

Scrutiny review scoping proposal

- 1** **What is the review?**

Access to Toilets
- 2** **What outcomes could realistically be achieved?
Which agency does the review seek to influence?**

A Southwark Toilet Strategy
- 3** **When should the review be carried out/completed? i.e.
does the review need to take place before/after a certain time?**

Completed by 2024
- 4** **What format would suit this review? (eg full
investigation, q&a with executive member/partners,
public meeting, one-off session)**
- 5** **What are some of the key issues that you would like
the review to look at?**

**Understanding the impact limited provision is having
on older people's mobility and other groups, such as
disabled people**

Developing a council toilet strategy
- 6** **Who would you like to receive evidence and advice
from during the review?**

GLA <https://www.london.gov.uk/press-releases/assembly/the-toilet-paper-improving-londons-loos>

Age **UK** <https://www.ageuk.org.uk/bp->

[assets/globalassets/london/campaigns/out-and-about/london-loos-in-focus---local-authority-toilet-strategies.pdf](#)

Tinkle <https://tinkle.rca.ac.uk/resource/1179/>

7 **Any suggestions for background information? Are you aware of any best practice on this topic?**

Background:

Southwark Community Toilet scheme

<https://www.southwark.gov.uk/business/join-the-community-toilet-scheme>

Map of Toilets

<https://www.southwark.gov.uk/environment/public-toilets>

July Council Assembly Question:

“QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM
COUNCILLOR MARIA LINFORTH-HALL

According to the Southwark council’s website, the council currently maintains around 30 public toilets across the borough, but the map is not up to date, with some appearing on it having since closed. Groups such as Age UK, the Royal Society for Public Health, and the Campaign for Public Infrastructure have highlighted the crucial need for these facilities both for vulnerable groups and the wider public benefit.

Better provision of public toilets provides convenience to all, but significantly helps to provide dignity for those with chronic illnesses, as well as the elderly and pregnant people. By providing greater access to public spaces, this also serves to boost local businesses and markets, as more people will have confidence to leave the house for extended periods of time without worrying about such basic needs as toilet access.

1. In which team, in which department, does the responsibility for toilets sit within the council?
2. Will the council commit to increasing the number of public toilets?
3. Why has the programme to proactively approach

businesses for the community toilet scheme not been re-started after covid?

RESPONSE

Within the council there are several teams that have responsibility for different elements of public toilet provision. These include waste and cleansing, the Local Economy Team and parks and leisure. The council does provide public access to toilets, but the greatest number of toilets are in commercial buildings and businesses. We therefore work with business owners to maximise the number of toilets that are made available for public use, and will continue to do so. We particularly support the increase in toilets which are fully accessible under the accredited Changing Places scheme. These provide larger than average facilities for adults and children where privacy and dignity can be maintained for individuals (and their carers if relevant). In addition to the Changing Places provision that was installed for public use in the Castle Leisure Centre, a Changing Places toilet has just been installed in Peckham Pulse Leisure Centre. The new Canada Water Leisure Centre will also have a Changing Places facility, and installation of a further Changing Places facility is in progress in Dulwich Park. Toilets are an essential feature of our streets, public buildings and parks, making life comfortable for our residents when travelling and working across the borough. We continue to review public toilet provision and consider new areas where there is need.”

8

What approaches could be useful for gathering evidence? What can be done outside committee meetings?

e.g. verbal or written submissions, site visits, mystery-shopping, service observation, meeting with stakeholders, survey, consultation event