

23 September 2015

Environment & Housing Committee

Termination of Automatic Public Convenience Contract

Report of: *Roy Ormsby – Head of Street Scene*

Wards Affected: *Shenfield & Brentwood West*

This report is: *Public*

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 In April 1989 a contract for three Automatic Public Conveniences (APC's), to be placed in Rayleigh Road, Hutton Road (Shenfield Station) and Victoria Road, was agreed with JCDecaux.
- 1.2 The APC in Rayleigh Road was removed, and the contract terminated, in April 2004, which was due to low usage, and the high cost of the contract.
- 1.3 The two remaining toilets are now costing the Council £30,000 per annum, and there is an opportunity to terminate the contract from April 2016. Notice has been given on the contract, as this required a 12 month termination period.
- 1.4 The two current toilets have been retained in the past to assist commuters, however, both stations now have adequate toilet facilities, and usage has dropped to an average of 64 per week in Shenfield and 24 per week in Brentwood. These figures are based on usage between October 2014 and July 2015.

2. Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 That Members agree to terminate the contracts, from April 2016, on the two remaining APC's, with a saving of £30,000.**

3. Introduction and Background

- 3.1 The three APC's were put in place in 1989, to meet the needs of commuters at both Shenfield and Brentwood Stations. They are single units, which is felt no longer meets the needs of users.

- 3.2 Both stations, since 1989, have been improved, and adequate toilet facilities are available. This is reflected in the current usage which has declined over the years, with only 64 users per week in Shenfield and 24 in Brentwood.
- 3.3 Although the facilities for commuters has improved, there is still minor usage, which is felt may be by local taxi drivers. Although it is not the responsibility of the Council to provide any facilities, it is felt that six months notice should be given in order for them to make alternative arrangements.
- 3.4 In the current financial climate it is important that Members consider all options for reducing budgets. It is felt that this is an opportunity to reduce our costs by removing a service that over recent years has declined, as alternative, and improved, facilities have been made available at the stations.

4. Issue, Options and Analysis of Options

- 4.1 The alternative option would be to retain the toilets, and renegotiate the current contract for an additional five years. However, it is anticipated that this would not reduce costs, and the current annual budget of £30,000 would be required.

5. Reasons for Recommendation

- 5.1 There is limited use of the facilities, and alternative toilets are now available at both Shenfield and Brentwood Stations.

6. Consultation

- 6.1 The recommendation is based on current usage, therefore it is not felt that consultation is required. However, notice will be given to the taxi drivers for them to make alternative arrangements.

7. References to Corporate Plan

- 7.1 There is a need to identify all options to ensure the Council are delivering value for money services that meet the needs of the whole community.

8. Implications

Financial Implications

Name & Title: Chris Leslie, Finance Director (Section 151)

Tel & Email 01277 312542 / christopher.leslie@brentwood.gov.uk

- 8.1 The termination of the contracts on the APCs would create an annual savings of £30k.

Legal Implications

Name & Title: Chris Potter, Monitoring Officer and Head of Support Services

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- 8.2 The Council has a duty, under the Local Government Act 1999 to secure best value in the exercise of their function.

Other Implications (where significant) – i.e. Health and Safety, Asset Management, Equality and Diversity, Risk Management, Section 17 – Crime & Disorder, Sustainability, ICT.

- 8.3 None

9. Background Papers (include their location and identify whether any are exempt or protected by copyright)

- 9.1 None

10. Appendices to this report

None

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