

Report to: Scrutiny Management Panel.
5 March 2009.

Report from: Senior Local Democracy Officer.

Report by: Jane Di Dino, Scrutiny Support Officer.

MONITORING THE OUTCOMES FROM SCRUTINY REVIEWS.

THE REVIEW OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

1. Purpose.

This report provides an opportunity for the Panel to receive an update on the progress made with the recommendations arising from the review of Public Conveniences.

2. Recommendations.

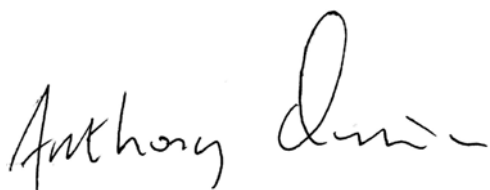
The Panel is asked to consider whether it wishes to make any further comments regarding the progress made with the implementation of the recommendations arising from this review.

3. Background.

- 3.1 At its meeting on 12 July 2006, the Policy & Review (Oversight) Panel agreed that relevant Executive Members should be invited to meetings on a rolling basis to provide an update on the progress made with implementing recommendations arising from completed scrutiny reviews. On 25 November 2008 the Council agreed that the Scrutiny Management Panel should continue with this role under the new scrutiny arrangements.
- 3.2 The review of Public Conveniences was undertaken by the Policy & Review (Oversight) Panel in two stages: an interim report was published in December 2004 and a full report in September 2005.
- 3.3 Following a Notice of Motion at Full Council in July 2004, the Council asked the Policy & Review (Oversight) Panel to review public conveniences and report its findings to the Executive by no later than December 2004. In response to the evidence received from across the community, the Panel agreed that some of the issues that relate particularly to facilities in tourism and recreation should be addressed as a matter of urgency as part of the 2005/06-budget cycle. Accordingly, an interim report was published on 9 December 2004.
- 3.4 At its meeting on 3 February 2005 the Policy & Review (Oversight) Panel agreed that the second stage of the review would be undertaken with the following objectives: to consider whether the service is being delivered effectively taking into account cost, location, usage/footfall and opening hours; to review the opportunities for development that may be presented by partnership working; to consider the design and layout of new build and enhanced facilities; to assess the impact of anti social behaviour and crime and disorder on service provision; to review the adequacy of provision of facilities in those areas most affected by the night-time economy; to continue to consider the impact of the Disability Discrimination Act on the provision and

funding of the service and to recommend any changes to the provision of public conveniences.

- 3.5 At a meeting on 31 May the Panel agreed that these objectives would be used to inform the Panel's recommendations about the level of service provision that would be required for each category of convenience, namely: tourism and Heritage; recreation (including parks and cemeteries); shopping; transport Infrastructure and the night-time economy.
- 3.6 The Panel took evidence from a number of witnesses including residents; the Executive Member for Environment; neighbourhood forums; Ocean Cleaning; the Portsmouth Disability Forum; the Local Strategic Partnership and key officers.
- 3.7 The Panel's principal recommendations were that increased opening times for some conveniences be realigned to loosely match shops and park opening times; that the conveniences at Castlefield be closed during the winter in order that the facilities at the D Day Museum can be open all year round; that facilities identified as falling in the tourism and heritage category be open at a minimum during daylight hours in the winter and until 10pm in the summer and that facilities located at the Hard Interchange continue to be open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week all year round and the facilities at Hilsea Lido (interchange) be open between 6.30 am and 11.00pm every day.
- 3.8 The report was considered at the Executive Meeting on 21 November 2005, where the following was agreed: the specific responses to the actions shown in appendices A & B [of the officers' response report] be endorsed; the recommendations in the report be fed into the 2006/07 budget process & the Medium Term Resources Strategy and that the Strategic Directors for Economy, Culture & Community Safety and for Environment & Transport be instructed to ensure that specific references to the provision of public conveniences are included in the Council's respective Tourism, Parks and Seafront Strategies.
- 3.9 The Scrutiny Management Panel meeting on 5 March 2009 provides an opportunity to receive an update on the recommendations arising from this review, which is attached as appendix one.



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Senior Local Democracy Officer.

Review of Public Conveniences.

Recommendation	Action By	Policy Framework	Budgetary Implications	Progress Update for Scrutiny Management Panel on 6 March 2009.
Tourism & Heritage				
1. Those facilities which fall within this category be open at a minimum during daylight hours in the winter and until 10pm in the summer.	Strategic Director for Environment & Transport	Within existing policy framework	No cost implications for winter opening Cost of increased summer opening estimated at £5,000	No extra funding allocated. Have been able to modify existing operations to achieve a similar result.
2. That the conveniences at Castlefield be closed during the winter in order that the facilities at the D Day Museum can be open all year round.	Strategic Director for Environment & Transport	Within existing policy framework	Closure of Castlefield between 1/10 and 8/4 would result in savings of around £4,000 The cost of opening the D Day facilities for the same period is estimated at £14,000 based on opening hours of 8am-5pm or 9am to 6pm. This would include attendant provision.	No extra funding allocated. Have been able to modify existing operations to achieve a similar result.
3. That the provision of facilities in this category be included within the City Council's Tourism Strategy.	Strategic Director for Economy, Culture and Community Safety	Within existing policy framework	No budgetary implications	Toilet provision is included in the seafront strategy project
4. That appropriate facilities be available and open during public events organised and/or supported by the City Council.	Strategic Director for Environment and Transport	Within existing policy framework	Maybe additional budget costs as part of the budget for each event	PCC organised events such as the Bandstand, have funded additional opening times.
Recreation (including parks and cemeteries)				
5. That wherever possible the opening times of facilities located in or nearby the City's parks be the same as those of the park.	Strategic Director for Environment and Transport	Within existing policy framework	Cost of increased opening times maybe in the region of £2,000- £3,000	No extra funding allocated. Have been able to modify existing operations to achieve a similar result. There have been some minor operational coordination issues arising from conflicting demand for the Community Warden Service who lock the parks.
6. That the Clean and Tidy Team continue to work with the City Rangers and Community Wardens to address the antisocial behaviour experienced in facilities in this category.	Strategic Director for Environment and Transport Strategic Director for Economy, Culture and Community Safety	Within existing policy framework	No budgetary implications	The importance of partnerships with internal and external partners to consider, and address environmental crime, is now a mainstream activity.
7. That the provision of facilities in cemeteries be reviewed as a matter of urgency.	Strategic Director for Environment and Transport	Within existing policy framework	No budgetary implications other than officer time required to undertake review	The cemetery review identified the need for overall improvements to toilet provision, particularly disabled and family facilities. A lack of funding prevents further progress.
8. That the provision of facilities in this category be included within the City Council's Parks Strategy.	Strategic Director for Economy, Culture and Community Safety	Within existing policy framework	No budgetary implications	Since the review a revised parks and open spaces places strategy has been developed. However there is no specific reference to toilet provision.
9. That the Victoria Park facilities be reprovided, at the expense of any future	Strategic Director for Economy, Culture and	May lie outside existing policy framework	No budgetary implications	A capital bid for funding to provide a replacement facility, post sale of Victoria baths has been submitted as part of the 09/10

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developer, in a more central location if the redevelopment of the Victoria swimming baths goes ahead.	Community Safety Strategic Director for Environment and Transport			capital programme.
Shopping				
10. That those facilities located in or near shopping areas should be open until 30 minutes after the shops have closed, all year round.	Strategic Director for Environment and Transport	Within existing policy framework	Cost of increased opening times estimated at £5,000	No extra funding allocated. have been able to modify existing operations to achieve a similar result.
11. That the Paradise Street facilities be closed and demolished when the City Centre North development gets underway.	Strategic Director for Economy, Culture and Community Safety Strategic Director for Environment and Transport	Within existing policy framework	Demolition costs maybe required	The facility was given an interim facelift as of the city centre gold zone programme. This has proved highly cost effective and offers the potential to extend the operational life of this facility. The Northern quarter planning consent includes the requirement for a public convenience
12. That any facility within this category that is improved or rebuilt be made fully accessible and family friendly.	Strategic Director for Environment and Transport	Within existing policy framework	Costs to be included in rebuild or new build budget	Piecemeal improvements have been made at various facilities .
Transport Infrastructure				
13. That facilities located at the Hard Interchange continue to be open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week all year round and the facilities at Hilsea Lido (interchange) be open between 6.30 am and 11.00pm every day.	Strategic Director for Environment and Transport	Within existing policy framework	No budgetary implications for the Hard Cost of new opening times at Hilsea Lido facilities estimated at £6,000.	No extra funding allocated. Have been able to modify existing operations to achieve a similar result. Hilsea Lido interchange is now open 24/7
14. That consideration be given to increasing the number of times facilities in this category are cleaned.	Strategic Director for Environment and Transport	Within existing policy framework	Maybe negotiable within existing contract	There is no available funding for additional cleaning. However minor changes to "fine tune" operations are ongoing.
Night-Time Economy				
15. That consideration be given to extending the opening times of the Guildhall Square conveniences.	Strategic Director for Environment and Transport	Within existing policy framework	No budgetary implications other than officer time to undertake the review	The existing building has been assessed and is not suitable for evening/late night opening. Efforts have been and will be made to seek cost effective ways to increase opening hours.
16. That the possibility of opening	Strategic Director	Within existing policy	No budgetary implications other than	Albert Road facility is now open 24/7

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facilities in this category for 24 hours a day be investigated.	for Environment and Transport	framework	officer time to undertake the review	
17. That the Local Strategic Partnership considers the provision of conveniences as part of its development of a strategy to tackle the problems caused by the night-time economy.	The Local Strategic Partnership	Within existing policy framework	No budgetary implications	Although it is desirable to extend the availability of late night facilities. Provision is restricted due to funding.
General Issues				
18. That the proposals for the City Centre North development allow for fully accessible facilities that meet all the needs of the area.	Strategic Director for Environment and Transport	Within existing policy framework	No budgetary implications	In progress
19. That the City Council investigates the way in which Radar keys are distributed as a matter of urgency.	Strategic Director for Environment and Transport	Within existing policy framework	No budgetary implications other than officer time required to undertake the investigation.	A local review was undertaken however the main finding is that as the radar scheme is a national scheme it is difficult to impose additional local restrictions on keys.
20. That a trial be undertaken to ascertain whether customers would be willing to pay to use facilities	Strategic Director for Environment and Transport	Within existing policy framework	Budgetary implications of trial will require investigation	Preliminary discussions and investigations took place. In practise it was not financially viable for a "low cost" toilet charging scheme and a higher charge would potentially alienate some members of the public.
21. That the Clean & Tidy City Team continue to work in partnership with the City's Community Wardens and City Rangers to address anti social behaviour in and around facilities.	Strategic Director for Economy, Culture and Community Safety Strategic Director for Environment and Transport	Within existing policy framework	No budgetary implications	In progress and is linked to the community policing programme.
22. That support be given to redeveloping existing facilities in partnership with the private and public sectors.	Strategic Director for Environment and Transport	Within existing policy framework	No budgetary implications	Preliminary discussions have taken place to relocate and improve one facility. However the company are not proceeding with the scheme at present . Therefore this remains a service delivery aspiration.