

Derbyshire Dales District Council Equality Impact Assessment



1. Outline

Title of policy, practice, service or function being assessed	Reopening Public Conveniences
Officers conducting assessment	Ashley Watts, Sam Grisman, Dave Turvey, Mike Hase
Date of assessment	5 th June 2020
Reason for assessment	<p>On 23rd March this year, the United Kingdom was placed into a lockdown situation by the Government to lessen the spread of COVID-19. In addition, social distancing measures were introduced to help slow the spread of infection.</p> <p>In order to support these measures, the Derbyshire Dales District Council ceased to operate a number of its services, including the temporary closure of its public toilets.</p> <p>Following the announcement on 10th May 2020 by the Government that it was easing the lockdown requirements the attractiveness of Derbyshire Dales has resulted in many visitors to our tourist hotspots with unintended consequences as a result of the closure of the public toilets. The announcement by the Government that non-essential retail shops will be able to re-open in June/July is likely to have further unintended consequences as more people venture to these locations.</p> <p>The current Government advice is that the decision about whether public toilets should be open or closed is for local authorities. It has</p>

	<p>therefore been necessary for the District Council to consider whether it now remains appropriate to maintain the closure of the public toilets.</p> <p>A report is to be presented to the District Council's Emergency Committee on 11th June which provides the opportunity for this matter to be debated further.</p>
What is the purpose of this policy, practice, service or function? (specify aims and objectives)	To ensure the opening of the public toilets is undertaken in such a way that is safe both for those using the facilities and those employees who are required to maintain them.
Are there any other organisations involved in its implementation?	Healthmatic have a contract with the District Council to provide pay barriers at some of the toilets subject to this assessment.
Main customer groups (beneficiaries) / stakeholders	Members of the Public, District Council Employees and Contractors
Customer Groups	Other stakeholders
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members of the Public • Local Businesses and traders • Visitors • Those working in the Derbyshire Dales 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Derbyshire Dales CVS, Disability Derbyshire (DCIL) and other interest groups • Town / Parish Councils
Which other District Council departments are affected by the policy, practice, service or function? Do any of the objectives directly support or hinder another activity?	<p>Clean and Green Team for monitoring.</p> <p>Healthmatic as the contractor in place to manage the payment system.</p> <p>The re-opening of public toilets has the potential to reduce the incidents of unintended consequences on the wider environment within Derbyshire Dales as other areas open up following lockdown.</p>

2. Assessing relevance to the general equality duty

The General Equality Duty has three aims which require the District Council to have due regard to the need to:	Tick those which are relevant
Eliminate unlawful discrimination (both direct or indirect), harassment and victimisation	√

The General Equality Duty has three aims which require the District Council to have due regard to the need to:	Tick those which are relevant
Advance equality of opportunity between all persons by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - removing or minimising disadvantages suffered by protected groups; - taking steps to meet the needs of people from protected groups where these are different from the needs of other people - encouraging people from protected groups to participate in public life or other activities where participation is disproportionately low 	√
Foster good relations between different groups	

3. What existing information / data do you have / monitor about different diverse groups in relation to this policy, practice, service or function?

Eg: previous EIA's, reports, consultation, surveys, demographic data etc.

Information / Data	When and how collected	Source	What it tells you	Gaps
Derbyshire Dales Equalities Profile (available national and local data) via intranet: http://sidd.derbyshiredales.gov.uk/sidd/index.php/documents	Census 2011 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - national survey of all households National statistics	ONS DWP NOMIS ONS	Analysis of key demographic data relating to protected groups	
Derbyshire Dales Equality Information published on website: http://www.derbyshiredales.gov.uk/your-	Census 2011 Monitoring data collected by services	ONS DDDC	Summary profile of Census 2011 data Equalities monitoring data <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - employees 	

Information / Data	When and how collected	Source	What it tells you	Gaps
council/equalities/equality-information	(in-house and outsourced)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - customer satisfaction with services 	
Public consultation	Sept – Oct 2017, online survey	Special Council, 8 March 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 94% of respondents had used public conveniences in the Dales in the last 12 months • 15.48% of respondents had used a parent / child unit. • 16.23% had used a disabled unit. • 58.05% of respondents favoured the introduction of a Community Toilet Scheme. • 58.32% of respondents were prepared to pay for the 	

Information / Data	When and how collected	Source	What it tells you	Gaps																								
			<p>use of public toilets.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 56.73% of these would be willing to pay 20p. <p><u>Equality monitoring - respondents:</u></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="1411 603 1697 1394"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>%</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Gender</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Female</td> <td>59.88</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Male</td> <td>40.12</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Disability</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Disabled</td> <td>7.56</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Not disabled</td> <td>92.44</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Age</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>16-17 years</td> <td>0.21</td> </tr> <tr> <td>18-24 years</td> <td>1.35</td> </tr> <tr> <td>25-34 years</td> <td>5.39</td> </tr> <tr> <td>35-44 years</td> <td>14.42</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		%	Gender		Female	59.88	Male	40.12	Disability		Disabled	7.56	Not disabled	92.44	Age		16-17 years	0.21	18-24 years	1.35	25-34 years	5.39	35-44 years	14.42	
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			<i>45-54 years</i>	<i>19.92</i>	
			<i>55-59 years</i>	<i>12.34</i>	
			<i>60-64 years</i>	<i>12.14</i>	
			<i>65-74 years</i>	<i>28.94</i>	
			<i>75 years & over</i>	<i>5.29</i>	

4. Based on the evidence above, does the policy, practice, service or function have a positive or negative impact on any protected group(s)?

Protected groups	Positive effects	Negative effects	Improvement actions
Age	Positive effect on all ages, especially the more elderly who may require more frequent		

Protected groups	Positive effects	Negative effects	Improvement actions
	<p>access to toilet facilities when visiting Derbyshire Dales.</p> <p>As the toilets provide baby changing facilities reopening the toilets will have a positive impact upon parents with children requiring changing facilities.</p>		
<p>Disability or long term ill health Physical disabilities, sensory impairments, limiting long-term illnesses, learning disabilities or mental health issues</p>	<p>Re-opening disabled toilets will benefit disabled people with long term health issues and/or impaired mobility. Parents / guardians of disabled children and carers of disabled adults who also require facilities with disabled access will benefit.</p>		
<p>Race / ethnic groups</p>	<p>N/A</p>		
<p>Women or men</p>	<p>Positive effects for both women and men as both will be able to reuse the facilities if reopened</p>		
<p>Sexual orientation</p>	<p>N/A</p>		
<p>Religion or belief (including non belief)</p>	<p>N/A</p>		

Protected groups	Positive effects	Negative effects	Improvement actions
Transgender (including people planning to or going through gender reassignment)	N/A		
Pregnancy and maternity (including maternity and paternity leave)	Expectant Mothers and Mothers with young children requiring changing facilities whilst visiting Derbyshire Dales will benefit from the reopening of the public toilets		
Marital status (including civil partnership & same sex marriage)	N/A		

4a. Are there any local priority groups / factors which should be considered?

Other factors	Positive effects	Negative effects	Improvement actions
Rural areas	The whole of Derbyshire Dales is classified as a rural area, and whilst some of the toilets may not re-open those that do will benefit residents and visitors, and reduce		

Other factors	Positive effects	Negative effects	Improvement actions
	incidents seen during the period of closure		
Poverty / deprivation		Maintaining a charging regime as previously will have all regardless of income.	

5. Consultation and engagement

Do we need to seek the views of others and if so, who? If not, please explain why.

The District Council has previously undertaken considerable public consultation in respect of the operation of its public toilets, which has resulted in the delivery of a service which reflects the needs of Derbyshire Dales.

Members of CLT have continually engaged with the relevant Town Councils within the 'Closer Working' groups. As part of those on-going discussions during the lockdown the issue of the closure and future opening of the public toilets have been discussed.

Members will decide if the public toilets will open on Thursday 11th June. In the event that Members resolve to open up some or all of the public toilets identified in the report, further discussions will be held with the relevant Town and Parish Council.

