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<b>Report To:</b>	<b>Environment &amp; Regeneration Committee</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>13 January 2022</b>
<b>Report By:</b>	<b>Interim Director Environment &amp; Regeneration</b>	<b>Report No:</b>	<b>ENV0010/22/MM</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Martin McNab</b>	<b>Contact No:</b>	<b>01475 714246</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Review of Public Conveniences</b>		

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## 1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To seek approval for changes in the public convenience estate to accommodate the ongoing provision at Lunderston Bay, Battery Park and Greenock Cut to 2022 and beyond, to update members on the 6pm closures implemented at the Hunters Place and Kilblain Street public conveniences and to seek approval for the same operating hours to be implemented at the Coronation Park (Fore Street) public conveniences in Port Glasgow.

## 2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 The increased opening hours and cleaning required at Lunderston Bay and Greenock Cut Centre were brought in by the Covid Recovery Plans and financed in 2020 by the Covid Contingency and in 2021 by the Covid Recovery Fund. Provision at this level for 2022 and beyond was to be subject to a review of overall public convenience provision in Inverclyde.
- 2.2 This report gives an update on provision at Battery Park, Lunderston Bay and Greenock Cut, overall current costs for these and undertakes to update members on how this will be funded in March 2022.
- 2.1 Separately members may recall that following an increase in anti-social behaviour and vandalism at the Hunters Place and Kilblain Street public conveniences in 2019 the August 2019 meeting of the Environment & Regeneration Committee approved the 6 pm closure of the facilities. This was done on a 12 month pilot basis however the pandemic intervened and this report updates members on the outcome.
- 2.2 Although the toilets were closed by the pandemic for a large part of 2020 no issues were found with the reduced opening hours. They appear to have successfully addressed the anti-social behaviour and there have been no complaints. It is therefore recommended that the 6 pm closures should be continued.
- 2.3 In 2021 similar vandalism issues have occurred twice at the toilets opposite Coronation Park in Port Glasgow resulting in significant repairs and clean-up costs and taking the toilets out of use for a number of days. Officers have looked at the feasibility of other solutions such as CCTV provision outside the toilets however closing these toilets at 6 pm would seem to be the most sensible solution and is in line with central Greenock.

### **3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

3.1 It is recommended that the Committee:

- Notes the ongoing provision at Lunderston Bay, the Greenock Cut Centre and Battery Park and
- Receives an update at the March Committee on how this might be funded going forward.

3.2 It is recommended that the Committee:

- Approves the continuation of the 6pm closure of the Hunters Place and Kilblain Street toilets and
- Approves the 6pm closure of the Coronation Park toilets.

**Martin McNab**  
**Interim Head of Covid Recovery & Public Protection**

## **4.0 BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 Early recovery planning for the Covid pandemic highlighted issues around the opening of the public toilets at the Greenock Cut Centre and Lunderston Bay. Both sites were extremely busy in the summer of 2020 and yet there was no capacity to reopen the toilets and put in place enhanced cleaning. Increased opening hours and cleaning at the two sites was brought in by the Covid Recovery Plans and financed in 2020 by the Covid Contingency and in 2021 by the Covid Recovery Fund. Provision at this level for 2022 and beyond was to be subject to a review of overall public convenience provision in Inverclyde.
- 4.2 In the course of 2021 further cleaning was been implemented at the Inverclyde Leisure toilets at Battery Park Pavilion. This was necessary to facilitate additional opening when the pitches are not in use and amounts to C£2.5K per annum.
- 4.3 Longstanding issues with anti-social behaviour and vandalism in the Hunters Place and Kilblain Street public conveniences in 2019 led to the Environment & Regeneration Committee agreeing to 6 pm closure in August 2019. The toilets had been set on fire, doors kicked off, etc. at a considerable cost to the Council. This also caused inconvenience to the public where toilets had to be closed for days at a time until repairs were carried out. Agreement to the 6 pm closure was subject to a report being brought back on any issues arising from the closures.
- 4.4 There have been no issues arising from the 6 pm closures at Hunters Place and Kilblain Street. Although the toilets were obviously closed for a significant period in 2020 there have been no repeated incidents of vandalism since their reopening. It is therefore proposed that these operating hours are made permanent subject to the overall review of Public Conveniences across Inverclyde.
- 4.5 There have been three incidents of vandalism in the Coronation Park/ Bus Station public conveniences in Port Glasgow. All of these have been later in the evening and two resulted in the toilets being unavailable for a number of days while repairs and clean ups were carried out. Since the last significant episode the toilets have been closed at 6 pm and committee is asked to regularise this in line with town centre provision in Greenock.

## **5.0 CURRENT PROVISION OF PUBLIC TOILETS**

- 5.1 Prior to the pandemic the Council operated 8 public toilets across Inverclyde. These were:

Fore Street Port Glasgow  
Hunters Place Greenock  
Kilblain Street Greenock  
Campbell Street Greenock  
Inverkip  
Shore Street Gourock  
Albert Road Gourock  
Gourock Park

Separately Inverclyde Leisure operated the toilets at the Battery Park Pavilion and Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park operated public toilets at the Greenock Cut Centre and Lunderston Bay. All of the facilities were closed between March and August 2020.

- 5.2 The operational dissolution of Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park into its constituent local authority areas effectively transferred the facilities at Lunderston Bay and Greenock Cut operationally to Inverclyde Council. The Council was already responsible for maintenance of the facilities. The toilets at Lunderston Bay and the Greenock Cut Centre did not reopen at the same time as the rest of the facilities owing to capacity issues at both locations in spite of the obvious public demand.

- 5.3 As part of the recovery planning process the need to reopen the Greenock Cut and Lunderston Bay toilets was recognised to encourage residents and visitors to Inverclyde to take advantage of the outdoor assets at these two locations. This required additional cleaning to take account of Covid risks and could not be delivered solely by the rangers staff therefore funding was provided to FM from Covid contingency funds to open up and clean these facilities. This funding was continued through 2021 and funded from the Covid Recovery Fund subject to there being a review of Public Convenience provision across Inverclyde prior to the budget setting process for 2022 to establish how these additional costs could be mainstreamed going forward. For 2021 the additional costs of cleaning the toilets at Lunderston Bay and Greenock Cut were budgeted at £13K per annum.
- 5.4 In the event regular cleaning has been carried out at the toilets at the Greenock Cut Centre however cleaning at Lunderston Bay has for the most part been carried out by the Beach Attendant. There is a need to carry out cleaning on the attendant's days off however this can be contained by rescheduling other cleans. Further cleaning has been implemented at the Inverclyde Leisure toilets at Battery Park Pavilion in order to facilitate their opening when there are no pitch bookings. The costs of this additional service amount to C£2.5K per annum.

## **6.0 FUTURE PROVISION OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCES**

- 6.1 Officers have reviewed the provision of public conveniences across Inverclyde taking into account the need to maintain provision at Greenock Cut and Battery Park going forward. The projected costs of cleaning the two facilities are of the order of £11.5K per annum at standard rates.
- 6.2 It is proposed that a further update will be brought to Committee in March recommending how this ongoing cost pressure might be funded.

## **7.0 EARLY CLOSURE OF FACILITIES**

- 7.1 Longstanding issues with anti-social behaviour and vandalism in the Hunters Place and Kilblain Street public conveniences in 2019 led to the Environment & Regeneration Committee agreeing to 6 pm closure in August 2019. The toilets had been set on fire, doors kicked off, etc. at a considerable cost to the Council. This also caused inconvenience to the public where toilets had to be closed for days at a time until repairs were carried out. Agreement to the 6 pm closure was subject to a report being brought back on any issues arising from the closures.
- 7.2 There have been no issues arising from the 6 pm closures at Hunters Place and Kilblain Street. Although the toilets were obviously closed for a significant period in 2020 there have been no repeated incidents of vandalism since their reopening. It is therefore proposed that these operating hours are made permanent for both facilities should the decision be made to retain Hunters Place.
- 7.3 There have been three incidents of vandalism in the Coronation Park/ Fore Street public conveniences in Port Glasgow. All of these have been later in the evening and two resulted in the toilets being unavailable for a number of days while repairs and clean ups were carried out. Since the last significant episode the toilets have been closed at 6 pm and committee is asked to regularise this in line with town centre provision in Greenock.

## **8.0 IMPLICATIONS**

### **8.1 Finance**

Financial Implications:

There are no financial costs associated with the information provided in this paper.

One off Costs:

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact £000	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments
N/A					

Annually Recurring Costs/(Savings):

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report £000	Virement From	Other Comments
FM	Public Conveniences	2022-	£11.5K		Funding to be confirmed at March Committee

**Legal**

8.2 There are no legal implications.

**Human Resources**

8.3 None

8.4 **Equalities**

(a) Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out?

Equality Impact Assessment will be made available at the following address:  
<https://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/council-and-government/equality-impact-assessments/equality-impact-assessments-2021>

This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy. Therefore, no Equality Impact Assessment is required.

(b) Fairer Scotland Duty

If this report affects or proposes any major strategic decision:-

Has there been active consideration of how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome?

YES – A written statement showing how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage has been completed.

NO

(c) Data Protection

Has a Data Protection Impact Assessment been carried out?

X

YES – This report involves data processing which may result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.

NO

**Repopulation**

8.5 N/A

**9.0 CONSULTATIONS**

9.1 N/A

**10.0 Background Papers**

10.1 Recovery Action Plans Policy & Resources Committee 25 May 2021 **PR/08/21/MM**

10.2 Equality Impact Assessment