

MEMBER'S WRITTEN QUESTION



Member submitting the question: George Wheeler

Date received by Chief Exec's Business Support:
ChiefExecutiveBusinessSupportUnit@plymouth.gov.uk

To the Cabinet Member for: The question is about the capital programme so I think it is directed to the Leader.

Question: My question relates to the capital programme and the provision of public toilets at St Budeaux Square.

Could you tell me when the public toilet block at St Budeaux Square is to be demolished and the new one provided, please?

In autumn 2019, the St Budeaux councillors were approached by Cllr Lowry, the Cabinet Member for Finance, with a proposal to close the toilet block on St Budeaux Square which was in a very bad condition. It was suggested that the new library would offer a replacement facility. While it was agreed that the current block was in a deplorable condition and should be demolished, it was not agreed that the library offered an adequate alternative as it was not always open.

In October 2020, the toilets were locked as an interim pandemic measure. I received a complaint from a disabled constituent with continence problems. She relied on access to the toilets when she did her shopping and without it, she would be unable to look after herself. She was not the only one. It was agreed that the disabled unit would be unlocked so it could be used. That remains the position now.

In the last financial year, the three St Budeaux councillors, Cllr Haydon, Cllr Winter and myself contributed £10,500 towards the new facility from our community grant funding.

I have heard nothing definite since the change in administration last May and I would be grateful if you could tell me when demolition and replacement will be undertaken.

Last July, I noticed a Government fund which could support the cost of the replacement cubicles and brought this to the Council's attention, details are attached.

Answer:

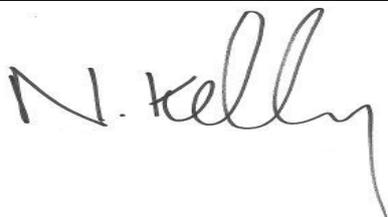
Thank you for your question.

A condition survey is being undertaken in respect of PCC's Corporate Estate and the provision of public toilets is part of this programme. As you may be aware £24M has been made available within the Capital Programme to repair and maintain the Council's Estate. Once approval for the plan of works is agreed, I anticipate that work will begin in June/July.

I would like to thank you and your colleagues for contributing your community grant funding totalling £10,500 however this is not sufficient to rebuild the toilets at St Budeaux Square or to enable works to commence outside of the wider Capital Programme.

Changing Places funding is available to provide facilities that will enable people with disabilities, their families and carers to have better access to recreational activities. Locations recommended include parks, open spaces, and tourist attractions for example

Bids had to be submitted by 26 September 2021. PCC submitted a bid for two facilities; one at Victoria Park which is in a deprived area of the City and a well-used park that has had circa £100K of investment from National Infrastructure to make this a suitable location for individuals with disabilities and their families. The other bid sought funding to support a project at Central Park to provide respite and day care for adults with disabilities. One of the project aims is to hire out accessible bikes etc. to parks users and a Changing Places toilet would support this. We are still waiting for a decision regarding our submission and I will update Members once this is received.



Signed:

Date: 11 February 2022

Written questions:

- must be submitted to the Monitoring Officer via the Chief Exec's Business Support
- will be replied to within 10 working days
- will be published on the last Friday of each month
- The completed form should be sent to ChiefExecutiveBusinessSupportUnit@plymouth.gov.uk or by post to Chief Exec's Business Support, Ballard House, West Hoe Road, Plymouth PL1 3BJ