

# Communities Scrutiny Commission

## 20 November 2023



**Report of:** John Smith, Executive Director Growth and Regeneration

**Title:** Community Toilet Scheme Update (for information)

**Ward:** Citywide

**Officer(s) Presenting Report:**

Kurt James, Neighbourhood Enforcement and Street Scene Manager  
Giovanni Lopresti, Street Scene Team Leader

### **Recommendation:**

To note the contents of this presentation.

### **The significant issues in the report are:**

1. Since launching in 2018 the Community Toilet Scheme has grown far beyond the facilities target listed in the original Cabinet decision paper.
2. Managing the scheme remains a challenge with limited resources.



## **Summary note / context of presentation**

In February 2017, the council agreed to improve the quality of public toilets by seeking modern alternatives within community and public buildings, aiming to better service the public while reducing costs. A target was set to reduce the toilet budget by £40k for 2017-18 and an additional £400k for 2018-19.

In December 2017, following a public consultation, it was decided to close 18 public toilets and create the Community Toilet Scheme (CTS), which involved local businesses and organisations providing public toilet access. The plan included creating printed and web-based maps of toilet locations, clear signage, regular inspections, a focus on wheelchair accessibility, and the development of a dedicated app.

By April 2018, 46 facilities had joined the CTS, with 35 more applications pending. The membership reached 90 before the pandemic in March 2020. After a temporary closure due to the pandemic, the CTS reopened in May 2021 with 63 venues.

An audit in January 2022 by the Community Marshal team of the 90 CTS facilities identified issues such as missing stickers, incorrect accessibility information, and closed venues. The audit's purpose was to assess the CTS's robustness, partner satisfaction, and to scout for new members.

As a result of these efforts, the CTS expanded to 159 facilities, with 119 being accessible, and a new booklet was produced for those without internet access. The council aims to work with the Toilet Network to further grow the scheme, acknowledging that maintaining, auditing, and publicising the CTS remains a challenge.

For information - the original Cabinet report (4 December 2017) can be viewed at this link:

[a Public Toilets Cabinet Report Exec Summary Final.pdf \(bristol.gov.uk\)](#)  
[Appendix 1-3 Neighbourhoods.pdf \(bristol.gov.uk\)](#)

### **Appendices:**

Presentation – Community toilet scheme update