



# **Caerphilly County Borough Council**

## **Draft Local Toilets Strategy Summary Document**

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Toilets for public use matter to everybody who goes “away from home” for some reason and remain a high-profile issue. They are, however, even more important to certain groups within society, including older people, people with disabilities, people with particular needs (including certain medical problems), women, children and young people and their families. These groups can be disproportionately affected by poor provision; for example, poor provision is understood to have particular negative impacts on older people, as some may be less likely to leave their homes without having confidence that adequate facilities will be available to them. This can contribute to increased social isolation and inactivity, as well as affecting people’s ability to maintain independence and dignity in later life.

Part 8 of the Public Health (Wales) Act 2017: Provision of Toilets came into force on 31 May 2018 and places a duty on each local authority in Wales to prepare and publish a local toilets strategy for its area.

Local authorities in Wales now have the responsibility to:

- assess the need for toilet provision for their communities;
- plan to meet those needs;
- produce a local toilets strategy; and
- review the strategy, update and publicise revisions.

As such, Caerphilly County Borough Council must prepare and publish its strategy within one year from 31 May 2018. The duty to prepare a local toilets strategy does not require local authorities to provide and maintain public toilets directly. The Local Authority must take a strategic view on how facilities can be provided and accessed by their local population. Upon review of this strategy, Caerphilly County Borough Council is required to publish a statement of progress. This strategy contributes toward achieving accessible and clean toilets wherever people live, work or visit.

The provision of local toilets for public use is not a statutory requirement of local authorities in Wales. Therefore, due to unprecedented financial cutbacks within local government, Caerphilly County Borough Council, like many other local authorities, may need to close down its traditional public toilet blocks. This strategy aims to mitigate potential impacts by making toilets in more council facilities available for public use and to work with the private sector to help promote their facilities.

Locations of toilets will be promoted via a mapping app specifically designed for mobile technology and smart phones. Participating premises will also display a sticker in a prominent place, indicating that toilets are available for the public. The sticker will display the logo stipulated by Welsh Government. Mapping is an important part of our strategy so that people who need to visit a toilet can easily

access information about the location, opening times, accessibility and type of facilities available.

The strategy incorporates feedback following a public consultation exercise undertaken during September 2018. The consultation was designed to assess the needs of residents, and people visiting or working within the county borough. A total of 357 responses were received. The analysis of the feedback is detailed in the Caerphilly County Borough Council Local Toilets Strategy Needs Assessment Consultation Report<sup>1</sup> and used to inform the content of the draft strategy.

This is a summary document to assist consultation; the full version of the draft strategy is available via the Caerphilly County Borough Council website.

The strategy sets out options that may be considered over the next two years in order to increase the provision of local toilets. To do so Caerphilly CBC will:

1. Explore all options available including working with the private sector, voluntary services and Community Councils to make more local toilets available in places where they are most needed.
2. Promote equal opportunities to provide appropriate, accessible and effective services and facilities to all sections of the community without prejudice or bias.
3. Ensure that the toilet logo sticker will be displayed at entrances at all appropriate Council buildings and private businesses that have agreed to being mapped.
4. Work with Aneurin Bevan University Health Board and health care providers; to encourage them to make the facilities available to the public, participate in the mapping scheme and to display the toilet logo sticker, in appropriate premises.
5. Improve awareness and information available on toilet provision in the Borough by updating information on the Caerphilly CBC website and will regularly update the Lle open access data repository with WG.
6. Provide online information maps, physical maps and information sheets, and downloadable information accessed via mobile phone technology.
7. Work with partners to improve provision in close proximity to key night-time gathering points such as taxi ranks, car parks, railway/bus stations and stops.
8. Review cleansing operations and standards on a periodic basis to ensure the most efficient and effective provision within allocated resources.
9. Continue to work with the Police and residents, community groups and others to ensure that facilities are as safe as possible.

10. Not charge residents to use toilet facilities in council buildings where there is provision.
11. Explore options for providing facilities for the homeless/rough sleepers.
12. Ensure that the Events Safety Advisory Group continues to provide advice and guidance on temporary toilet facilities to be provided at organised events.
13. Ensure that sustainable development and energy is taken into consideration facilitating the provision of local toilets.
14. Ensure that officers raise the need for changes to Planning Policy and legislation in relation to toilet provision and access.