

Report

Report to:	Executive Committee
Date of Meeting:	1 May 2019
Report by:	Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

Subject:	Sanitary Products in Public Buildings
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to

- ♦ update Committee on the position regarding the provision of sanitary products in public buildings

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the content of this report be noted.

3. Background

3.1. The Scottish Government has made a commitment to “increase the number and range of places where sanitary products are available for those who need them”. COSLA and the Scottish Government have worked together to develop a set of Guiding Principles which should be considered when implementing the commitment.

3.2. The remainder of this report covers:-

- ♦ Scottish Government Funding – Section 4
- ♦ Progress to date – Section 5
- ♦ Locations/Practical Arrangements and Procurement – Sections 6 and 7

4. Scottish Government Funding

4.1. The Scottish Government has notified local authorities of funding for the initiative as part of the recent financial settlement. For 2018/2019 across Scotland £1.230 million was allocated, including one-off funding of £0.536 million for set-up costs. In 2019/2020 £2.780 million has been allocated.

4.2. Funding amounts have been calculated based on estimates of up-take for each element (tackling poverty and wider access) and to cover administering the scheme.

4.3. In terms of funding for South Lanarkshire, for 2018/2019, the Council has been notified of £0.078 million funding for January to March 2019. This comprises of £0.031m initial set-up funding, and £0.047 million for products. The SLC full year allocation for 2019/2020 is £0.188 million.

5. Progress to date

- 5.1. Dialogue is taking place between parties to ensure products are available to those that need them. The Council is working with South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture, NHS Lanarkshire and voluntary sector partners including VASLAN.
- 5.2. Discussions have identified that there will be 2 key delivery strands:-
 1. Provision within toilet facilities within:-
 - ◆ SLC and SLLC run properties
 - ◆ NHS Properties
 - ◆ Voluntary Organisation properties
 2. Packaged products to be made available to women vulnerable to period poverty via midwives, health visitors, social workers, local charities and voluntary organisations etc.
- 5.3. Officers will coordinate delivery including regular meetings with key partners to monitor progress and spend. This will ensure that there is consistent provision within the allocated annual budget.

6. Locations and practical arrangements

- 6.1. Officers from Facilities Management, South Lanarkshire Leisure, Education Resources and NHS Lanarkshire have identified some 120 premises across South Lanarkshire that would be suitable for provision of free sanitary products and this number will likely increase once voluntary sector facilities have been added. These facilities include leisure centres, libraries, standalone nurseries and NHS facilities. The key criteria for selection is that the public using these facilities have access to toilet provision. These facilities have been mapped to ensure an appropriate geographical spread, in particular including areas with higher levels of income deprivation. Consideration will also be given to the opening times of facilities. More facilities may be added in time should a need be identified through ongoing dialogue with stakeholders and other interested parties.
- 6.2. There will be a number of operational considerations that will determine exactly how the different methods of provision are dealt with – for example space constraints, storage facilities, and existing vending machines. There will be a variety of approaches on provision depending on the appropriate approach for each of the relevant premises.
- 6.3. An important issue to be addressed relates to equalities – this will mean products not just being available in female toilets, but also in facilities where there are shared gender toilets, unisex toilets.
- 6.4. The monitoring process will in time evidence the level of demand and budget split between the provision of products in toilet facilities and of packaged products to address poverty concerns.
- 6.5. The provision will be available in SLC/SLLC facilities (as a minimum) by 6 May 2019. It is anticipated that provision within NHS facilities, any additional SLC/SLLC facilities identified through the mapping work and within other partner/voluntary sector facilities will be established by summer 2019.

- 6.6. Promotion of the scheme will ensure that the public are aware of the availability of products. Posters and stickers will be used to promote and signpost access to provision within all relevant facilities. There will also be a press campaign and website content to highlight where products will be available from early May 2019.

7. Procurement

- 7.1. For Council and South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture properties, products will be procured in similar ways to other consumables in toilets. Scotland Excel created a framework for washroom supplies (including sanitary products), that went live in October 2018, and has been utilised for the implementation of free sanitary products in schools that commenced in 2018. Other organisations will have their own procurement arrangements, however, benefits of joint procurement will be explored.

8. Employee Implications

- 8.1. There are no employee implications.

9. Financial Implications

- 9.1. The budget for the provision of sanitary products in public buildings will be held and monitored by the Council with distribution of products or funding to partners to fulfil the requirements.

10. Other Implications

- 10.1. There are no implications for risk or sustainability in terms of the information contained in this report.

11. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 11.1. An impact assessment in relation to the sanitary products in public buildings has been undertaken. The assessment identifies positive impacts for women and girls.
- 11.2. Although provision has been available from mid - April 2019 within facilities, ongoing dialogue with stakeholders and other interested parties will ensure the range of facilities and the provision offered meet intended beneficiaries needs.

Paul Manning

Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)

Michael McGlynn

Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

8 April 2019

Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives

- ◆ Accountable, effective, efficient and transparent

Previous References

- ◆ None

List of Background Papers

◆ None

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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