



# COTSWOLD

## District Council

Council name	<b>COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL</b>
Name and date of Committee	<b>OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 1 DECEMBER 2025</b>
Subject	<b>PUBLIC CONVENIENCE UPDATE</b>
Wards affected	All
Accountable member	Cllr Paul Hodgkinson, Cabinet Member for Health, Culture and Visitor Experience Email: <a href="mailto:paul.hodgkinson@cotswold.gov.uk">paul.hodgkinson@cotswold.gov.uk</a>
Accountable officer	Claire Locke, Executive Director Email: <a href="mailto:Democratic@Cotswold.gov.uk">Democratic@Cotswold.gov.uk</a>
Report author	Maria Wheatley, Parking Manager Email: <a href="mailto:Democratic@Cotswold.gov.uk">Democratic@Cotswold.gov.uk</a>
Summary/Purpose	To provide and update on the public conveniences
Annexes	Annex A -Updated actions and progress
Recommendation(s)	That Overview and Scrutiny resolves to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Note actions and progress since 6 May 2025 (Annex A)</li><li>2. That the Committee notes the report and agrees any recommendations it wishes to submit to Cabinet</li></ol>
Corporate priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Delivering Good Services</li><li>• Supporting Communities</li></ul>
Key Decision	NO
Exempt	NO
Consultees/ Consultation	The Leader of the Council, The Cabinet Member for Health, Culture and Visitor Experience, The Chief Executive and Deputy Chief Executive Officer, The Monitoring Officer, Head of Legal, The Finance Business Partner, The Executive Director.



## **1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND BACKGROUND**

- 1.1** The Council provides eleven public convenience facilities which are open to the public for 364 days of the year. The provision of public conveniences remains a discretionary service.
- 1.2** During 2023 the Overview and Scrutiny Committee established a Public Conveniences Review Group. The group reviewed all public convenience sites and reported back to Cabinet 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024. The report included recommendations to provide a balance between continued provision of good quality facilities and reducing the financial burden on the council.
- 1.3** At the Overview and Scrutiny meeting 6 May 2025 the actions to date were reported against the eleven recommendations. Of the eleven recommendations, five had been completed, one was on-going, and one is pending the next budget review. The remaining recommendations related to introducing charges at the four free sites, replacing the paddle gates in Bourton on the Water, placing signs at all sites explaining the reasons for charging and encouraging key partners to make their toilets available to the public.

## **2. INTRODUCING CHARGING AT FOUR FREE LOCATIONS – Annex A recommendation 5.**

- 2.1** The four free sites were West Street in Tetbury, Chipping Campden, Lechlade and Northleach.
- 2.2** The introduction of charging can only be achieved if the door mechanisms are compatible with the charging mechanism and robust enough to prevent forced entry. Therefore, new doors and mechanisms were required to enable card and coin payments.
- 2.3** New doors have been installed at all four sites and charging has been introduced at all sites except Northleach. The Council is in dialogue with Northleach Town Council regarding charging and the future management of public conveniences in the town.



**3. REPLACE PADDLE GATES AT BOURTON ON THE WATER – Annex A recommendation 6.**

- 3.1** To enter and exit the facilities at Church Rooms and Rissington Road users do so via paddle gates. There is a charge for each person to enter the gates with card or coin.
- 3.2** There is a separate free access for the disabled unit at both sites.
- 3.3** The paddle gates were in a very poor state of repair, and it was not possible to extend their life through further repairs. Both sets of paddle gates have now been replaced.

**4. SIGNS EXPLAINING CHARGING - Annex A recommendation 9.**

- 4.1** This recommendation is now complete.
- 4.2** There are signs at all locations explaining that the service is not statutory, and that the contribution from customers helps to offset the cost of provision.

**5. ENCOURAGE KEY PARTNERS TO MAKE THEIR FACILITIES AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC - Annex A recommendation 11.**

- 5.1** This recommendation was for the Council to encourage key partners such as town and parish councils and local businesses to make their toilets available for public use and to register their toilets on popular public toilet apps.
- 5.2** After careful consideration, the Chair of the Task and Finish Group advised officers that this recommendation did not need to be pursued. There are not sufficient staff resources to drive this initiative forward. However, any businesses wishing to sign up to Apps offering their facilities can do so.

**6. CONCLUSION**

- 6.1** All recommendations requiring action have now been satisfied.

**7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1** There are no financial implications arising directly from this report. The Council will consider any changes to net service costs as part of the 2026/27 Revenue Budget when presented to Cabinet and Council in February 2026.

**8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1** There are no known legal implications.



## **9. RISK ASSESSMENT**

- 9.1** There are no known risks as the recommendations are for Overview and Scrutiny to note actions and progress.

## **10. EQUALITIES IMPACT**

- 10.1** There are no unacceptable adverse effects on the protected characteristics covered by the Equalities Act that have been identified.

## **11. CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 11.1** None identified.

## **12. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 12.1** The following documents have been identified by the author of the report in accordance with section 100 D.5(a) of the Local Government Act 1972 and are listed in accordance with section 100 D.1(a) for inspection by members of the public:

- Cabinet report 1 February 2024, (Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees Public Conveniences Review Group.
- Overview and Scrutiny Committee 6 May 2025

- 12.2** These documents will be available for inspection online at [www.cotswold.gov.uk](http://www.cotswold.gov.uk) or by contacting democratic services [democratic@cotswold.gov.uk](mailto:democratic@cotswold.gov.uk) for a period of up to 4 years from the date of the meeting.

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