

Record of officer decision

Decision title:	Closure of Public Toilets in Herefordshire
Date of decision:	1 April 2020
Decision maker:	Director for Economy and Place
Authority for delegated decision:	Council constitution Section 3.7.9 – All necessary decisions in the case of an emergency.
Ward:	All wards
Consultation:	The Cabinet Member Assets, Contracts and Procurement, and the Cabinet Member Corporate Services have both been consulted and were supportive of the decision
Decision made:	To close all public toilets in Herefordshire with immediate effect until it is determined that they are safe to re-open, which will be subject to a weekly review
Reasons for decision:	<p>Given the present Covid19 emergency an assessment has concluded that the continued use of public toilets represents an unacceptable risk to the public and contracted cleaning staff.</p> <p>Toilet paper and soap are being taken from the toilets rendering them unhygienic and unsafe to use as hand washing cannot be undertaken</p> <p>It is not possible to constantly restock toilets to ensure they are useable given the frequency of theft and national shortages of toilet paper and soap Cleaning staff are concerned for their safety and welfare</p> <p>Local Police officers have challenged why the toilets remain open as the availability of these facilities can be seen to encourage the public to not stay at home</p> <p>Therefore on the grounds of safety the public toilets should close as soon as possible</p>
Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:	Given the current national lockdown, there are no associated risks. Whilst there will be some savings on stock replacement there are no significant financial implications.
Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:	<p>Keep the toilets open – rejected on the grounds of safety.</p> <p>Monitor the stock of toilet paper and soap throughout each day and re-supply – rejected as there is not the human resource available to frequently check each day and available stocks are limited.</p> <p>Open the toilets for a limited period each day – rejected as this will not address the safety issue.</p>
Details of any declarations of interest made:	None

Signed

Director for Economy & Place

1 April 2020

