

Report of Chief Executive

Subject: Members' Task and Finish Group to consider toilet funding

Purpose

To set up a Members' Task and Finish Group to consider a response to the letter from Pembrokeshire County Council regarding funding for toilets.

Introduction

Over the past 18 months there have been a number of requests from Pembrokeshire County Council for funding to support the maintenance of a network of toilets around the county. To date the Authority has not agreed to these requests.

The most recent correspondence was received on 22nd February 2023 following decisions by Pembrokeshire County Council's Cabinet (See Annex A). This letter informs the Authority that a number of toilets in the National Park area will close next year, unless support is received from the National Park Authority or other organisations.

There is a request to respond by November 2023.

It is proposed to set up a Members' Task and Finish Group to consider the matter, with a view to reporting its findings to a meeting of the Authority by September 2023 at the latest.

A draft Terms of Reference is included as Annex B.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Members agree:

- **To set up a Members' Task and Finish Group to develop a response to the request by Pembrokeshire County Council to support the retention of a network of toilets in the National Park area;**
- **To agree the Terms of Reference included at Annex B; and**
- **To agree the Membership of the Group**

(For further information, please contact Tegryn Jones on 01646 624803, or by e-mailing tegrynj@pembrokeshirecoast.org.uk)



Pembrokeshire County Council
Cyngor Sir Penfro

WILL BRAMBLE CBE
Chief Executive / Prif Weithredwr

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Cyngor Sir Penfro,
Neuadd y Sir, HWLFFORDD,
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Telephone / Ffôn 01437 764551

Please ask for
Os gwelwch yn dda gofynnwch am
Will Bramble

By Email

Dear Tegryn,

I wanted to follow up on our conversations at the end of last year surrounding our financial challenges with continuing to provide public toilets across Pembrokeshire and our request that PCNPA support with provision going forward.

As a result of our conversations not concluding a mutually agreeable way forward, a report was presented at Cabinet on 13th February 2023 on the future funding of public conveniences and how we can address the saving requirements. The full Cabinet report which details toilets within scope of future closure or new funding arrangements and recommendations, which were all agreed, can be found here:

<https://mgenglish.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/documents/s68918/3.2%20-%20Cabinet%2013th%20Feb%202023%20Toilet%20Budget%20Report.pdf>

Cabinet agreed that it would delay by up to 1 year, the saving requirement from Public Conveniences in 2023-24 in understanding that future arrangements will take some time to agree and put in place.

In light of recommendation 1 in the Cabinet report, I wish to formally notify you that the following toilets within your car parks will be closed from 5th November 2023, unless an alternative funding stream has been identified and agreed:

Angle	Manorbier	Newport Sands	Pwllgwaelod
Broad Haven North End	Moylegrove	Nolton	Saundersfoot
Freshwater East	Newgale South	Penally	Solva
Little Haven	Newport Parrog	Porthgain	St Brides

We welcome correspondence in Welsh and English, and will respond within a maximum of 15 working days. We will respond in the language in which the correspondence is received (unless you ask us to do otherwise). / Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a Saesneg a byddwn yn ymateb cyn pen 15 diwrnod gwaith fan bellaf. Byddwn yn ymateb yn yr un iaith â'r ohebiaeth a dderbyniwyd (oni bai eich bod yn gofyn i ni wneud yn wahanol).

For a copy in large print, easy-read, Braille, audio, or an alternative language, please contact Pembrokeshire County Council on the number above. / Os am gopi mewn print mawr, fformat hawdd ei ddarllen, Braille, sain neu mewn iaith arall, cysylltwch â Chyngor Sir Penfro ar y rhif uchod.

Whilst we have not officially agreed terms of our occupation at Poppit Sands, we will honour your request in a letter dated 18th February 2014 and therefore will write to you separately to give 12 months notice of our intention to cease provision at Poppit Sands from 31st March 2024.

We understand that the facility at St Davids Oriel Y Parc is subject to a lease and we will make contact with you surrounding this facility once we have had an opportunity to review this arrangement.

We will continue our conversations with town/community councils who may wish to use their precepts for 2024-25 to fund facilities or take them over via a community asset transfer. We will of course also be happy to continue conversations with your organisation should you wish to reach a future funding arrangement on any of the above facilities; we continue to recommend a funding mechanism utilising car parking charges given the substantial relationship between the car parks and their associated toilets.

As you will see in recommendation 3, should we have confirmation in writing before 5th November 2023 of the intent to either fully fund the running of the toilets or agree an asset transfer by 31st March 2024, we will keep the facility open until this date to allow for such arrangements to be put in place (unless a usual winter closer is in place).

I wish to emphasise that we are not looking for closures, in fact we want to save as many facilities as possible, but we need other organisations to support us through provision of funding as we are no longer able to sustain the large amount of toilets we currently have across Pembrokeshire without such financial help.

If you would like to discuss any of the above in more detail then please get in touch.

Yours sincerely



William Bramble

Chief Executive

Pembrokeshire County Council

ANNEX B

TASK AND FINISH GROUP ON FUNDING OF PUBLIC TOILETS IN THE NATIONAL PARK

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Role/purpose

To consider the request from Pembrokeshire County Council for financial support to maintain a network of toilets across the National Park area and to make a recommendation to the National Park Authority

Membership

To comprise:

6 Members of the Authority, on a 2:1 ratio of Pembrokeshire County Council (PCC) and Welsh Government (WG) Members.

The Chief Executive to nominate relevant officers.

Members to determine Chairmanship at the inaugural meeting.

The membership to last until September 2023, or when the Task and Finish Group presents its report to a meeting of the Authority.

Quorum

To include at least two PCC and one WG Member.

Accountability

The Task and Finish Group is of an advisory nature and will report its findings to the National Park Authority by September 2023 at the latest.

Mode of operation

Timing of meetings to be agreed by Members and will be held via MS Teams.