

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE – 10TH APRIL 2002

AUTOMATIC PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

Report by the Director of Community Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To consider the possible removal of the automatic public conveniences at The Cross, Galston and Queen Street, Kilmarnock.

2. DISCUSSION

- 2.1 In 1991 the former Kilmarnock and Loudoun District Council installed automatic public conveniences at The Cross, Galston and Queen Street, Kilmarnock. Both units are owned by the Council.
- 2.2 A number of incidents have occurred in the recent past, the latest of which allegedly resulted in a child being trapped in the public convenience in Kilmarnock for a short time. Following this incident a review of the facilities has been undertaken and it is clear that due to the age and mechanical nature of the facilities, their reliability is coming into question.
- 2.3 The average daily use for the Galston facility is 2.5 and Kilmarnock 21.
- 2.4 It is therefore suggested that both facilities be closed and removed as soon as possible and the resultant saving from the closure of the Queen Street facility be used to extend the hours of the toilets in the Burns Mall. The usage figures for the Galston facility do not justify the annual operating and maintenance costs.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The current annual cost of the facilities is approximately £16,000 and this is likely to increase significantly due to the age of the facilities.

4. POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Nil.

5. CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 There is evidence to suggest that the two automatic public conveniences owned by the Council are becoming increasingly unreliable and that costs of maintenance are increasing. The usage of the facility in Galston is also minimal. Against this background, it is suggested that the Committee may wish to consider removal of the

facilities with the resultant savings from the Kilmarnock facility being used to extend the opening hours of the toilets at the Burns Mall.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 It is recommended that the Committee:-

- (i) consider the closure and removal of the automatic public conveniences at The Cross, Galston and Queen Street, Kilmarnock and the use of the resultant savings from the closure of the Kilmarnock facility to extend the opening hours of the toilets in the Burns Mall, Kilmarnock; and
- (ii) otherwise note the terms of the report.

William Stafford
Director of Community Services

25th March 2002

WS/RRS

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil.

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AGENDA