

BUSINESS SERVICES

19. REVIEW OF THE PUBLIC CONVENIENCE STRATEGY

With reference to the Minute of the Meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee of 18 September, 2008 (Item 16, Page 980) and the subsequent Minute of the Meeting of the Infrastructure Services Committee of 17 March, 2011 (Item 24, Page 1603), there had been circulated a report dated 15 October, 2015 by the Director of Business Services which presented to the Committee a Review of the Public Convenience Strategy for Aberdeenshire as presented in Appendix 1 to the report.

The report presented to the Committee the general approach to the Strategy and the financial impacts of those proposals which it was accepted would realise significant savings for the Council.

The Facilities Manager introduced the report and advised the Committee that Area Committees had been consulted on the proposals arising from the Strategy Review and

Officers would carefully consider those comments and discuss opportunities for communities to take over existing facilities paying due regard to the careful selection of comfort partnerships.

During discussion the Committee welcomed the report and noted that the strategy would be of great public interest and as such there would have to be meaningful engagement within communities and community councils. The Committee also sought assurance that as part of the careful selection of Comfort Partnerships that those partnerships were sustainable.

After due consideration, the Committee **agreed**:-

- (1) To approve the Public Convenience Strategy as presented in Appendix 1 to the report;
- (2) To authorise the reduction in attended hours at Public Conveniences to 2 hours per day to allow for cleaning only;
- (3) To authorise the amendment of public convenience opening hours to 08.00 to 20.00 hours from April – September and 08.00 to 18.00 hours from October to March for all Council sites;
- (4) To authorise the closure of 9 low use and or poor condition public conveniences as identified in Table 5, Appendix 1 to the report (Page 17);
- (5) To authorise the closure of unattended public convenience in New Pitsligo where there was already a Comfort Partnership in place;
- (6) To agree the refurbishment of the unattended public conveniences at Main Street, Laurencekirk and The Square, Mintlaw to be included in a future Capital Works programme;
- (7) To agree to the wider promotion of Comfort Partnerships which should be sustainable and encouragement for local communities to manage facilities; and
- (8) To agree that while it is the general intention to declare all existing closed toilets as surplus to requirements, discussions would be held with appropriate Area Committees in the first instance.