

## Proposal 9: Public Conveniences

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<b>1</b>	<b>What is the proposal?</b>
<p>The proposal is to close six public conveniences located outside of the City Centre. The two city centre public conveniences would remain open.</p> <p>The six suburban locations are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Canal Basin</li> <li>• Earlsdon (Albany Street)</li> <li>• Foleshill (Foleshill Road)</li> <li>• Radford (Jubilee Crescent)</li> <li>• Riley Square, Bell Green (Roseberry Avenue)</li> <li>• Tile Hill (Jardine Crescent)</li> </ul>	
<b>2</b>	<b>What is the rationale for this particular proposal and what are the key messages?</b>
<p>The location of public conveniences outside the city centre are a historic anomaly and do not reflect planned provision for need. Changing social demographics make these facilities unattractive places for the public to visit. Following the recent decision to close the public conveniences in Cheylesmore a local community group is exploring providing modern self cleansing toilets as a replacement on a self-funding basis.</p>	
<b>3</b>	<b>Service Description</b>
<b>3.1</b>	<b>What does the service do?</b>
<p>Public conveniences are generally small buildings containing male, female and disabled toilets which are available for use by the general public. These public conveniences are free of charge.</p>	
<b>3.2</b>	<b>How many people use the service?</b>
<p>Unknown. No usage data is available.</p>	
<b>3.3</b>	<b>When is the service open?</b>
<p>The public conveniences are closed overnight and closed in the early evening (around 7pm) except Albany Road which is closed later (around 9pm). Times vary as this forms part of the workload of the out of hours team and may vary because of other issues that need addressing.</p>	
<b>3.4</b>	<b>Are service users currently charged for using the service?</b>
<p>No. Facilities are provided free of charge.</p>	
<b>3.5</b>	<b>What is the history and background to the service?</b>
<p>Toilets and their locations are a historic anomaly and do not reflect any planned provision for need. Changing social demographics (e.g. an increase in the number of publicly accessible toilets in public and quasi-public buildings, more car usage etc.) make these facilities unattractive places for members of the general public to visit.</p> <p>The public toilets in Cheylesmore which have now been closed down have provided evidence that the surrounding community has managed without it.</p> <p>The Council had previously closed most suburban public conveniences in the 1990s.</p>	
<b>3.6</b>	<b>Is there any additional relevant service information? (E.g. value of service/interdependencies etc.)</b>
<p>Over the course of the past 12 months there have been allegations and complaints of drugs use and sex workers at three of the suburban locations.</p>	

The service view is that the facilities provided are not well used.	
<b>4</b>	<b>What are the proposed financial savings?</b>
£50,000	
<b>5</b>	<b>What is the potential impact on service users (see Equality and Consultation Analysis) and what is the potential mitigation?</b>
<p>Unknown. No usage data is available.</p> <p>It is generally felt that there may be several groups who could potentially be impacted and these could include older people, children, pregnant women and people with disabilities.</p> <p>Help the Aged's 'Nowhere to Go', a study undertaken in 2006 outlining toilet provision in the UK, specifically referenced older people's views on public toilet provision in their local area and respondents agreed that the lack of public toilets stopped them going out as often as they would like and meant some people felt isolated and felt that they couldn't leave the house. This may also be true in the case of people with disabilities. For instance, people with mobility problems may find it more difficult to make ad hoc use of other toilets and choose to stay at home instead.</p> <p>Generally speaking, many children also need immediate and frequent access to a toilet, in addition to pregnant women who may need access to a toilet more often as would mothers and fathers with babies who may need to change nappies.</p> <p>However, as mentioned above, there is no specific data to suggest that any of these groups are using public toilets in the six suburban locations outlined above.</p> <p>There are a number of potential mitigations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Seek local business/community sponsorship to keep toilet provision open and clean.</li> <li>2) There is already an increased number of publicly accessible toilets in public buildings and quasi-public buildings (pubs, restaurants, churches etc.).</li> <li>3) Collect/publish a directory of accessible toilets (however, this mitigation would require some savings to be held back and someone would need to be commissioned to undertake the work).</li> <li>4) Signage at each of the six suburban locations to direct people to nearest public toilet.</li> </ol>	
<b>6</b>	<b>What is the impact on staff?</b>
1 FTE. Grade 3. Male	
<b>7</b>	<b>What are the potential options are there for the use of the buildings?</b>
<p>There are three 'stand-alone' toilets (Foleshill, Canal Basin and Tile Hill) which can be considered for other uses, subject to planning or which could be demolished.</p> <p>The facilities at Riley Square, Earlsdon and Radford form part of another building and are therefore not suitable to be demolished. Any alternative use is likely to be restricted.</p>	
<b>8</b>	<b>What other service alternatives have been considered?</b>
<p>Close and demolish.</p> <p>Potential options could be:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Local business sponsorship if important to community.</li> <li>2) Local action group self-management replacement (as at Cheylesmore).</li> <li>3) Promote/sponsor businesses to make toilets generally available to public.</li> <li>4) Promote web site /app of accessible toilets.</li> </ol>	