

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Countryside and Regulatory Services
Date:	11 March 2024
Title:	Prostate Cancer UK Campaign – ‘Boys Need Bins’
Report From:	Director of Universal Services

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Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to consider the provision of sanitary bins in male toilets in Hampshire County Council buildings, in support of Prostate Cancer UK’s ‘Boys Need Bins’ campaign.

Recommendations

2. That the Executive Member for Countryside and Regulatory Services approves the roll out of sanitary bins in all cubicles in male toilets in Hampshire County Council buildings used by both staff and the public, in support of Prostate Cancer UK’s ‘Boys Need Bins’ Campaign.
3. That the Executive Member for Countryside and Regulatory Services approves the associated increase of £6,550 in annual spend on Waste Services to be drawn from existing service budgets within Chief Officer Delegations.

Executive Summary

4. This paper seeks to outline the reasons behind the decision to approve the roll out of sanitary bins in male toilets in Hampshire County Council buildings.
 - a. On 28 September 2023 the County Council notice of motion (item 11) was submitted, raising awareness of prostate cancer, the most common cancer in men. 1 in 8 men will be diagnosed, rising to 1 in 4 for Black men. As many as 69% of those treated with surgery may experience urinary incontinence as a result.
 - b. Research shows that men who need to dispose of their sanitary waste, often have no direct access to a sanitary bin in male toilets.
 - c. The Council believes that men should be able to safely and hygienically dispose of incontinence products easily and with dignity wherever they go, and that men who need to dispose of their sanitary waste should have direct access to a sanitary bin in male toilets.

5. Officers have identified the number of cubicles in male toilets in Hampshire County Council buildings where a sanitary bin would need to be provided. On the assumption that these numbers will not change significantly, the cost of this proposal amounts to an increase of £6,550 against existing waste services on the managed estate as noted at paragraph 10.
6. The next steps would be to instruct our sanitary waste contractor to deliver bins to the relevant sites and as there is an existing commercial waste contract in place, there is no further procurement required.

Contextual information

7. Following the County Council notice of motion (item 11) submitted on 28 September 2023, Officers have identified the number of cubicles in male toilets in Hampshire County Council buildings where a sanitary bin would need to be provided.
8. An assumption has been made that accessible and unisex toilets or cubicles already have a sanitary bin provided.
9. Buildings identified do not include schools, or buildings managed by our partners. There is a potential to extend this proposal to include the 476 schools who are part of the existing commercial waste contract. Future consideration will be given for these schools to opt in to include sanitary bins for male cubicles.
10. A summary of the number of bins proposed to be provided in Council buildings is provided below:

Service the building is managed by	Number of bins required
Facilities Management (staff offices)	100
Countryside	28
Outdoor Centres	22
Children’s Services	16
Adults Health & Care	16
Libraries	14
Highways	6
Total	202

Finance

11. On the assumption that these numbers will not change significantly, the cost of this proposal amounts to £6,550 at current rates and will be an ongoing annual charge for provision, collection and emptying of the bins. Funding will be drawn from existing budgets by the relevant services listed in paragraph 10 above.
12. It is anticipated that this action would deliver some cost avoidance elsewhere in maintenance budgets (linked to blockages) by making provision for appropriate disposal (rather than flushing) of these products.

13. Taking into account the requirement for men to be able to dispose of incontinence products easily and with dignity wherever they go, as well as the anticipated cost avoidance elsewhere, it has been assessed that the provision of a bin in every male cubicle is a cost effective proposal.

Consultation and Equalities

14. The Equalities Impact Assessment has identified that the increased provision of sanitary bins in male toilets would overall have a positive impact on the following protected characteristics for both staff and the public by improving access to facilities and services: age, disability, race, sex, gender reassignment, poverty and rurality. No negative impacts were identified.
15. Neither consultation nor engagement has been carried out, nor is intended in relation to this proposal.

Climate Change Impact Assessments

16. Hampshire County Council utilises two decision-making tools to assess the carbon emissions and resilience of its projects and decisions. These tools provide a clear, robust, and transparent way of assessing how projects, policies and initiatives contribute towards the County Council's climate change targets of being carbon neutral and resilient to the impacts of a 2°C temperature rise by 2050. This process ensures that climate change considerations are built into everything the Authority does.
17. The provision of more sanitary bins is not anticipated to have any impact on carbon emissions or levels of resilience to climate change for the organisation.

Conclusions

18. As outlined in this report, the benefits of this proposal include; raising awareness of prostate cancer, allowing men to dispose of sanitary waste with dignity, the positive equalities impact and its cost-effectiveness. It is therefore recommended that sanitary bins are provided in all male cubicles in County Council buildings.

REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Strategic Plan

Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:	no
People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:	yes
People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:	no
People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:	yes

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:	
County Council, 181 Notice of Motion (item 11) https://democracy.hants.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=163&MId=10799	<u>28 September 2023</u>
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives	
<u>Nil</u>	

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

Document

Location

None

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT:

1. Equality Duty

The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by or under the Act with regard to the protected characteristics as set out in section 4 of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation);
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (see above) and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant characteristic connected to that characteristic;
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

2. Equalities Impact Assessment:

An Equalities Impact Assessment has been carried out, identifying that the increased provision of sanitary bins in male toilets would overall have a positive impact on the following protected characteristics for both staff and the public by improving access to facilities and services: age, disability, race, sex, gender reassignment, poverty and rurality. No negative impacts were identified.