

# Communities Scrutiny Committee Toilet Scheme Update

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### Introduction and Background

- Full Council 21 February 2017: Agreed the following which was identified as a savings proposal:
  - Currently the provision of toilets is low quality, and we want to look at how modern alternatives can be provided within community and public buildings. By working in partnership to provide more toilets across the city, we are hoping to provide a better service for the public whilst reducing costs to the council.
- The Council decided to launch a public consultation to explore new ways of providing toilets with the aim of delivering a £40k toilet budget reduction for 2017-18 to £461,488, and an additional £400K saving in 2018/19.

### Introduction and Background

- Cabinet 4 December 2017: Following the outcome of the public consultation the decision was made to close 18 public toilets and establish the Community Toilet Scheme (CTS):
  - Enlisting local businesses and public organizations to provide access to at least 36-50 publicly available accessible toilets, potentially exceeding initial targets.
  - Produce a printed map funded by Bristol Ageing Better, and web-based maps with updates and information available online.
  - Provide clear signage for participating toilets and future development of a dedicated app.
  - Conduct initial and annual inspections to ensure information is current and accurate.
  - Guarantee at least 70% wheelchair accessibility and improving 'changing places' facilities, possibly including 'mystery shopper' feedback.
- January 2018: CTS launched.
- By 26 April 2018: 46 facilities joined CTS with 35 pending applications.

### Introduction and Background

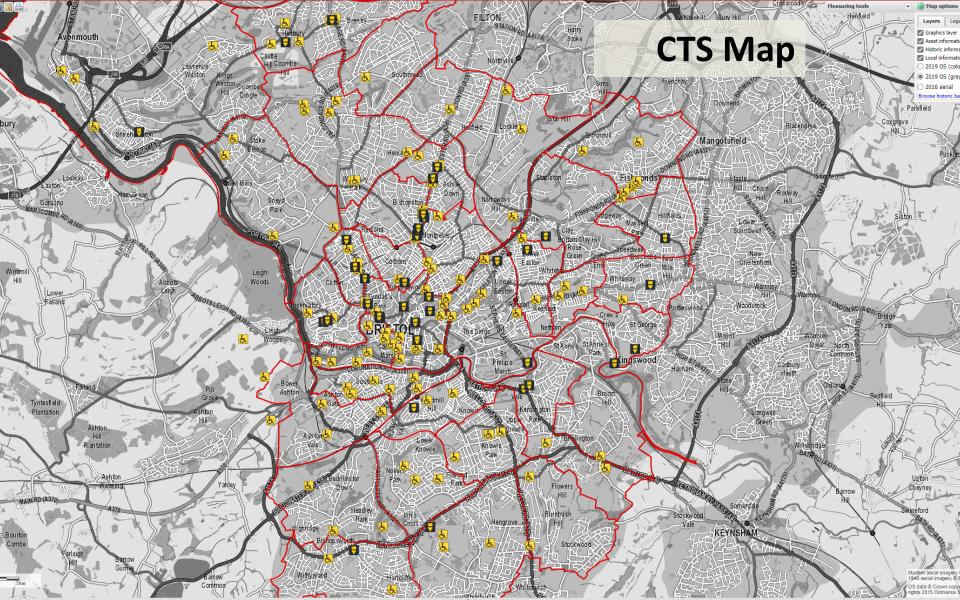
- March 2020: CTS had 90 members prior to the pandemic start when we closed the scheme.
- CTS reopened in May 2021 and had 63 venues signed up by 10 June 2021.
- January 2022 onwards: an audit of the 90 CTS facilities conducted by the Community Marshal team identified venues without CTS stickers, incorrect accessibility info, and venues that had closed.
- The aim of the audit was to measure the robustness of CTS, satisfaction of partners, and identify new members.

## Sample Community Toilet Scheme audit checklist

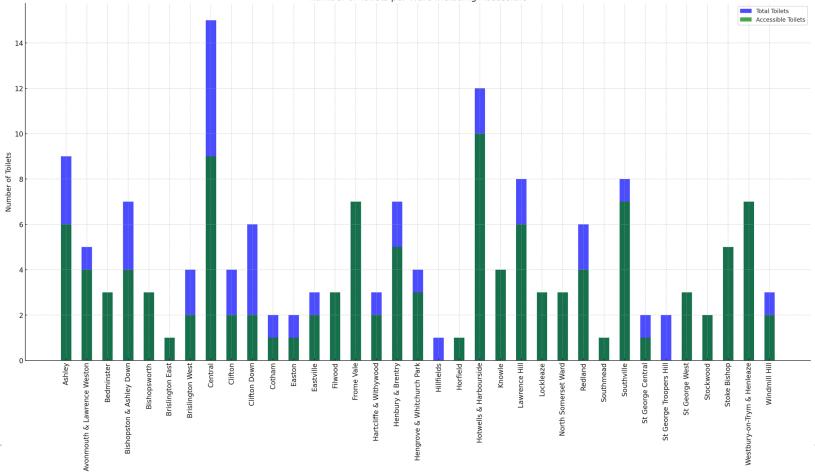
- Is the venue open?
- Is there signage in place?
- Are staff aware of the scheme?
- What has the facility done to ensure staff are aware of the scheme?
- Has the facility run into any issues since being on the scheme?
- Do stickers etc. at the venue advertise the CTS provision?
- Has the business noticed any change in the toilet use since joining the scheme?
- Has there been a change to the facilities opening/closing time?

### Current status of the Community Toilet Scheme

- The Community Marshals audit of existing CTS facilities and work to recruit new facilities means the scheme now has 159 members listed on the Council Public Toilets website, with 119 being accessible (74%).
- A new CTS booklet has been produced in partnership with and funded by, UWE for users without access to the internet.
- CTS toilets are listed on the Great British Public Toilet Map.
- We will work with the Toilet Network (BOPF, Bristol Dementia Action Alliance, Let's Walk Bedminster and more) to grow the scheme.
- Ongoing challenges are maintaining, auditing and publicising the CTS.



#### Current CTS provision by ward



Number of Toilets per Ward including Accessible