

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES ACCESS AUDIT

Committee: Finance & Assets Committee

Date: 24 November 2022

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[X113]

1.0 ISSUE

1.1 To receive an update on the accessible public conveniences provision in East Cambridgeshire that are owned/managed by the Council.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION(S)

2.1 Members are requested to note this report.

3.0 BACKGROUND/OPTIONS

3.1 On 23 June 2022 (Agenda Item 6) Finance & Assets Committee approved a motion which included a resolution to *‘Review disability access to every East Cambridgeshire District Council (ECDC) owned public toilet in East Cambridgeshire, and report the findings to the meeting of Finance and Assets Committee in November 2022. The review should include details of the level of ECDC provision across the District, whether the current provision is capable of being adapted for accessible provision, and if so, the associated cost implications of the works.’*

3.2 The Open Spaces & Facilities Manager commissioned an independent audit of the Council owned public conveniences. The audit was carried out by Equality Act Audits.

3.3 Provision

3.3.1 There are six, Council owned/managed, locations in East Cambridgeshire for public conveniences; Barton Road, Cloisters, Palace Green, Ship Lane, Ely, Littleport and Soham. Cloisters and Palace Green are close to the city centre of Ely whilst the others are located in car parks, close to the centres. The access audit was carried out on all of these locations.

Location	Provision
Barton Road, Ely	Ladies; 3 cubicles and 3 basins Gents; 7 urinals, 2 cubicles and 2 basins Accessible toilet Family toilet and baby changing facility
Palace Green, Ely	Ladies; 3 cubicles and 2 basins Gents; 4 urinals, 1 cubicle and 2 basins

Cloisters, Ely	Ladies; 4 cubicles and 4 basins Gents; 2 urinals, 2 cubicles and 3 basins Accessible toilet Family toilet and baby changing facility
Ship Lane, Ely	Ladies; 3 cubicles and 3 basins Gents; 2 urinals, 2 cubicles and 3 basins Accessible toilet Family toilet and baby changing facilities
Littleport	Ladies; 3 cubicles and 2 basins Gents; 2 urinals, 1 cubicle and 2 basins Accessible toilet Nappy changing unit
Soham	Ladies; 3 cubicles, 1 basin and nappy changing bed Gents; 3 urinals, 2 cubicles and 1 basin Accessible toilet

3.4 Purpose of Audit

3.4.1 The purpose of the access audit was to assess how well a site performs in terms of access and ease of use by a wide range of potential users, including people with disabilities. The audit provides a certain "snapshot" of a building at one point in its life. As the starting point of an ongoing access action plan, it can be used to highlight areas for improvement as well as a general risk assessment.

3.4.2 The physical environment includes steps, stairways, kerbs, exterior surfaces and paving, parking areas, building entrances and exits (including emergency escape routes), internal and external doors, gates, toilets and washing facilities, lighting, heating, ventilation, floor coverings, signs, interior surfaces, room décor and furniture.

3.4.3 Improvements to physical access include ramps, handrails, lifts, widened doorways, electromagnetic doors, adapted toilets and washing facilities, communication aids, well designed room acoustics and way-finding systems.

3.4.5 The audit focused on the following areas:

- Location of public toilets
- Arrangements for disabled parking close to the facilities
- Flooring
- Colour contrasting
- Fittings
- Door fittings and locks
- Ambulant toilet facilities
- Wheelchair users
- Cubicles
- Radar keys
- Baby changing facilities

- Signage
- General access
- Hygiene and cleanliness

3.4.6 For each focus area the audit identified best practice, audit findings, a grade and where relevant suggestions to improve or resolve identified issues.

3.4.7 The audit summary is provided at Appendix 1.

3.5 Officers have made progress on the actions that were identified in the audit. An action plan is provided at Appendix 2. Members will be updated on the progress of actions as part of the Asset Update at future meetings.

4.0 ARGUMENTS/CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Palace Green, Ely is the only location that does not provide accessible toilets. It is not possible to provide accessible toilets at this location due to the constraints of the site; there is no ramp access and one cannot be installed as the building is set within a listed wall.

4.2 It may be possible to make adaptations to provide an ambulant facility. This will be reviewed and Members will receive an update in January 2023 as part of the Asset Update.

Note- provision of an ambulant facility may require a reduction in the provision of facilities in the ladies and/or gents toilets.

Note- An ambulant toilet is a standard cubicle with the addition of grab rails and an outward facing door.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT/CARBON IMPACT ASSESSMENT

5.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report. Members should note that £5,804.72 has been spent on the actions identified as completed.

5.2 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) not required for the purposes of this update report.

5.3 Carbon Impact Assessment (CIA) not required for the purposes of this update report.

6.0 APPENDICES

6.1 Appendix 1- Audit Findings
Appendix 2- Action Plan

<u>Background Documents</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact Officer</u>
Equality Acts Audits- August 2022	The Grange, Ely	Spencer Clark Open Spaces & Facilities Manager (01353) 665555 E-mail: spencer.clark@eastcambs.gov.uk