

# **Bath and North East Somerset Council - Full Council 17 July 2025**

## **Labour Group Motion on public toilet provision**

### **To be proposed by Cllr Robin Moss**

#### **Council notes that:**

1. Bath attracts over 6 million visitors a year<sup>1</sup> and is one of Britain's most visited cities by overseas tourists<sup>2</sup>
2. Tourism brings over half a billion pounds to our economy<sup>3</sup>
3. Everyone needs to use the loo throughout the day, but for very many people, access to a public toilet can be hard to predict. The Royal Society of Public Health estimates 1 in 5 limit going out and 56% limit fluid intake on purpose, because they're worried about toilet availability.<sup>4</sup>
4. Public toilets are essential for dignity, hygiene and public health. They protect social interaction and related economic activity for many:
  - more than 20% of the population are women of menstruating age<sup>5</sup>
  - urinary incontinence affects roughly 20%<sup>6</sup>
  - one in ten have problems with bowel control<sup>7</sup>
  - disability is "a lot" life-limiting for 6% of residents and "a little" for 10.4%<sup>8</sup>
  - and under-fives make up around 5%.<sup>9</sup>
5. In 2011 B&NES had 27 public toilet sites (B&NES' 2011-2026 Public Toilet Provision Strategy)<sup>10</sup> but its public toilet website says we have just 20 today<sup>11</sup>
6. A quick look on [www.toiletmap.uk](http://www.toiletmap.uk) shows our loos are very few and far between.
7. Most of our public toilets close at 6pm, and many close earlier.
8. B&NES' Public Toilet Provision strategy should be reviewed on a five-yearly basis, so if this motion is passed this should have no budgetary implications.

#### **Council recognises that:**

9. People limit trips when they can't confidently access public toilets – this impacts long-term physical and mental health, the public space and local economy.
10. Our residents, visitors and traders will all benefit from more public toilets.

#### **Council agrees that:**

11. A full review of the Public Toilet Provision Strategy is now needed as the Strategy reaches its end-date. It should:
  - engage with communities and partners to identify gaps and solutions,
  - include a needs assessment, and
  - prioritise better provision of clean, accessible public toilets across B&NES.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/journey-net-zero-public-consultation-january-2022/visitors-and-tourists>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/leisureandtourism/articles/traveltrends/2023>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/journey-net-zero-public-consultation-january-2022/visitors-and-tourists>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.rsph.org.uk/about-us/news/taking-the-p-the-decline-of-the-great-british-public-toilet.html>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.ahpma.co.uk/menstruation-facts-and-figures/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.bbuk.org.uk/continence-problems-in-the-uk/>

<sup>7</sup> Same source

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/SEB%20Population%20%26%20Demography%20Apr25.pdf>

<sup>9</sup> Same source

<sup>10</sup> [https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/public\\_toilets\\_provision\\_strategy\\_-\\_december\\_2011\\_adopted.pdf](https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/public_toilets_provision_strategy_-_december_2011_adopted.pdf)

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/find-public-toilet>