

Title – Closure of Public Conveniences

Intended Outcome

This proposal is aimed at withdrawing council involvement in all 57 Public Conveniences, whether by closure, sale or community asset transfer, the cost of providing the public convenience service is £310,000. This will contribute to the budget savings process

Description

Amenity services are proposing to make changes to meet budget reductions by closing 57 Public Conveniences. The savings will be achieved through closure, sale or community asset transfer. Closing these public conveniences would mean the loss of 27 posts.

The Council operates and maintains 57 public conveniences across the Council area. The council does not receive any GAE or other grant for public conveniences. There is no statutory requirements for councils to provide public conveniences.

Some of these facilities (Inveraray, Lochgilphead, Tarbert, Oban North Pier, Helensburgh) are charging facilities which generate income for the Council

To date there are currently several robust partnership agreements in place with varying community groups where the groups are responsible for the opening and closing, cleaning and stocking of the facility. Agreements are in place at the following locations.

- Tayinloan, West Kintyre Community Trust
- Ardentinny, Ardentinny Community Council
- Calgary, Mull and Iona Community Trust
- Scarinish, Tiree Community Business Limited
- Ulva Ferry, Mull and Iona Community Trust

There is a long-term agreement in place with An Cridhe on the Isle of Coll which involves a £1,900.00 per annum payment towards their facility being available to residents, visitors including visiting yachts. Discussions are ongoing to stage down this payment over the next few years and also to assess the need of the existing toilet block at the middle pier on the Island of Coll.

The risks associated with closing public conveniences include community perception and increased public complaints. There will also be a negative

impact on tourism due to reduced facilities and this in turn can have an impact in promoting Argyll and Bute’s economy. There is also a risk in closing any public convenience where a partnership has been established that this could be reputationally damaging. There is a risk that if the Council is unable to dispose of any of the buildings following the closure of a facility there will be a capital cost in demolishing the building.

How does your proposal align with strategy?

This proposal is linked to the current budget savings requirement ensuring the Council’s shortfall in budget is achieved.

Lead and Appropriate Officers

Lead Officer Andy Summers	Job Title Head of Service	Service RIS
Appropriate Officer Tom Murphy	Job Title Operations Manager	Department RIS

Who will deliver the proposal

Tom Murphy

Signed Off By	Date
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Evidence

Data – what data have you used to inform the IIA?

Financial information relating to the running costs of the public conveniences.

Other information – This may include reference to reports by other people/organisations relevant to the impacts you identify.

None

Consultation – What consultation/engagement have you carried out to inform the IIA?

Discussions have taken place with all potentially affected teams to date on two occasions.

Gaps in Evidence – Are there any gaps in evidence?

There has been no consultation with Community Councils, the public or partners.

Knock on Effects

Knock-n effect – will your proposal have knock-on effects?

Yes

Knock on Effects Details

The knock on effects associated with closing public conveniences include community perception and increased public complaints. There will also be a negative impact on tourism due to reduced facilities and this in turn can have an impact in promoting Argyll and Bute's economy. There is also a risk in closing any public convenience where a partnership has been established that this could be reputationally damaging. There is a risk that if the Council is unable to dispose of any of the buildings following the closure of a facility there will be a capital cost in demolishing the building.

There is also a knock-on effect of loss of budget made available to the Council from Scottish Government for the provision of public conveniences situated at strategic ferry links.

Monitoring

How will you monitor the impacts of your proposal as it progresses?

The monitoring of the impact will be assessed through negative publicity and complaints.

Fairer Scotland Duty

Impact on service users

Mainland Rural Population	Island Population	Low Income	Low Wealth	Material Deprivation
Negative	Negative	Negative	Negative	No impact
Area Deprivation	Socio-Economic Background	Communities of Place	Communities of Interest	
Negative	No impact	Negative	Negative	

Impacts on service users details

The knock on effects associated with closing public conveniences include community perception and increased public complaints. There will also be a negative impact on tourism due to no facilities and this in turn can have an impact in promoting Argyll and Bute's economy. There is also a risk in closing any public convenience where a partnership has been established that this could be reputationally damaging. There is a risk that if the Council is unable to dispose of any of the buildings following the closure of a facility there will be a capital cost in demolishing the building.

Don't knows identified

Impact on service deliverers

Mainland Rural Population	Island Population	Low Income	Low Wealth	Material Deprivation
No impact	No impact	Negative	No impact	No impact
Area Deprivation	Socio-Economic Background	Communities of Place	Communities of Interest	
Negative	No impact	No impact	No impact	

Impacts on service deliverers details

Loss of job and earnings.

There is also an impact on the Council's waste collection and recycling crews, the parks and street sweeping employees who all use the public conveniences when carrying out their duties.

Due regard

No Impact Justification (To be completed if the screening has shown you do not have to complete this impact assessment)

Consumer Duty

Does your proposal affect individuals, businesses or both?

Both

On the basis of your assessment, what are the likely impacts of your proposal?

Choice Negative	Fairness Negative	Redress Negative	Safety Negative
Information Negative	Access Negative	Representation Negative	

Describe the positive impacts you have identified

Describe the negative impacts you have identified

The Choice to remove is negative due to removal of all public conveniences.

Fairness, community groups have partnerships with the Council for maintaining the facilities, this is being taken away from them.

Regarding Redress, the service still suffers from previous savings options with towns and villages having a poorer perception, therefore further savings will make the situation worse.

The removal of the service will have a health and safety aspect for people with medical problems that cannot access the facilities. People with disabilities will be disadvantaged.

If not communicated properly the impact of this proposed saving will be viewed worse than expected by residents and visitors.

This saving will result in further representation in the form of complaints.

What alternatives have you considered which can improve outcomes for customers and/or reduce harm?

Explore third sector asset transfer opportunities and also explore implementing comfort schemes. The comfort schemes were explored in 2014/15 with no uptake.

How have you reduced harm to consumers through the development of your proposal?

This would require time to explore alternative methods for the provision of public conveniences, such as the third sector partnership and comfort scheme opportunities.

If you have not been able to reduce harm to your consumers, why not?

No Impact Justification (To be completed if the screening has shown you do not have to complete this impact assessment)

Children’s Rights and Wellbeing

Direct and indirect impacts on children and young people

Are there any aspects to your proposal which directly impact on children?

Yes

Are there any aspects to your proposal which indirectly impact on children?

Yes

Describe which groups of children and young people are affected by your proposal.

All children

How are these groups you have identified affected by your proposal.

Unable to access public conveniences and no access to baby changing facilities.

Children’s rights

Article 2: (non-discrimination) No impact	Article 3: (best interest of the child) No impact
Article 6: (life, survival and development) No impact	Article 12: (repect for the views of the child) No impact

Have you identified any other articles as being relevant to your proposal?

No

What articles are relevant to your proposal? (This, along with the following five questions, appears if you answer ‘yes’ to having identified other articles as being relevant.)

If you have identified any positive impacts, describe what these are?

If you have identified any negative impacts, describe what these are?

What options have you considered to reduce negative impacts?

If you cannot implement measures to mitigate impact why not?

If you have identified relevant articles for which you don't know what the likely impact will be, how will you monitor impact as your proposal progresses?

Children’s wellbeing

For each wellbeing indicator, review whether your proposal will result in an improvement to children’s wellbeing or not. (More information about the indicators is given in the guidance.)

Safe Negative	Healthy Negative	Achieving No impact	Nurtured No impact
Active No impact	Respected No impact	Responsible No impact	Included No impact

For the indicators where you believe your proposal will result in reduced children's wellbeing, explain what these reductions will be.

Removal of public conveniences will result in children not being able to access these facilities. And also families not having access to the baby changing facilities.

For the indicators where you believe your proposal will result in improved children's wellbeing, explain what these improvements will be.

If you have identified any indicators as being relevant to your proposal, but you do not know what the impacts will be, explain how you will monitor impact as your proposal progresses.

No Impact Justification (To be completed if the screening has shown you do not have to complete this impact assessment)

Island Communities

How many islands does your proposal affect? All

Which islands are affected by your proposal?

Bute, Islay, Jura, Mull, Iona, Coll, Tiree

Does your proposal impact on island communities...?

Demography	Economy	Society
Negative	Negative	Negative

Describe any positive impacts you have identified.

Describe any negative impacts you have identified.

There will be a negative impact on tourism due to no facilities and this in turn can have an impact in promoting Argyll and Bute’s economy.

If you do not know what the impacts will be, you should reflect this in your monitoring arrangements for the proposal.

Describe how your proposal affects the islands communities you have identified differently from other communities including other islands communities and mainland areas.

How will you ensure your proposal delivers equivalent levels of service to the islands communities you have identified compared to other areas, including mainland areas? (In your answer you should include descriptions of:

- alternatives you have considered to improve or mitigate the impacts identified,
- how you have reduced negative impacts on islands communities, and
- how your mitigations will vary between communities, if relevant).

If you have not been able to mitigate impacts, why not?

No Impact Justification (To be completed if the screening has shown you do not have to complete this impact assessment)

Equality impact

Equality impact on service users

Disability	Race	Marriage and civil partnership	Religion or belief	Sex
Negative	No impact	No impact	No impact	No impact
Pregnancy and maternity	Age	Sexual orientation	Gender reassignment	
Negative	Negative	No impact	No impact	

Impact identified

Due to the removal of these facilities anyone with a disability, pregnant woman or the elderly will have no access to the public conveniences and may have to travel further to access them, which is not always easy for that person to do.

Don't knows identified

Equality impact on service deliverers

Disability	Race	Marriage and civil partnership	Religion or belief	Sex
No impact	No impact	No impact	No impact	No impact
Pregnancy and maternity	Age	Sexual orientation	Gender reassignment	
No impact	No impact	No impact	No impact	

Impact on service deliverers

Possible impact on front line service providers who require these facilities.

Don't knows identified

Due regard

No Impact Justification (To be completed if the screening has shown you do not have to complete this impact assessment)