

Communities Scrutiny Commission
20 November 2023
Public Forum – Statements



Public forum statements have been received as listed below (full details are set out on the subsequent pages):

1. Suzanne Audrey on behalf of Public Toilets Equalities Network



STATEMENT 1

Statement to Communities Scrutiny Commission, 20 November 2023

From the Public Toilets Equalities Network (PTEN)

The Public Toilets Equalities Network (PTEN) supports the concept of the Community Toilet Scheme (CTS) as part of a package of provision of toilets accessible to the public. Given the aims of PTEN's proposed Task and Finish Group (see below), we hope to be kept informed about the CTS and to support it as and when we can.

We understand staffing and resources for the CTS are limited but would emphasise the importance of ensuring the accuracy of information about which toilets are accessible, to whom, and the hours of opening.

Unfortunately, the current online information and the proposed booklet contain multiple inaccuracies which could lead the public to lose confidence in the CTS.

The Public Toilets Equalities Network was established in January 2023 and comprises more than 20 Voluntary Sector groups and public health academics. A Task and Finish Group has been established with the following aims:

1. To work:
 - in collaboration with Bristol City Council (BCC) and the Bristol One City Health and Wellbeing Board
 - with other bodies, including the West of England Combined Authority, the business community and the voluntary sector
2. To review public toilet provision in Bristol, including the distribution, availability, type and quality of toilet facilities across the city - ensuring that people with lived experience and expertise are a key part of assessment and decision-making.
3. To gather evidence to assess the costs and benefits of public toilet provision, including the impact of charging for some provision.
4. To identify resources to enable the provision of new public toilets, and the maintenance and upgrading of existing public toilet facilities.
5. To support and encourage the development of local area-based toilet maps (similar to the Bedminster model).
6. To promote awareness amongst the general public and the business community of 'Can't wait' cards that enable people with specific health conditions to gain urgent access to a toilet if needed when out in public.
7. To highlight good practice examples of accessible public toilet provision from other local authorities, including public and private sector initiatives.
8. To work towards the opening of toilets during daylight hours in all larger parks and other green spaces.
9. To work towards ensuring that accessible public toilets are:
 - included as a requirement in all major regeneration projects in Bristol
 - considered in key policy documents, including the Local Plan
10. To ensure that all BCC Equality Impact Assessments (EQIA's) on future regeneration projects reflect the needs of protected groups in relation to accessible public toilet provision.

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