

COUNCIL

25 NOVEMBER 2021

MOTION 2

Proposed by: Councillor Bablin Molik

Seconded by: Councillor Emma Sandrey

Council notes:

- That the availability of accessible public toilet facilities within communities plays a vital role in supporting the health and wellbeing of people. The inability to satisfy someone's physiological needs due to lack of a public facility can lead to health issues such as urinary tract infections, kidney infections and digestive problems. A lack of adequate, publicly available toilet facilities can have a negative effect on the health, dignity, and lifestyle of a very substantial proportion of the population.
- The World Health Organisation states that toilets should be "suitable, private and safe to use of all intended users".
- With Cardiff Council operates toilets in various recreational and leisure destinations across the city. However, most facilities are in private business outlets. When these outlets close, such facilities become inaccessible. The Council has a responsibility to assess the community's need for toilets and to put a plan in place to meet identified needs.
- During the pandemic, many toilets were closed to the public, causing many people to be unable to exercise outdoors confidently and safely or come out of lockdown when restrictions eased, without the fear of being caught short or otherwise unable to access necessary hygiene facilities.
- Cardiff being the home of many diverse communities, Cardiff Council should embrace the mindset of having accessible toilets for all abilities, genders, ages, ethnicities and religions. Public toilets should meet accessibility requirements for a range of disabilities and the principles of providing bidet or other alternative washing facilities (such as lota/ bodna, water jug or hand shower) which serve the toilet etiquette practised by religions such as Islam should be supported.

- Having accessible public toilet facilities has a positive impact on the environment and prevents anti-social behaviour such as fouling of parks, streets, and gardens.

Council resolves to:

- Provide a report on the current state of council toilet provision across the city, including details on when they are open, how often they are cleaned and maintained, and how accessible they are.
- Asks the cabinet member with responsibility for public facilities to produce a toilet strategy that identifies issues raised within this motion to ensure all residents (including people with differing ability, gender, age, ethnicity and religion) can access appropriate facilities when not at home.
- Consider the need for additional female toilet provision to reflect the different ways in which genders use facilities, and consider the need and take forward the implementation of having gender-neutral facilities
- Conduct a regular audit and monitoring of public toilet facilities, with a report presented by the relevant cabinet member on an annual basis.