

**Report by Director - Place
to Group Leaders
23 July 2020**

Subject: Phase 2 re-opening of public conveniences

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek delegated authority to re-open the remaining 9 public conveniences across South Ayrshire, to approve the additional resource requirements to do so and to continue with the temporary suspension of charging for usage.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 It is recommended that members:

2.1.1 Approve the Phase 2 re-opening of 9 public conveniences on Friday 24th July 2020

2.1.2 Approve additional resource requirements as set out in section 4.6

2.1.3 Approve the continuing temporary suspension of charging

3. Background

- 3.1 On the 10th July 2020, South Ayrshire Council reopened 5 public conveniences as part of the Phase 1 reopening plan:

- a) Barassie
- b) Links Road, Prestwick
- c) Low Green, Ayr
- d) Kennedy Park, Dunure
- e) The Flushes, Girvan

- 3.2 Phase 1 allowed for testing of operational arrangements, opening hours and the effectiveness of the enhanced cleaning arrangements implemented in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. Feedback has been gathered during the first 10 days of operation from both members of the public and the Public Convenience attendants.

- 3.3 This has confirmed that members of the public were adhering to the social distancing requirements, were utilising the hand sanitising stations and complying with the reduced capacity and one in one out policy. There have been no complaints from members of the public since reopening and feedback

suggests that they have been happy to comply with safety measures and signage that we have introduced.

- 3.4 Usage levels of the 5 public conveniences have been significantly lower than normal operations and it is clear the public continue to be cautious as lockdown restrictions are slowly eased.

4. Phase 2

- 4.1 With adequate physical distancing measures now fully implemented across all conveniences, the evidence gathered so far confirms that users are taking responsibility to ensure that all safety measures in place are adhered to.

- 4.2 Two Public Convenience Attendants were on-site at all times during Phase 1 reopening as the COVID-19 risk was significantly higher. Given the lower usage levels and risk levels reducing, it is proposed to remove the one in one out policy and reduce the hours of on-site Attendants, with periodic cleaning in response to usage rather than hourly. The reduced opening times will remain at 10am – 6pm and will be reviewed again by 14 August.

- 4.3 Given the learning from Phase 1, the full resource requirements initially anticipated for phase 2 and previously presented to members will not be required. Additional resource will only be required in the smaller less frequently used public conveniences where cleaning is only carried out once per day.

- 4.4 Full resource requirements are set out in appendix 1, with an additional monthly staffing cost of £1,500 and additional material cost of £200. Total additional monthly cost is expected at £1,700.

- 4.5 Servicing, maintenance and cash uplifts from public conveniences is currently carried out by Healthmatic. Healthmatic have only recently resumed some services and are now able to provide response for emergency repairs. However, they remain unable to provide cash uplifts. As such, it is proposed that the temporary suspension of charging continues but that this is re-introduced as soon as the contractor is able to provide cash uplifts.

5.0 Other Local Authority provision

- 5.1 Facilities Management will continue to work with colleagues from other Authorities in order to share ideas and ensure consistency with the re-opening of Public Conveniences. The table below provides an update on plans in 4 other Authorities.

Authority	Re-opening dates	Cleaning frequency	Resources on-site
Argyle & Bute	Majority of conveniences have re-opened. Will review end July/beginning August	Some increase in cleaning	Mixture of staffed and unstaffed facilities operating reduced hours
Dumfries & Galloway	Re-opened 9 toilets on 29 th June. The remaining 49 will be reviewed at the end of July	Cleaned once or twice a day	All toilets have dedicated members of staff but not attendants who are at the facilities all day.
East Lothian	Re-opened 16 toilets on 11 th July	Some increase in cleaning	Use a small peripatetic team to clean and replenish stock
Edinburgh	Re-opened 7 toilets on the 13 th July, will re-assess the remaining toilets mid-August	Have introduced additional enhanced cleaning	One member of staff at each facility for the duration of its opening hours

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Appendix 1

Phase 1 public conveniences operations from 24 July

Location and Existing Hours	New Opening Hours	Operations	Additional Resource from 24 July
The Flushes, Girvan 09:00-21:00 (April-Sep) 10:00-19:00 (Oct-March)	10:00 – 18:00	Normal operations	Not required
Low Green, Ayr 09:00-21:00 (April-Sep) 10:00-19:00 (Oct-March)	10:00 – 18:00	Normal operations	Not required
Links Road, Prestwick 09:00-21:00 (April-Sep) 10:00-19:00 (Oct-March)	10:00 – 18:00	Normal operations	Not required
Barassie (24 hr)	No Change	Normal operations	Not required
Kennedy Park, Dunure (Seasonal only) April - September	10:00 – 18:00	Normal operations	Not required
			Nil

Phase 2 public conveniences operations from 24 July

Location and Existing Hours	New Opening Hours	Operations	Additional Resource Costs (per month)
Ainslie Park, Girvan 09:00-21:00 (April-Sep) 10:00-19:00 (Oct-March)	10:00 - 18:00	Normal operations. Existing attendants to cover all 3 Girvan facilities	£0
Harbour, Girvan (24 hr)	No Change	Normal operations. Existing attendants to cover all 3 Girvan facilities	£0
Ballantrae 09:00-21:00 (April-Sep) 10:00-19:00 (Oct-March)	10:00 – 18:00	Increase the current resource by an additional 1.5 hr per day	£500
Maybole (24 hr)	No Change	Increase the current resource by an additional 1.5 hr per day	£500
St Meddans, Troon 09:00-21:00 (April-Sep) 10:00-19:00 (Oct-March)	10:00 – 18:00	Normal operations. Existing attendants to cover both Troon toilets	£0
Blackburn, Ayr 09:00-21:00 (April-Sep) 10:00-19:00 (Oct-March)	10:00 – 18:00	Normal operations. Existing attendants to cover all 3 Ayr facilities	£0
Arthur Street, Ayr 09:00-21:00 (April-Sep) 10:00-19:00 (Oct-March)	10:00 – 18:00	Normal operations. Existing attendants to cover all 3 Ayr facilities	£0
Church St, Troon 09:00-21:00 (April-Sep) 10:00-19:00 (Oct-March)	10:00 – 18:00	Normal operations. Existing attendants to cover both Troon toilets	£0
Barr 09:00-21:00 (April-Sep) 10:00-19:00 (Oct-March)	10:00 – 18:00	Increase the current resource by an additional 1.5 hr per day	£500
			£1,500

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