

Title of meeting: Cabinet

Date of meeting: 5th March 2024

Subject: Provision of sanitary bins in male toilets

Cabinet Member Cllr Dave Ashmore, Member for Environmental Services

Report by: Colette Hill - Assistant Director - Neighbourhoods

Wards affected: All

Key decision: No

Full Council decision: No

1. **Purpose of report** - To update Cabinet on the options to provide sanitary bins in male toilets.

2. **Recommendations**
 - 2.1. That Cabinet agrees to the provision of at least one bin with associated stickers in all male public convenience sites.
 - 2.2. That the Cabinet asks all Directorates to arrange the provision of at least one bin per site with associated stickers in all male toilets at council owned and directly operated sites.
 - 2.3. That Cabinet requests the Economic Development team to work with Shaping Portsmouth and public service partners to influence businesses to adopt a similar approach in male toilets.

3. **Background**
 - 3.1. A notice of motion was brought to full council by Cllr. Ryan Brent, seconded by Cllr. Lewis Gosling on 17 October 2023 regarding the provision of sanitary bins in male public toilets and male toilets within the PCC estate. The motion supported Prostate Cancer UK's 'Boys needs bins' campaign.
 - 3.2. It was agreed for 'Cabinet to consider a report for decision as soon as reasonably practicable on the provision of at least one sanitary bin in all council male toilets – both public and in council buildings; '
 - 3.3. PCC provides 21 public conveniences, of which there are 21 male public conveniences offering 57 male cubicles in total. These sites are serviced by Green and Clean, via the Estate Services team in Housing, Neighbourhood and Building Services.

- 3.4. Across the PCC building estate there are up to 103 sets of exclusively male toilets/toilets provided as unisex. These toilets are provided by relevant council departments. These are a mix of public facing and for staff toilets.
- 3.5. Additionally across the PCC building estate there are up to 437 sites which may have sets of exclusively male toilets/provided as unisex. These toilets are provided by service providers/occupiers. These could be contractors or leaseholders/businesses. These are a mix of public facing and for staff toilets.
- 3.6. PCC has a contract for sanitary bin provision. These bins are serviced on a 4-weekly basis. Sanitary bins are usually provided in all female, accessible/unisex cubicles so that users don't have to wait for a specific cubicle to become available. This is because the majority of users require these facilities on a regular basis. Male sanitary bins can also be provided.
- 3.7. Private businesses and service providers would need to make their own arrangements but are all likely to have a similar arrangement in place for female/unisex toilets.

4. **Additional Sanitary Bins**

- 4.1 The existing PCC contract can be used to provide bins for male sanitary items in public conveniences and toilets provided by PCC departments. Private businesses and service providers would need to make their own arrangements but are all likely to have a similar arrangement in place for female toilets.
- 4.2 The notice of motion requests Cabinet to consider a report for decision as soon as reasonably practicable on the provision of at least one sanitary bin in all council male toilets – both public and in council buildings. It should be noted the Council does not have responsibility for the provision in all PCC owned buildings that are leased to service providers or businesses who would need to make their own arrangements.
- 4.3 The number of users requiring such provision is notably less than for sanitary bins in female toilets. An option for consideration would be to install at least one bin per site (see IIA). Cubicles will be marked to highlight the provision. The male sanitary bins are larger than female ones so some cubicles may not be able to accommodate a larger bin – stickers will indicate which cubicle accommodates a bin or where the nearest bin is located.

4.4 **Costs**

Bins can be provided with 4-weekly collection for £55 each per year (minimum 3 years). Service will need to review use to ensure frequency of collection is appropriate.

4.5. Public Conveniences

- 21 sites @ £55 = £1,155 per annum for 1 bin per site offering (see appendix 1 for list of sites)

4.6. There are up to 103 other sites and services where departments will need to make their own arrangements through their cleaning provider. This may include accessing the contract provided to PCC where applicable. Total costs to services would be in region of £5,720 (see appendix 1)

4.7. There are 437 other sites and service providers/occupiers who would need to make their own arrangements through their cleaning provider.

5. Reasons for recommendations

5.1. The Council supports Prostate Cancer UK's 'boys need bins' campaign. Some users need to dispose of their sanitary waste (including but not limited to incontinence pads, pouches, stoma, catheter, colostomy, ileostomy waste by-products) and there is currently no provision to a sanitary bin in male public conveniences or in most male toilets in council facilities.

6. Integrated impact assessment

6.1. There are no significant impacts noted in the IIA although this would make male toilets more accessible for those users who require sanitary provision.

7. Legal implications

7.1. Whilst not an absolute the provision of bins would be within the competency of PCC and feeds well into promoting PSED relevant to those with a protected characteristic, most likely with reference to health. Additionally, as an adjunct to the general concept of wellbeing for all the decision can be made as one that promotes health within the workspace.

8. Director of Finance's comments

8.1. A decision to provide at least one sanitary bin in all male public convenience sites would cost at least £1,155 per annum and this would need to be prioritised from the existing Public Conveniences budget within Environmental Services Portfolio.

8.2. The cost of similar provision at all 103 council owned and directly operated sites, with exclusively male toilets, is harder to quantify but would be the region of £5,720 and would need to be met by the council departments responsible for those premises. In addition, there are 437 other sites and service providers/occupiers who would need to make their own arrangements through their cleaning provider.



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Signed by: James Hill - Director for Housing, Neighbourhood and Building Services

Appendices:

- Appendix A - details of number of sites and costs
- Appendix B - Integrated Impact Assessment

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location
N/A	

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/ rejected by on

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Signed by: