



Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Public Toilet Strategy 2020

The Council operates and maintains thirty-one publicly accessible toilets, and these are strategically located across the district.

There is a significant variance in the style and types of facilities offered. All current units have accessible facilities (for use by less abled user groups) associated with them. Eighteen of the toilet blocks are a brick/tiled construction while the remaining thirteen are primarily aluminium facades covering a central core/block of sanitary appliances.

The Council has no legal responsibility to provide public toilets, however, across the UK and Ireland the provision of a Public Toilet Service has been a Council function. It is for each local authority to determine the level of Public Toilet provision it provides and whether this service is provided free or if a charge is levied on the user of the facility. This Strategy concludes that the Council should continue to provide a Public Toilet Service and that a range of improvements to this service should be considered including increasing provision, reviewing opening hours, functionality, cleaning practices, maintenance, corporate branding and advertising. There is recognition within the Strategy that such improvements whilst having a value, are at a cost, and so consideration on how such costs can be paid for must be considered and agreed as part of any planned improvements.

The Strategy highlights the importance of a Public Toilet Service for the Council's tourist trade. The user experience of the Council's Public Toilets can influence the drive to make Newry, Mourne and Down a cleaner/safer environment for everyone to work in, live in and visit. The Council seeks to make our town centres, shopping areas and visitor attractions more accessible to visitors of all abilities and Public Toilets play an important role in making such places an inviting experience.

Chief Executive, Marie Ward

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The Strategy recommends upgrading and maintaining the majority of the current Public Toilet provision.

The Strategy recommends that the Council adopts a greater focus on the growing range of accessible needs within our communities. Through working with several internal and external groups, the Council can endeavour to address the needs of not just those suffering with a physical handicap, but also be sympathetic to those struggling with other conditions including, Dementia and Autism. The strategy recommends providing a limited number of Changing Places facilities. Changing Places facilities are Public Toilets which are much more spacious than the typical Public Toilet and are designed to accommodate user groups who are unable to use Public Toilets independently.

The Strategy considers whether the Council should only consider its existing thirty- one Public Toilets as being its Public Toilet provision or if it should seek to include other buildings. The Strategy recommends that the Council seek, where appropriate, to widen the scope of what is a Public Toilet to include other buildings in its own ownership, other public-sector buildings and participating private businesses.

The strategy considers a range of new developments and technologies used within Public Toilets across the UK and Ireland.

We would welcome your input to this consultation and invite you to complete this short questionnaire by clicking on the Survey Monkey link below. All information gathered will be used by the Council in determining its agreed Public Toilet Strategy. Please click on the following link to provide feedback in relation to this consultation:

[https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/NMDDC Toilets](https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/NMDDC_Toilets)

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For further information please contact Kevin Scullion, Assistant Director of Facilities Management and Maintenance, via the details below:

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If you prefer to provide your submission via email, then send to kevin.scullion@nmandd.org or write to Kevin Scullion at:

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All submissions to be received by 12 February 2021.

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