

# FAREHAM

## BOROUGH COUNCIL

### Report to Streetscene Scrutiny Panel

**Date**                    21 March 2024

**Report of:**            Director of Neighbourhoods

**Subject:**                Motion: Prostate Cancer UK's 'Bins for Boys' Campaign

#### SUMMARY

At the Council meeting on 14 December 2023, Councillor Mrs K Trott presented a Motion in respect of Prostate Cancer UK's 'Bins for Boys' campaign. It was referred to the Streetscene Scrutiny Panel for consideration.

The report outlines the Council's current provision of sanitary waste bins in male public toilets across the Council's own buildings and sets out the implications of supporting the Motion.

#### RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Streetscene Scrutiny Panel:

- (a) agrees that the current trial, as detailed at paragraph 10 of the report, be continued for a period of 12 months; and
- (b) notes that a further report will be brought forward for consideration once the results of the trial are known.

## **INTRODUCTION**

1. On 14 December 2023, Council considered a Notice of Motion presented by Councillor Mrs K Trott in respect of Prostate Cancer UK's 'Bins for Boys' Campaign and resolved:
  1. *That the Executive Member for Streetscene should consider as soon as reasonably practicable the provision of at least one sanitary bin in all Council male toilets, both public and in Council buildings*
  2. *To encourage other providers of public and workplace toilets in our area to make male sanitary bins available in their facilities*
  3. *To support Prostate Cancer UK's 'Boys need Bins' campaign*
  4. *That the Executive Leader should write on behalf of the Council to our local MPs asking them to support Prostate Cancer UK's 'Boys need Bins' campaign and their request for Government to update any necessary regulations to ensure that 'suitable'*
2. The motion was referred to the Streetscene Scrutiny Panel for consideration.

## **BOYS NEED BINS CAMPAIGN**

3. The '*Boys need Bins*' campaign, led by Prostate Cancer UK, aims to raise awareness about male incontinence and the need for sanitary bins in male toilets.
4. Between three and six million people in the UK experience urinary incontinence. 1 in 25 men aged over 40 will experience some form of urinary leakage every year and 1 in 20 men aged 60 and over will experience bowel incontinence in the UK.
5. For these men, the safe and hygienic disposal of incontinence products is important. Men who need to dispose of their sanitary waste (including incontinence pads, pouches, stoma, catheter, colostomy, ileostomy waste by-products) often have no direct access to a sanitary bin in male toilets.
6. The campaign recommends:
  - that new legislation be created for the specific provision of at least one male sanitary bin in male toilets;
  - a national conversation about incontinence, and recognition that men wear pads, pouches, catheters, and stoma/colostomy/ileostomy bags, and the impact this has;
  - a recognition by medical/health care professionals of the mental health and emotional support needs of men as well as practical advice about managing incontinence.

## **PROVISION IN COUNCIL TOILETS**

7. The Council either owns, controls or provides 55 toilet facilities in the Borough. Many already have provision for male sanitary waste disposal.
8. Appendix A sets out the inventory of the Council facilities that have male or unisex toilet

provision, the status for male sanitary bin provision and the gaps in provision.

9. In terms of our public conveniences, our male and/or unisex facilities located at Cliff Road, Monks Hill, Barry's Meadow, Portchester Castle, Holly Hill and Stubbington Centre already have sanitary bin provision. Signage has been placed on the cubicles with the sanitary bin provision to alert potential users.
10. The Council has also been trialling sanitary bins at Wicor Recreation Ground Sports Pavilion and male public toilets in Locks Wood, Locks Heath and Middle Road, Park Gate since February 2024 to assess how well this works and whether they are misused. The purpose of the trial is to see if the placement of sanitary bins at these types of facilities will be respected. Anti-social behaviour and accidental damage occurs infrequently in changing facilities, but our public toilets are a regular target for abuse. It is important through the trial to ascertain the likely frequency of replacement sanitary bin provision in these buildings to be able to fully understand the cost implications of the proposals in the Motion to Council. It is considered appropriate to run this trial for 12 months, as use of our public conveniences is typically higher in the summer months, while sports facilities are typically used more over the winter.
11. Six of our public conveniences and the remainder of our sports pavilions currently have no male sanitary bin provision. In terms of our other public facilities, some sanitary bin provision is currently provided at nine of our Community Centres, but all the Facilities Managers are happy to consider providing them, subject to overcoming issues of additional cost and space requirements. There is sanitary bin provision in the unisex toilet at Westbury Manor Museum and in the accessible toilets at Fareham Shopping Centre. Sanitary bins will be made available in the male toilets at Fareham Live when the new venue opens. There is currently no provision in the male toilets at either Fareham and Holly Hill Leisure Centres but Everyone Active has agreed to make provision available. No male sanitary bin provision is in place at Fareham Shopping Centre Mall, Fareham Innovation Centre, Solent Airport or at our allotments.
12. In terms of our office operational facilities, male sanitary bins are provided in one cubicle in each of the men's toilets in the Civic Offices and in two of the three male toilet facilities at the Broadcut Depot.

### **Costs and Servicing arrangements**

13. Sanitary bins cost around £40 per bin to buy and require regular servicing. Servicing of our public toilets, sports pavilions and satellite depots' sanitary provision is included in the Council's existing corporate cleaning contract with Hi-spec Services. They have agreed to service the additional bins from the current trial free of charge as a goodwill gesture.
14. The Civic Offices are cleaned by the Council's Facilities Team. There is a separate arrangement for sanitary bin provision and servicing is through a private supplier, PHS Group. PHS Group services the four sanitary bins that have been installed within each of the male staff toilet facilities.
15. Several Council owned buildings are leased to and/or managed by external organisations. These include Community Centres, Leisure Centres, Fareham Shopping Centre, the Innovation Centre, Solent Airport and allotments buildings. These organisations have their own arrangements in place for waste disposal and sanitary bin provision and would therefore bear the costs of any additional provision.

16. It should be noted that the Council has not received any request for male sanitary bin provision in its toilet facilities, although we have had a request for a ladies' sanitary bin in one of our sports pavilions. Sports pavilions typically have more changing and toilet facilities than, for example, a toilet block.

### **OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

17. The Council has also asked the Panel to consider encouraging other providers of public and workplace toilets in our area to make male sanitary bins available in their facilities, to support Prostate Cancer UK's **'Boys need Bins'** campaign and to consider the benefits of writing to our local MPs asking them to support the campaign, specifically to update any necessary regulations.

18. This could be easily achieved through a letter to our MPs and media release with a quotation from the Executive Member for Streetscene to assert the Council's support for the **'Boys need Bins'** campaign and to encourage other providers of public and workplace toilets in our area to make male sanitary bins available.

19. However, Members may wish to wait until the current trial concludes so that the Council's own approach is clearer.

### **FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

20. To install one sanitary bin in each block of male toilets or single cubicle as per the gap analysis in Appendix 1 would cost an initial £1,300 to purchase the additional bins and a further £2,500 per annum, split between various Council service budgets, to regularly service the bins and cover the cost of any replacement bins that are damaged or reach the end of their use.

### **RISK ASSESSMENT**

21. There are no significant risk considerations in relation to this report.

### **CONCLUSION**

22. The financial implications required to support the Motion are small but would nevertheless be an additional initial and ongoing budget pressure at a time the Council is trying to reduce expenditure. There is already male sanitary provision in several of our toilet facilities and there is a trial in place to assess not only demand and usage but also the extent of deliberate or accidental damage that might occur.

**Appendices:**

## Appendix A – FBC Toilet facilities inventory & current sanitary bin provision

### **Reference Papers:**

[Lifting the lid on male incontinence](#) Prostate Cancer UK 2023

### **Background Papers:**

None

### **Enquiries:**

For further information on this report please contact Mick Gore 01329 824459