

Motion: That the City of Inverness Area Committee request from Officers a report on the availability of public toilets in the City Centre, with a view to extending this availability.

The Council recognises:

- That the provision of public toilets is not a statutory duty of local authorities under the Public Health (Scotland) Act (2008). There has been a decline in the number of public toilets in Scotland over the last fifteen years.
- That the Council's Mealmarket Close toilets were closed in 2018.
- That many businesses and services provide toilets which are publicly available. Examples include the Victorian Market, Eastgate Centre, Eden Court, the Bus and Train Stations, and the Museum & Art Gallery. Cafes, restaurants, pubs and other businesses are also very accommodating of reasonable requests.
- Nevertheless, there remains a significant gap in provision, and there is a problem that lanes, vennels and doorways in the City Centre are unfortunately being used as urinals, presumably in emergency situations. This causes public health hazards and is damaging to the city centre environment in multiple ways.

The Council therefore resolves:

- To recognise the universal right to an adequate standard of living and sanitation under Article 11 of the [International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights \(ICESCR\)](#).
- To recognise that lack of access to public toilets, especially for older people or people with disability, can prevent them enjoying public spaces and enjoying community life. This lack applies equally to residents and visitors.
- And, in consequence, to seek to ensure access to clean, safe, and appropriate facilities that support human dignity and public health.
- To request that officers investigate issues regarding the availability of public toilets in Inverness City Centre, and produce a report exploring mechanisms to increase provision.

Signed: Dr M Gregson

Mr D Macpherson

Section 95 officer assessment of financial implications:

This motion is **not** anticipated to have a financial implication to the Council.

Integrated Impact Assessment:

Area for Assessment	Assessment Summary
Equality	No impact
Poverty	No impact
Human Rights	No impact
Children's Rights	No impact
Data Rights	No impact
Rural/Island	No impact
Climate Change	No impact

Summary of Assessment:

A summary of the integrated screening is outlined above. Whilst the motion clearly points to the importance of access to public toilets for key groups with protected characteristics, the action as a result of the motion is for a report to be produced. There is not, therefore, any direct impact as a result of the motion. A screening for impact would be required as part of any report on this issue.

AMENDMENT

To keep the motion to "reasonable requests". Take out from "Nevertheless" and instead write:

"The Council notes the number of toilet facilities currently available, as mentioned above, and recognises the valuable service, the cleanliness and availability to the public that these provide. That the Highland Council's Comfort Scheme is promoted further to Inverness City Centre retailers and services, promoting the financial incentives as well as the potential commercial benefits of encouraging more footfall. That Council will help the public locate the businesses, with Comfort Schemes, by providing additional signage to accompany the existing stickers."

Signed: Mrs J Hendry

Seconded: Mrs G Campbell-Sinclair

Section 95 Officer Financial Assessment

This amendment is anticipated to have a financial implication. There would be expected to be costs associated with additional signage and promotion, and potentially also additional costs were further uptake in the comfort scheme to arise. The precise cost of which would depend on the level of promotion and resulting uptake. By way of reference, within the current comfort scheme in place, monthly costs can range from £50 to £300 per month.

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Data Rights	No impact
Rural/Island	No impact
Climate Change	No impact

Summary of Assessment:

A summary of the integrated screening is outlined above. The amendment is anticipated to have a positive impact by increasing awareness of facilities amongst key groups with protected characteristics who are more likely to rely on these facilities.