

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORT

MEETING DATE AND TIME	6 th June 2023 7.00 pm	LOCATION	Town Hall
REPORT FROM	Chief Officer		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	9 Town Centre public toilet provision		
Background	<p>The provision of public toilets in Congleton has become an ongoing issue since the sale and re development of the former Capitol Walk shopping mall. During this process the public toilets maintained by Congleton Town Council were closed and in effect demolished. Based upon their lease they were entitled to do so as the area where the toilets were situated was within their ownership and not in Cheshire East's ownership as thought.</p> <p>There are complications within the lease which actually shows that the area above those toilets is in the ownership of Cheshire East Council. Discussions have taken place with the owner of Capital Walk about the reinstatement of those toilets, those conversations are ongoing.</p> <p>Following the closure alternatives were considered with the most obvious council provision being in the market area which is owned and managed by Cheshire East Council, however these were only open for 2 days a week. The town council agreed with CEC to open these toilets for 7 days a week based on the fact that we would open, clean and close the toilets on the other 5 days. Whilst it is a provision for the public to use it is known that they are in poor condition. Following discussions with the developer of the Market Quarter there is a possibility that we could work together to improve this facility, conversations are ongoing. Recent discussions have also taken place with the library about the public use of their toilets, we were advised that members of the public do actually come into library and use them but are reluctant to physically signpost this fact however an informal agreement has been made with the town council to "softly" promote this through normal communications such as Bear Necessities.</p>		
Financial	We do have a reserve of £24,011 for toilets which could be used for both public or our own town hall toilets which are also in need of refurbishment		
Environmental	An environmental appraisal would need to be undertaken when considering any refurbishment of existing or development of new facilities		
Equality	An equality and diversity appraisal would need to be undertaken when considering any refurbishment of existing or development of new facilities		
Proposal	To note this report and to provide input for alternative options other than those mentioned within the report		