

## REQUEST FOR THE PROVISION OF PUBLIC TOILETS IN THE AREA AROUND UXBRIDGE UNDERGROUND AND BUS STATIONS

<b>Cabinet Member(s)</b>	Councillor Jonathan Bianco
<b>Cabinet Portfolio(s)</b>	Finance, Property and Business Services
<b>Officer Contact(s)</b>	Robert Williams - Residents Services
<b>Papers with report</b>	None
<b>Reason for urgency</b>	To ensure the necessary information is available to the Cabinet Member and petitioners for the meeting.

### HEADLINE INFORMATION

<b>Summary</b>	To inform the Cabinet Member that the Council has received a petition from residents of the Borough requesting that toilet facilities be provided in the Uxbridge Underground and Bus Station area.
<b>Contribution to our plans and strategies</b>	Putting our Residents first: Our built environment.
<b>Financial Cost</b>	There are no costs associated with the recommendations to this report.
<b>Relevant Policy Overview Committee</b>	Corporate Services & Partnerships Social Services, Housing & Public Health
<b>Ward(s) affected</b>	Uxbridge North

### RECOMMENDATIONS

#### Meeting with the Petitioners, the Cabinet Member:

1. Considers the issues raised and advises of the issues involved with providing new facilities in the requested area;
2. Instructs officers to lobby both TfL and London Underground for the re-opening of the public toilets in the underground station;
3. If so minded after the hearing, instructs officers to compile a further report, with options for consideration, including the compilation of a list of publicly available toilet facilities, with times of opening and including the identification of facilities for disabled users.

## **Reasons for recommendations**

The petition hearing will provide a valuable opportunity to hear directly from the petitioners about their concerns and suggestions.

Lobbying for the reopening of the toilets in the underground station is in the interest of residents.

Many residents may not appreciate where alternative facilities may be available in the town centre.

## **Alternative options considered / risk management**

None at this stage.

## **Policy Overview Committee comments**

None at this stage.

## **INFORMATION**

### The Petition

A valid petition with 35 signatures from residents of the Borough has been received. On the petition template, the lead petitioner states the petition topic to be "*The absence of toilets in the vicinity of Uxbridge Bus and Underground Stations*". The lead petitioner indicates that the desired outcome is "*The installation of toilets to serve the above area. L.T are at present refusing to re-open the existing facilities in the underground station*".

The Uxbridge station area is a busy bus, taxi and underground inter-change. Some of the people using the interchange may be in the middle of a long journey and in need of toilet facilities. The public toilets in the underground station have been closed for some time. Unfortunately, this is common with such public access facilities, owing to costs arising from anti-social behaviour and vandalism that sometimes occurs.

The Council provides public toilets across the Borough. Owing to problems with anti-social behaviour and vandalism, provision in town centres and business areas is now largely limited to automated public convenience (APC) type units. These units need to be located on a suitable plot of highway or Council controlled land of sufficient size and with reasonable access to a foul sewer, a water supply and electricity supplies. Installation of any such unit requires planning permission and the unit must be positioned in such a way as to not inconvenience or endanger users of the highway.

It is most unlikely that a suitable location would be found in the small town centre area, owing to the differing private land ownerships and the limited pedestrian space available. In a busy and highly developed commercial setting, running new service connections underground to such a unit can also be very challenging, owing to the concentration of many critical underground services, such as telecommunications, cable TV, fibre, water, gas and electricity supplies.

The area immediately outside the Underground Station is owned in part by London Underground and there are a number of cafes with outdoor seating in this area. Even if a space could be found, it is highly unlikely that a unit could be installed without strong objections from town centre businesses. The public area of the bus station has limited pavement widths and thus siting a unit there would be even less practicable owing to the need to preserve adequate pavement widths for pedestrians.

The open and public nature of the town centre presents privacy concerns and the toilet would inevitably be in view of passers-by, and users of the local cafes and restaurants. This could possibly deter some people from openly making use of the facility.

#### Alternative Existing Town Centre Provision

There are public toilets in both nearby shopping centres; The Chimes and The Pavilions. During trading hours people may use these facilities. Many fast food outlets, coffee shops, pubs and some larger shops also have free toilet facilities and these will often remain open for longer than the two shopping centres. The Council provides toilet facilities in the nearby Uxbridge Library, which is located in the High Street, around 75 yards away. The library is open at weekends.

#### **Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications associated with the recommendations to this report. If expenditure of any kind is subsequently required, suitable funding will need to be identified in accordance with financial processes.

#### **EFFECT ON RESIDENTS, SERVICE USERS & COMMUNITIES**

##### **What will be the effect of the recommendation?**

To allow the Cabinet Member an opportunity to discuss the petitioner's concerns in detail.

##### **Consultation Carried Out or Required**

None at this stage.

#### **CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

##### **Corporate Finance**

Corporate Finance has reviewed this report and confirms that there are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations above.

##### **Corporate Property and Construction**

There are no Corporate Property and Construction implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

## **Legal**

In considering any informal consultation responses, decision makers must ensure there is a full consideration of all representations arising including those which do not accord with the officer recommendation. The decision maker must be satisfied that responses from the public are conscientiously taken into account.

Should there be a decision that further measures are to be considered then the relevant statutory provisions will have to be identified and considered. If specific advice is required, Legal Services should be consulted.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Petition.