

HIGH DEPENDENCY TOILETS
(Report by Head of Administration)

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Cabinet of a finding by the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Service Delivery) in relation to toilet provision in the District and to consider whether and, if so, how this issue might be addressed.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Service Delivery), in November 2006, commenced a study on disability access in the District. Its remit is to examine access for those with disabilities to premises, facilities and other sites in the District, excluding those provided by the District Council.
- 2.2 Although it was not intended to include District Council services, in the course of the study a matter arose, in which the Council has an interest. It is for this reason that it is being reported at this stage rather than as part of the final report on the study.

3. HIGH DEPENDENCY TOILETS

- 3.1 The Panel, at its meeting on 2nd February 2007, received a presentation by representatives of the Cambridgeshire Parliament on the work of Speaking Up, a Cambridge based provider of advocacy services for those with learning difficulties, mental ill-health and other disabilities. It emerged, in the course of the discussion, that there exists a need for toilet facilities for those with high support needs.
- 3.2 These toilets are distinct from those provided for the disabled in that the latter are designed for lone wheel chair users while the former are for assisted use and include changing facilities and a hoist. Such publicly available facilities are rare and indeed it is understood that; in England, they are found only in Bradford. Locally, however, it may be that the facilities available at Saxongate, Huntingdon and the potential for making them available for public use may be worthwhile exploring.
- 3.3 The Panel has not pursued this matter, but Members thought it of sufficient significance to be referred to the Cabinet.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 High Dependency Toilets clearly will be costly and it is evident that very few local authorities provide them. Given that this issue has arisen in the course of a formal study, it may be that further investigatory work could be undertaken on, for example, local levels of demand, specification, location and the resource requirement before any final decisions are taken.

- 4.2 The Cabinet's preferences are sought as to whether further work should proceed on this subject.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Reports and Minutes - Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Service Delivery) – 7th November 2006 and 2nd February and 5th June 2007.

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