

Committee:	Scrutiny	Agenda Item
Date:	14 April 2009	8
Title:	Public conveniences – update	
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Summary

- 1 This report updates Members on progress with the scrutiny review of public conveniences.

Recommendations

- 2 a) That the report and review outcomes are noted.
b) The review is signed off as complete.

Background Papers

- 3 Agenda and minutes of Scrutiny Committee 2007/08 and 2008/09 to date. DCLG paper on Improving Public Access to Toilets, Guidance on Community Toilet Schemes and SatLav.

Impact

Communication/Consultation	Town and Parish Councils. Uttlesford Access Group.
Community Safety	Some public conveniences in the district attract anti-social behaviour.
Equalities	DDA implications.
Finance	Transfer of public conveniences to Town/Parishes may reduce revenue expenditure.
Human Rights	None.
Legal implications	None.
Sustainability	None.
Ward-specific impacts	Several wards have district council provided public conveniences. Most do not.
Workforce/Workplace	None.

Situation

- 4 A scrutiny review of UDC provided public conveniences was commissioned in 2007/08. Terms of reference were subsequently approved and three Members nominated as a reference point for Officers (Councillors Schneider, Wattebot and Yarwood).

- 5 Officers and Members have worked through the terms of reference and reported findings at previous meetings. In summary, the following outcomes have been achieved since the review began:
- a) The conveniences at White Street Car Park are being transferred to Great Dunmow Town Council. The facilities will now form an integral part of the market square project in Great Dunmow.
 - b) Saffron Walden Town Council, Thaxted Parish Council and Felsted Parish Council have been consulted to obtain views on the provision of public conveniences in these wards. Feedback was provided on opening hours, public demand, cleaning standards and the potential for transferring district council responsibility to a more local level.
 - c) The Uttlesford Access Group was consulted and they provided confirmation that newer facilities were accessible to most disabled users.
 - d) The public conveniences in Felsted have been identified as being in very poor condition and failing to meet modern standards. The Council manages the conveniences but does not own them. This has been reported to the relevant service committee and Officers and Members are working towards improved arrangements.
 - e) Superloos are increasingly popular with stakeholders but are relatively expensive in revenue expenditure terms.
 - f) It has been identified that many councils have withdrawn/are considering withdrawing their public conveniences and replacing them with a Community Toilet Scheme. This is where local businesses allow the general public to use their facilities in return for an annual payment from the Council. This option will be considered as part of the solution to d) above.

It is suggested that the scrutiny review is now essentially complete. The review has had a positive effect by challenging existing arrangements and providing a lever to explore alternatives. Some work relating to the facilities in Felsted is ongoing and will be directed towards the relevant service committee for decision. Members are therefore asked to sign off this review or identify areas of additional work.