

Provision, use and maintenance of UDC provided public conveniences

What are we looking at?

This review will examine:

- Should UDC continue to provide public conveniences
- How the public conveniences be maintained
- Whether opening and closing times meet demand
- Whether the toilets meet accessibility requirements (DDA)

What are we not looking at?

- Taking over parish provided facilities
- To build new toilets at present
- Design and function of the facilities
- Reducing vandalism

Why are we looking at this?

- Cost of the current provision
- Inequality of the current provision (why certain parishes/towns and not others)
- Opening hours do not meet demand
- Public concern about poor maintenance
- Current maintenance (cleaning) is centralised and is not responsive to local need

What do we hope to achieve?

We will produce a report including recommendations to the relevant decision makers that will:

- Advise of possible changes to opening/closing arrangements
- Facilitate the transfer of public conveniences to Town/Parish Councils where possible
- Enhance accessibility
- Look to future public convenience provision

What information do we need?

- Budget and actual spend
- Cleaning contract details
- Current condition of conveniences
- Usage patterns
- Other parish provision

- Concerns/requests of Parish/Town councils where current UDC provisions exist
- Availability at times of special events

How will the evidence be gathered?

- Site visits
- Parish consultation
- Informal discussions with Parish Clerks and District Councillors
- Meetings with external suppliers
- Internal provision

Potential witnesses and consultations

- Parish/Town Councillors/Clerk
- District Councillors
- Cleaning Company
- UDC staff
- Interested groups (Thaxted Festival, Rotary clubs, Saffron Walden Initiative etc.)
- Access Group
- Tourist Information Centre

Timescale

- Commence 1 November 2007 finish by 31 March 2008