Public toilets – Motion as adjusted, approved.

17 Councillor Bruce, seconded by Councillor Hutchison, moved

"Council believes the availability of public toilets is an equality issue, a public health issue and human right.

Council believes that access to clean, accessible toilets, which meet the needs of people of all genders and abilities is a basic requirement of health, hygiene and personal safety. Council believes that access to a toilet is about social inclusion, being part of a community and being able to move around the city barrier free.

Council notes there are only four toilets operated by the council's operator Healthmatic and only four toilets maintained across the city's parks. Council notes that Glasgow Life operates venues with accessible public toilets, but these aren't operational twenty-four hours a day and many residents are unaware of their right to use them.

Council also notes that relieving oneself in public is a criminal offence in Scotland and residents should be provided with abundant opportunities for avoiding this situation.

Council believes that taking a strategic look at provision across all council services would have a positive impact on many people's experiences of enjoying parks and public spaces. This could be particularly true for pregnant people, people with children, young people, disabled people and people with underlying health conditions, all of which may require more frequent use of a toilet.

Council also believes adequate public toilet provision is a feminist issue with research showing women feel the lack of provision more acutely.

Council recalls the public toilet petition submitted back in 2021 by Patricia Fort, this petition received one of the highest number of signatures in recent times and thanks all residents that engaged in the conversation. Council regrets that no further action was taken

Therefore, Council agrees to develop a public toilet strategy within the next 12 months, that includes but is not limited to:-

- Carrying out a mapping exercise on public toilet provision and its proximity to public parks and civic spaces
- A review of public toilet opening hours, signage and potential use of technology at public toilet sites
- Working in collaboration with Glasgow Life, community venues, transport providers and businesses on a public toilet awareness programme
- Exploring options of developing a Comfort Scheme small grants fund, similar to Highland Council
- Engaging with vulnerable users, like women, children, disabled and elderly people on their experience of using public toilets

- Outlining how Glasgow City Council are improving accessibility for people with mobility issues and people who care for young children who need changing facilities or larger cubicles
- Outlining how Glasgow City Council is complying with requirements of the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 relating to public toilet provision
- Investigating how the City Development Plan can play a part in increasing public toilet provision
- Investigating that all in-house and private suppliers of public toilets are free of charge, removing the 20p cash only charge".

Councillor Kelly, seconded by Councillor Cannon, moved as an amendment that:-

(1) at the first paragraph:

(a) after "public toilets" insert "while not a local authority responsibility",; and

(b) delete **"**and a human right" and change the rest of the sentence to "is an equality issue and a public health issue";

(2) at the third paragraph:

(a) after "accessible public toilets" insert "and that there are in excess of 50 public toilet locations listed for Glasgow spread across a variety of providers,";

(b) after **"**unaware of their right to use them**"** insert "although Glasgow Life makes this clear on an ongoing basis.";

(3) at the fifth paragraph after "underlying health conditions" insert "such as prostate problems";

(4) at the sixth paragraph delete "Council regrets that no further action was taken";

(5) after the sixth paragraph, insert the following 3 paragraphs:

"Council notes that public toilet provision has been discussed twice at committee since then and that in November 2021 the following actions had been taken to

- Update the website to show all toilet facilities available to the public
- Provide a list of all public toilet locations to the privately operated website https://loocations.com/ to further raise awareness of public toilet facilities in Glasgow
- Install new and improved directional signage for the public toilet facilities managed by NRS at the Botanic Gardens, Kelvingrove Park and Victoria Park and to bring a further update to the committee and to update the petitioner.

Council notes that in Wales local authorities are required to have a strategy for public toilet provision and the work carried out by Community Ownership Support Service (part of the Development Trusts Association Scotland) on this matter.

Council further notes that this is an issue Age UK have been campaigning on and held a conference with London Council in April 2023 and that the Council will organise a similar summit bringing together stakeholders such as Age UK, COSS/ DTAS, Chambers of Commerce etc to explore best practice."; and

(6) at the following paragraph change the 9 bullet points to the following:

- "Carrying out a further mapping exercise on public toilet provision and its proximity to public parks and civic spaces
- A further review of public toilet opening hours, signage and potential use of technology at public toilet sites
- Continue to work in collaboration with Glasgow Life, community venues, transport providers and businesses on a public toilet awareness programme
- Build upon the Sauchiehall Street Community Toilet Consultation 2016
- Exploring further options of developing a Comfort Scheme small grants fund, similar to Highland Council and others"

Councillor O'Lone, seconded by Councillor Dempsey, moved as an amendment that the following be inserted after the final bullet point:-

"Bring forward the appropriate policy changes to ensure that all future contracts involving outdoor events have sufficient toilets that provide sanitary bins. At present there is no requirement for this. Period dignity should allow for used sanitary products to be disposed of hygienically and without embarrassment."

Councillor Bruce, with the approval of her seconder, accepted the amendments by Councillor Kelly and Councillor O'Lone, resulting in the following adjusted motion:

"Council believes the availability of public toilets is an equality issue, a public health issue and human right.

Council believes that access to clean, accessible toilets, which meet the needs of people of all genders and abilities is a basic requirement of health, hygiene and personal safety. Council believes that access to a toilet is about social inclusion, being part of a community and being able to move around the city barrier free.

Council notes there are only four toilets operated by the council's operator Healthmatic and only four toilets maintained across the city's parks. Council notes that Glasgow Life operates venues with accessible public toilets and that there are in excess of 50 public toilet locations listed for Glasgow spread across a variety of providers but these aren't operational twenty-four hours a day and many residents are unaware of their right to use them.

Council also notes that relieving oneself in public is a criminal offence in Scotland and residents should be provided with abundant opportunities for avoiding this situation.

Council believes that taking a strategic look at provision across all council services would have a positive impact on many people's experiences of enjoying parks and public spaces. This could be particularly true for pregnant people, people with children, young people, disabled people and people with underlying health conditions such as add: crohns disease, diabetes, endometriosis and prostate problems, all of which may require more frequent use of a toilet.

Council also believes adequate public toilet provision is a feminist issue with research showing women feel the lack of provision more acutely.

Council recalls the public toilet petition submitted back in 2021 by Patricia Fort, this petition received one of the highest number of signatures in recent times and thanks all residents that engaged in the conversation. Council recognises some steps have been taken but disappointed at the pace of change.

Council notes that public toilet provision has been discussed twice at committee since then and that in November 2021 the following actions had been taken to

- Update the website to show all toilet facilities available to the public
- Provide a list of all public toilet locations to the privately operated website https://loocations.com/ to further raise awareness of public toilet facilities in Glasgow
- Install new and improved directional signage for the public toilet facilities managed by NRS at the Botanic Gardens, Kelvingrove Park and Victoria Park and to bring a further update to the committee and to update the petitioner

Council notes that in Wales local authorities are required to have a strategy for public toilet provision and the work carried out by Community Ownership Support Service (part of the Development Trusts Association Scotland) on this matter.

Council further notes that this is an issue Age UK have been campaigning on and held a conference with London Council in April 2023 and that the Council will organise a similar summit bringing together stakeholders such as Age UK, COSS/ DTAS, Chambers of Commerce, add - Engender and equality and disabled people's organisations etc to explore best practice.

Therefore, Council agrees to develop a public toilet strategy within the next 12 months, that includes but is not limited to:-

- Carrying out a mapping exercise on public toilet provision and its proximity to public parks and civic spaces
- A further review of public toilet opening hours, signage and potential use of technology at public toilet sites
- Continue to work in collaboration with Glasgow Life, community venues, transport providers and businesses on a public toilet awareness programme
- Build upon the Sauchiehall Street Community Toilet Consultation 2016

- Exploring options of developing a Comfort Scheme small grants fund, similar to Highland Council and others
- Engaging with vulnerable users, like women, children, disabled and elderly people on their experience of using public toilets
- Outlining how Glasgow City Council are improving accessibility for people with mobility issues and people who care for young children who need changing facilities or larger cubicles
- Outlining how Glasgow City Council is complying with requirements of the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 relating to public toilet provision
- Investigating how the City Development Plan can play a part in increasing public toilet provision
- Investigating that all in-house and private suppliers of public toilets are free of charge, removing the 20p cash only charge.

Bring forward the appropriate policy changes to ensure that all future contracts involving outdoor events have sufficient toilets that provide sanitary bins. At present there is no requirement for this. Period dignity should allow for used sanitary products to be disposed of hygienically and without embarrassment."