

Response to petition - Margate Clocktower Toilets

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Cabinet | 19th September 2019 |
| Report Author | Jasmin Vickers, Acting Environmental Service Manager |
| Portfolio Holder | Cllr Ashbee, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Operational Services |
| Status | For Decision |
| Classification: | Unrestricted |
| Key Decision | No |
| Previously Considered by | Council - 11th July 2019 |
| Ward: | Margate Central |

Executive Summary:

To provide an update with which to respond to the petition submitted to Council, requesting to reopen the Margate Clocktower public toilets.

Recommendation(s):

Cabinet is asked to agree the following:

1. That the update detailed in this report is provided as a response to the petition. The Margate Clocktower public toilets will not be re-opened for the remainder of the season, which is until the 30th September when they would be closed for the winter had they been open this summer.
2. That further updates on the review of public toilets be provided through the appropriate channels at a later date to be agreed with the working group.

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

| | |
|--|--|
| Financial and Value for Money | There are no financial implications arising from this report at this stage. |
| Legal | There are no legal implications arising from this report at this stage. |
| Corporate | This report is addressing the petition which has been submitted and providing a response, with reference to a wider review taking into account the specific matter raised by the petition. |
| Equality Act 2010 & Public Sector Equality Duty | Members are reminded of the requirement, under the Public Sector Equality Duty (section 149 of the Equality Act 2010) to have due regard to the aims of the Duty at the time the decision is taken. The aims of the Duty are: (i) eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act, (ii) advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|---|--|--|---|---|--|
| | <p>not share it, and (iii) foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.</p> <p>Protected characteristics: age, sex, disability, race, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, religion or belief and pregnancy & maternity. Only aim (i) of the Duty applies to Marriage & civil partnership.</p> | | | | | | | | |
| | <table border="1"> <tr> <td colspan="2">Please indicate which aim is relevant to the report.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act,</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it</td> <td style="text-align: center;">x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> | Please indicate which aim is relevant to the report. | | Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act, | | Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it | x | Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it. | |
| Please indicate which aim is relevant to the report. | | | | | | | | | |
| Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act, | | | | | | | | | |
| Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it | x | | | | | | | | |
| Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it. | | | | | | | | | |

| CORPORATE PRIORITIES (tick those relevant) ✓ | |
|---|---|
| A clean and welcoming Environment | x |
| Promoting inward investment and job creation | |
| Supporting neighbourhoods | |

| CORPORATE VALUES (tick those relevant) ✓ | |
|---|---|
| Delivering value for money | x |
| Supporting the Workforce | x |
| Promoting open communications | x |

1.0 Introduction and Background

- 1.1 A petition containing 386 valid signatures was received by the Council requesting that Thanet District Council immediately rescinds its decision to close the Margate Clocktower toilets. This report addresses a response to this request.

2.0 The Current Situation

- 2.1 All public toilets within the District are being reviewed currently and a cross party working group has been created to consider all options moving forwards. The Council recognises the need to make changes to improve the District's public toilet provision, and the working group will be considering all the options available to be able to do this to best serve the areas that require these facilities.
- 2.2 The Clocktower toilets are included in this review, however, it should be noted they are seasonal toilets and would usually be closed from the end of September for the winter season. The Clocktower toilets are not able to be opened at this time due to their current condition.

3.0 Next Steps

- 3.1 As the review of public toilets progresses, the working group may wish to agree suitable timescales to provide an update to the Council on all the toilets across the District including those at Margate Clocktower.

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Contact Officer: | Jasmin Vickers, Acting Environmental Services Manager |
| Reporting to: | Gavin Waite, Director of Operational and Commercial Services |

Annex List

| | |
|---------|---|
| Annex 1 | Full Council Petition Report - 11 July 2019 |
|---------|---|

Background Papers

| Title | Details of where to access copy |
|--------------|--|
| None | N/A |

Corporate Consultation

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Finance | Chris Blundell, Head of Financial Services |
| Legal | Tim Howes, Director of Corporate Governance |