

**Decision Maker:** Executive

**Date:** 26th November 2014

**Decision Type:** Non-Urgent Executive Key

**Title:** PUBLIC TOILET PROVISION

**Contact Officer:** Dan Jones, Assistant Director Street Scene and Green Space  
Tel: 020 8 313 4211 E-mail: dan.jones@bromley.gov.uk@bromley.gov.uk

**Chief Officer:** Nigel Davies, Executive Director of Environment & Community Services

**Ward:** Penge and Cator

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1. Reason for report

1.1 Consideration of a proposal at the Executive's previous meeting to save up to £21k by closing Penge High Street public toilets and introducing the Community Toilet Scheme in the town was deferred to the current meeting pending the outcome of targeted consultation.

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2. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

**The Executive is asked to agree to:**

2.1 the closure of Penge High Street public toilet from 1 January 2015; and

2.2 the introduction of the Community Toilet Scheme (CTS) in Penge town centre.

## Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing policy.
  2. BBB Priority: Quality Environment. Vibrant, Thriving Town Centres
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## Financial

1. Cost of proposal: No cost Estimated saving of £4.3k in 2014/15 rising to £17k in 2015/16. An additional saving of £3.7k will be achieved once the building is either sold or demolished.
  2. Ongoing costs: N/A. Recurring saving
  3. Budget head/performance centre: Public Conveniences
  4. Total current budget for this head: ££ 131k
  5. Source of funding: Existing revenue budget for 2014/15
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## Staff

1. Number of staff (current and additional): 1 FTE
  2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: N/A
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## Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Non-statutory - Government guidance.
  2. Call-in: Call-in is applicable
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## Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): Visitors and businesses in Penge
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## Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? Yes.
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments: Ward Councillors have stated that whilst closing public amenities is not what they want, in this case the closure of the toilet and the introduction of the Community Toilet Scheme will provide the best option for this location.

### 3. COMMENTARY

3.1 At the Executive's previous meeting it was agreed to defer consideration of the attached report (**Appendix A**) pending the outcome of a 28 day period of targeted consultation initiated by display of a formal notice affixed to the door of the public toilet at Penge High Street. This was undertaken on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2014. A copy of the relevant minute from the Executive's previous meeting is at **Appendix B**.

3.2 With the last day for comments being Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2014, any comments received after publication of this report will be provided at the Executive meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> November. As of 11<sup>th</sup> November 2014 no specific comments on closing the public toilet have been received.

3.3 Members were advised at the previous meeting that Weatherspoon's had withdrawn their participation from the Community Toilet Scheme and a third CTS location was being sought.

3.4 A third location has since been found, namely the Blue Bell Café at Maple Road, Penge. As the Café is not a member of the *Open London* scheme it will be necessary for L B Bromley to contribute up to £1,000 per annum (plus VAT) towards the facilities available.

### 4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Please see attached report.

### 5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Please see attached report.

5.2 In addition, as the Blue Bell Café, being the third location for the CTS at Penge, is not a member of the *Open London* scheme, it will be necessary for L B Bromley to contribute up to £1,000 per annum (plus VAT) towards the facility.

### 6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Please see attached report.

<b>Non-Applicable Sections:</b>	Personnel Implications
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	Report to ENV PDS 4 April 2011 - ES11013 – Public Toilet Provision  Report to Council 28 February 2011  Review of Community Toilets Scheme; Toilet Closures – report to Environment PDS Committee 18 January 2010  Draft 2010/11 Budget – report to Environment PDS Committee 16 <sup>th</sup> November 2009;  Review of Public Toilets/Community Toilets Scheme – report to Environment PDS 1 <sup>st</sup> June 2009;  Community Toilets Feasibility – report to Environment PDS 8 <sup>th</sup> January 2009;  Community Toilets Feasibility Study – report to Environment PDS 22 <sup>nd</sup> September 2008;

	<p>Review of Public Toilet Provision – report to E&amp;LS PDS 20<sup>th</sup> May 2008;</p>
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House of Commons – Communities and Local Government  
– The Provision of Public Toilets – Twelfth Report of Session  
2007-2008.