

# The Highland Council

Agenda Item	10
Report No	SR/12/25

**Committee:** Isle of Skye and Raasay

**Date:** 30 June 2025

**Report Title:** Uig Public Conveniences

**Report By:** Assistant Chief Executive – Place

## 1 Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 The public convenience (PC) at Uig is currently in a very poor state of repair.
- 1.2 There is a new ferry terminal building due to open in the Autumn of 2025.
- 1.2 It is proposed that the Uig PC be closed on 31 August 2025, following the full commissioning of the new facilities at the ferry terminal. The new terminal includes publicly accessible toilets which will be maintained to a high standard and will be open during all ferry operating hours.

## 2 Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to:-
  - i. **Agree** Closure of the Uig PC from 31 August 2025; and
  - ii. **Agree** formal disposal of the asset, to allow the Uig public convenience be marketed for sale or made available for asset transfer.

## 3 Implications

- 3.1 **Resource** - The Council currently operates 74 Public Conveniences throughout the Highlands. The function had a revenue budget of £939k (net). The current cost to operate the Uig PC is an estimated £9,372 per annum.
- 3.2 **Legal** - The Council does not have a statutory responsibility to provide or operate Public Conveniences.
- 3.3 **Risk** - There are no known implications arising from this report.
- 3.4 **Health and Safety (risks arising from changes to plant, equipment, process, or people)** - There are no known implications arising from this report.
- 3.5 **Gaelic** - There are no Gaelic implications arising from this report.

## 4 Impacts

- 4.1 In Highland, all policies, strategies or service changes are subject to an integrated screening for impact for Equalities, Poverty and Human Rights, Children's Rights and Wellbeing, Climate Change, Islands and Mainland Rural Communities, and Data Protection. Where identified as required, a full impact assessment will be undertaken.
- 4.2 Considering impacts is a core part of the decision-making process and needs to inform the decision-making process. When taking any decision, Members must give due regard to the findings of any assessment.

### 4.3 Integrated Impact Assessment - Summary

- 4.3.1 An Integrated Impact Assessment screening has been undertaken on 15 May 2025 as detailed in **Appendix 1**. The conclusions have been subject to the relevant Manager Review and Approval.
- 4.3.2 The Screening process has concluded that there are negative impacts related to equalities and Islands and Mainland rural communities, however these are mitigated by the PC provision being available in the Uig ferry terminal building which is open when ferries are operating.

4.3.3

Impact Assessment Area	Conclusion of Screening
Equality	Negative impact
Socio-economic	No impact
Human Rights	No impact
Children's Rights and Well being	No impact
Island and Mainland Rural	Negative impact
Climate Change	No impact
Data Rights	No impact

## 5 Background

- 5.1 The existing PC located in Uig has served the community and ferry passengers for several years. However, as part of the broader redevelopment of the ferry terminal, a modern, fully accessible toilet facility has been incorporated into the new terminal building.
- 5.2 The existing PC Uig is in a very poor state of repair. In this instance, economic life expiry is taken to mean that the ongoing maintenance costs are no longer viable.
- 5.3 The average annual running costs to operate the Uig facility are shown below:-

Water	£1,598
Electricity	£ 745
Maintenance	£1,691
Consumables	£ 852
Staffing	£4,486
<b>Total</b>	<b>£9,372</b>

- 5.4 The cost to refurbish the facility is estimated at £150k and at the current time there is no capital budget available to do this.
- 5.5 An approach has been made to Uig Community Trust to discuss the possibility of taking over ownership of the Uig PC via lease or Community Asset Transfer (CAT).

## **6 Proposal**

- 6.1 The replacement of the existing PC with modern facilities at the ferry terminal aligns with current policy to consolidate services where appropriate, improve the quality and accessibility of public amenities, and reduce ongoing maintenance and operational costs. The new facilities provide a more suitable and sustainable long-term solution.
- 6.2 The provision of toilet facilities within the ferry terminal ensures continued service to both residents and visitors. The ferry terminal can provide male and female toilets and changing facilities within the building. During the ferries operating hours, the building will be accessible to all.
- 6.3 It is proposed that the Uig PC be closed from 31 August 2025, and that formal disposal of the asset be approved, allowing the property to be either marketed for sale or made available for community asset transfer.

Designation: Assistant Chief Executive – Place

Date: 16 May 2025

Author: Debbie Sutton, Strategic Lead - Community Operations & Logistics

Background Papers: None

Appendices: Appendix 1 – Integrated Impact Assessment Screening

# Integrated Impact Assessment Screening

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## About proposal

**What does this proposal relate to?** Redesign or change to existing service

**Proposal name:** Closure of Uig Public Convenience

**High level summary of the proposal:** The public convenience at Uig is currently in a very poor state of repair, the proposal is to close the PC and offer alternative provision within the newly built ferry terminal

**Who may be affected by the proposal?** All Council residents and visitors

**Start date of proposal:** 01/07/2025

**End date of proposal:**

**Does this proposal result in a change or impact to one or more Council service?** Yes

**Which Council services will be impacted by this proposal?** Place

**Does this relate to an existing proposal?** No

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## Author details

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**Service:** Place

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## Responsible officer details

**Name:** Alison Clark

**Job title:** CO Housing and Communities

**Email address:** Alison.Clark@highland.gov.uk

**Sign off date:** 2025-05-19

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## Equalities, poverty, and human rights

**Protected characteristics**

Select what impact the proposal will have on the following protected characteristics:

**Sex:** No impact

**Age:** Negative

**Disability:** Negative

**Religion or belief:** No impact

**Race:** No impact

**Sexual orientation:** No impact

**Gender reassignment:** No impact

**Pregnancy and maternity:** Negative

**Marriage and civil partnership:** No impact

**Protected characteristics impact details:** People with disabilities, older people and pregnant women could be impacted negatively with the closure of the PC. This is mitigated by toilet provision being available in the terminal building which is open when ferries are operating.

## Poverty and socio-economic

What impact is the proposal likely to have on the following?

**Prospects and opportunities:** No impact

**Places:** No impact

**Financial:** No impact

**Poverty and socio-economic impact details:** No impact on these by closing the PC. There would be no charge for the alternative provision.

## Human rights

**Which of the below human rights will be affected by this proposal?** No human rights will be affected

**What impact do you consider this proposal to have on the human rights of people?** No impact

**Human rights impact details:** There is no impact with the closure of the PC

## Equalities, poverty and human rights screening assessment

**What impact do you think there will be to equalities, poverty and human rights?** Negative impact (potential or actual)

**Is a Full Impact Assessment required?** No

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## Children's rights and wellbeing

**What likely impact will the proposal have on children and young people?**No

**Which of the below children's rights will be affected by the proposal?**No children's rights will be affected

**Explain how the children's rights selected above will be affected:**

### Children's rights and wellbeing screening assessment

**What impact do you think there will be to children's rights and wellbeing?**No impact

**Is a Full Impact Assessment required?**No

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## Data protection

**Will your proposal involve processing personal data?**No

### Data protection screening assessment

**What change will there be to the way personal data is processed?**No personal data will be processed

**Is a Full Impact Assessment required?**No

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## Island and mainland rural communities

**Does your proposal impact island and mainland rural communities?**Yes

**Could people in island and mainland rural communities be affected differently?**Yes

**How could the impact differ?** This could impact upon people wishing to use a PC at Uig.

**Have any negative impacts been identified?**Yes

**Provide details of negative impacts, mitigating actions and the service that is responsible for them:** This could impact on people wishing to use a PC provision in Uig. However mitigation is in place as an alternative provision is available in the terminal building which is open when the ferries are operating.

### Island and mainland rural communities screening assessment

**What impact do you think there will be to island and mainland rural communities?**No difference

**Is a Full Impact Assessment required?**No

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# Climate change

**Does the proposal involve activities that could impact on greenhouse gas emissions (CO2e)?** No

**Does the proposal have the potential to affect the environment, wildlife or biodiversity?** No

**Does the proposal have the potential to influence resilience to extreme weather or changing climate?** No

**Provide information regarding your selection above:** No impact

## Climate change screening assessment

**Have you identified potential impact for any of the areas above or marked any as not known?** No

**Is a Full Impact Assessment required?** No