shop unit in the Library Square/Church Square area.

2.4 Of these options, the one that has emerged as the most feasible from both a suitability and cost perspective is to convert an empty shop unit. A suitable unit is available that was formerly housed the Brian Wright's Store.

3 OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

3.1 The following options are presented for the Cabinet Member to consider.

3.1.1 Option 1 – Agree to take forward a project to provide new public toilets in Scunthorpe Town Centre via the conversion of the vacant shop unit formerly known as Brian Wright's Store.

3.1.2 Option 2 – Agree to take forward a project to provide new public toilets in Scunthorpe Town Centre via an alternative option.

3.1.3 Option 3 – Decide not to make any new provision of public toilets in Scunthorpe town centre and thereby rely on existing facilities.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

4.1 **Option 1** is the recommended option for consideration by the Cabinet Member. This would make use of an existing vacant shop unit located in the town centre close to both Library Square and Church Square. The building is suitable to provide separate ladies and gents' toilets incorporating disabled and baby change facilities. These facilities would supplement the existing council operated facilities listed above.

4.2 Subject to the Cabinet Member approving the recommended option, an indicative timetable for taking the project forward is as follows.

- Invite tenders – mid November 2014
- Return of Tenders – early December 2014
- Start of Works – mid December 2014
- Completion of Works – mid to late February 2015

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

5.1 **Financial** – Taking forward the project in question is likely to require capital expenditure of around £140,000. The approved capital programme includes an allocation of £462,000 in 2014/15 for ‘Town Centre Regeneration’ projects that could be used to fund the new public toilet facilities proposed.

It is proposed that the new facilities be attended. This would require an annual net operating budget (revenue) of around £15,000. This cost would be contained within existing budget provisions.

5.2 **Staffing** – Any staffing implications will be given further consideration and be subject to future reports for consideration by the Cabinet Member.

5.3 There are no other resource implications requiring consideration.

6. **OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)**

6.1 Not applicable.

7. **OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED**

7.1 The proposal is in response to concerns raised by members of the public and other stakeholder groups concerning the adequacy of toilet provision in Scunthorpe town centre following the demolition of the Central toilets in 2011.

7.2 Officers have considered the proposals and feel that the project in question as a supplement to other council operated facilities would assist in responding to the concerns raised by the public and others in connection with the current adequacy of toilet provision in Scunthorpe town centre.

7.3 There are no apparent conflicts of interest to highlight.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 That the Cabinet Member agrees to take forward a project to provide new public toilets in Scunthorpe Town Centre via the conversion of the vacant shop unit formerly known as Brian Wright's Store with the aim that these are completed and opened to the public during the 2014/15 financial year.
- 8.2 That the Cabinet Member agrees to use the approved 'Town Centre Regeneration' capital budget to fund the project.

DIRECTOR OF PLACES

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report: None