

Members Briefing: Public Conveniences Review

Wednesday 16th July 2025

Agenda

- Introductions
- Background
- Evidence & Benchmarking
- Public Consultation
- Scoring Approach & Savings Proposals
- Process & Next Steps
- Questions

Introductions

- **Cllr Peter Williams** - Executive Member for Environmental Services.
- **Cllr David Palethorpe** – Executive Member for Assets, Economic Development, Major Projects and Communications.
- **Chris Braines** – Head of Environmental Services
- **Tom Phillips** – Head of Assets
- **Amanda Pujol** - Director of Customer Experience and Transformation
- **Tom Pearce** – Project Manager

Background

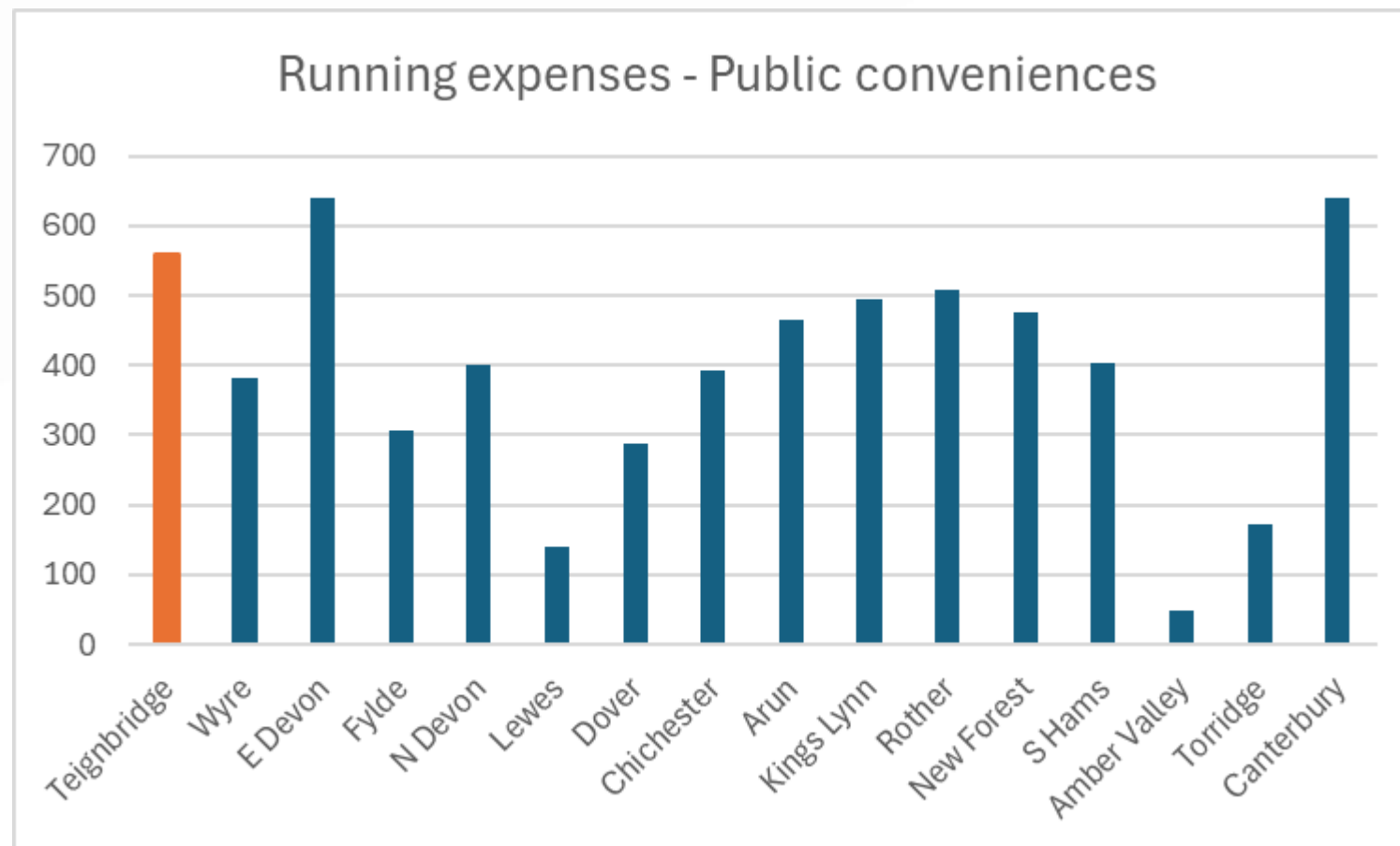
- Public toilet provision is a non-statutory discretionary service.
- Teignbridge District Council currently owns or operates 22 facilities across the district.
- The Modern 25 programme identified the provision of toilets as a high-cost, discretionary service area for review to help meet budget pressures.
- Benchmarking of expenditure against similar authorities identified a greater than average spend.
- The disposal options being considered include the transfer and/or closure of some facilities.

Evidence - Benchmarking

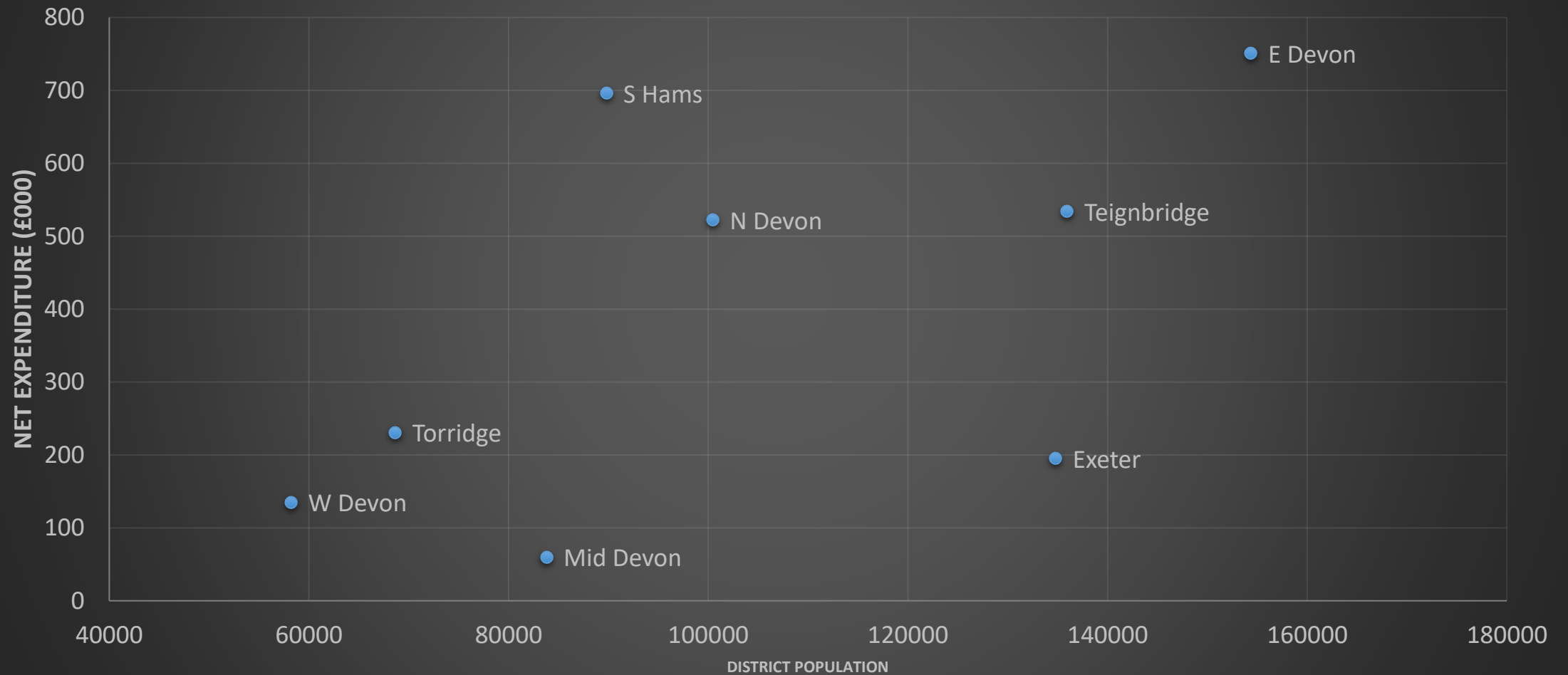
- CIPFA near neighbours
- 23/24 annual cost £000's
- Canterbury and East Devon are in the process of reviewing PC's to make savings.

Source: LGInform

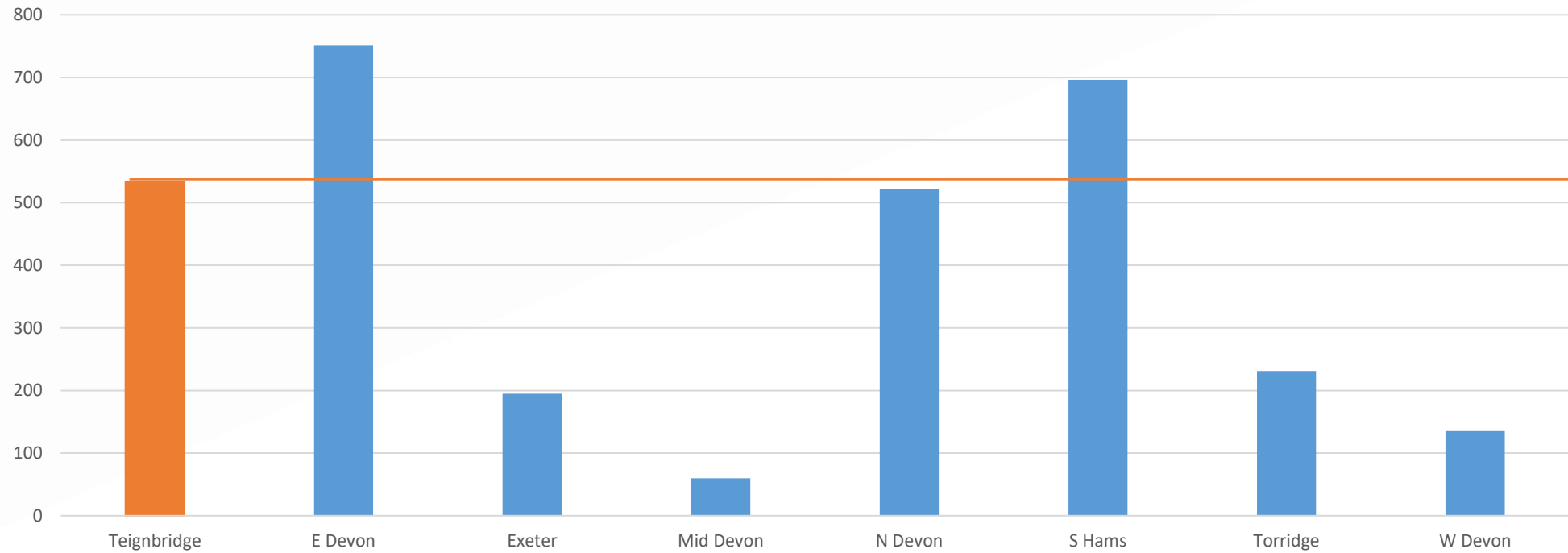
[Running expenses - Public conveniences in Teignbridge | LG Inform](#)



Net Expenditure (£000) on Public Conveniences against Population in Devon Districts



Net Current Expenditure 2023/24 (£000)- Public conveniences



Net Current Expenditure - Public conveniences

GBP (000)

Period	Teignbridge	Minimum spend in the South West	Mean for all districts in South West
2018/19	562	0	288
2019/20	556	0	269
2020/21	513	0	259
2021/22	525	0	254
2022/23	509	0	250
2023/24	534	0	290

[Source: Net Current Expenditure - Public conveniences in Teignbridge | LG Inform](#)

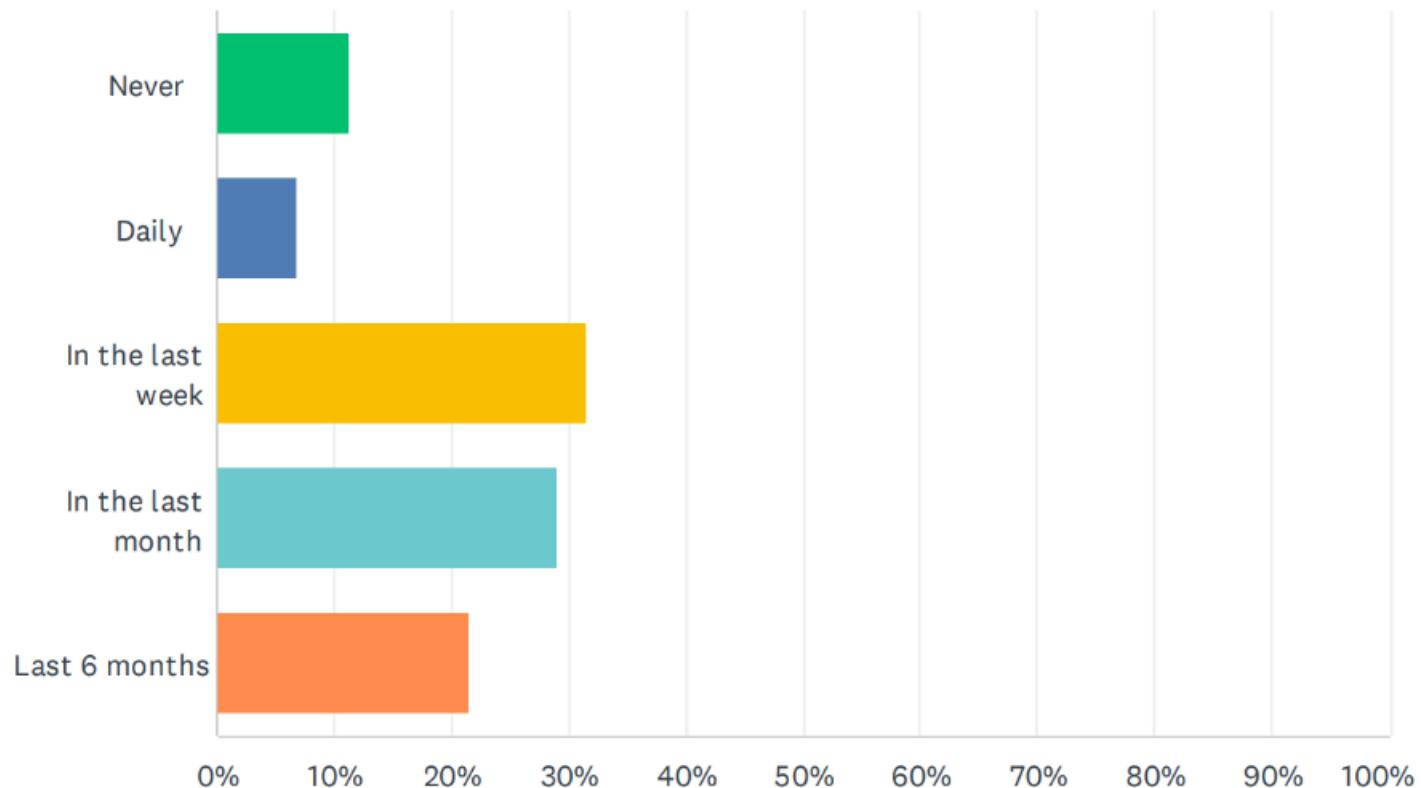


Public Consultation

- Full Council approval 29 October 2024
- 6 week period
- Online survey, paper options, advertised through website and social media, featured in Mid-Devon Advertiser and Devon Live, sent to all T+P Councils, QR codes in all public conveniences and leisure centres.
- Closed and Open questions
- 5577 responses

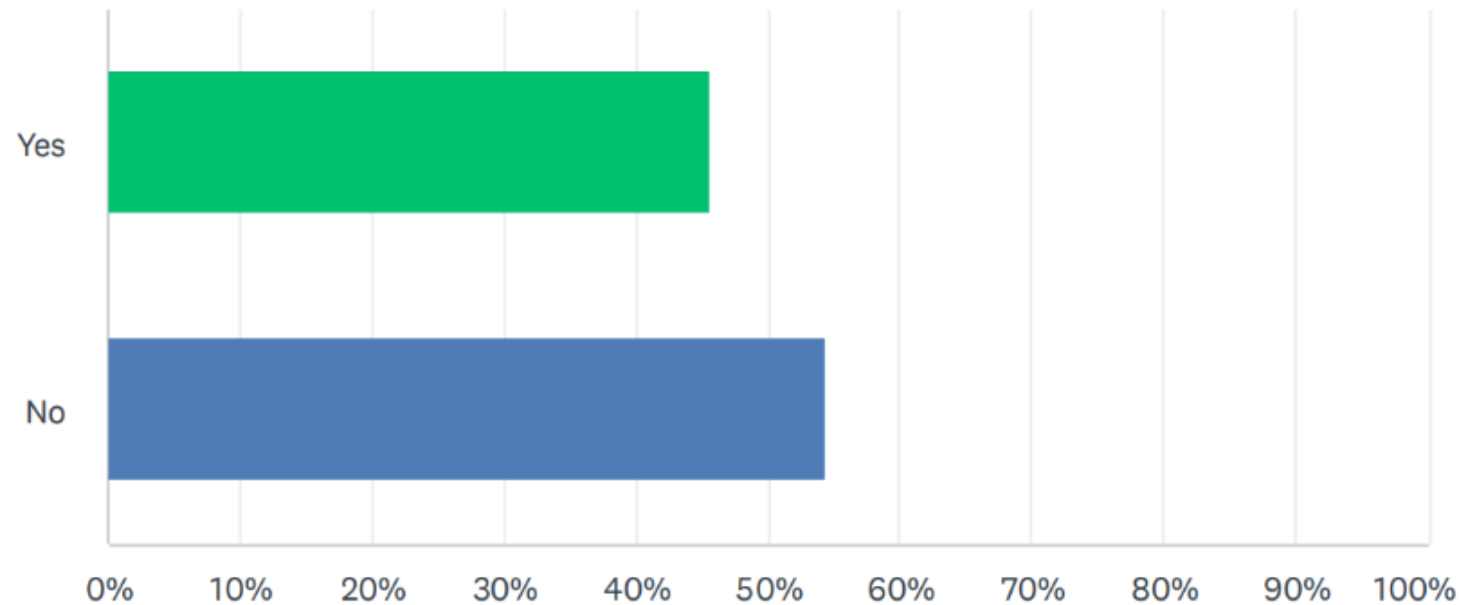
Q4 Do you also use other toilet facilities when they are available to you ? (e.g. shops, cafes, restaurants.)

Answered: 5,577 Skipped: 0



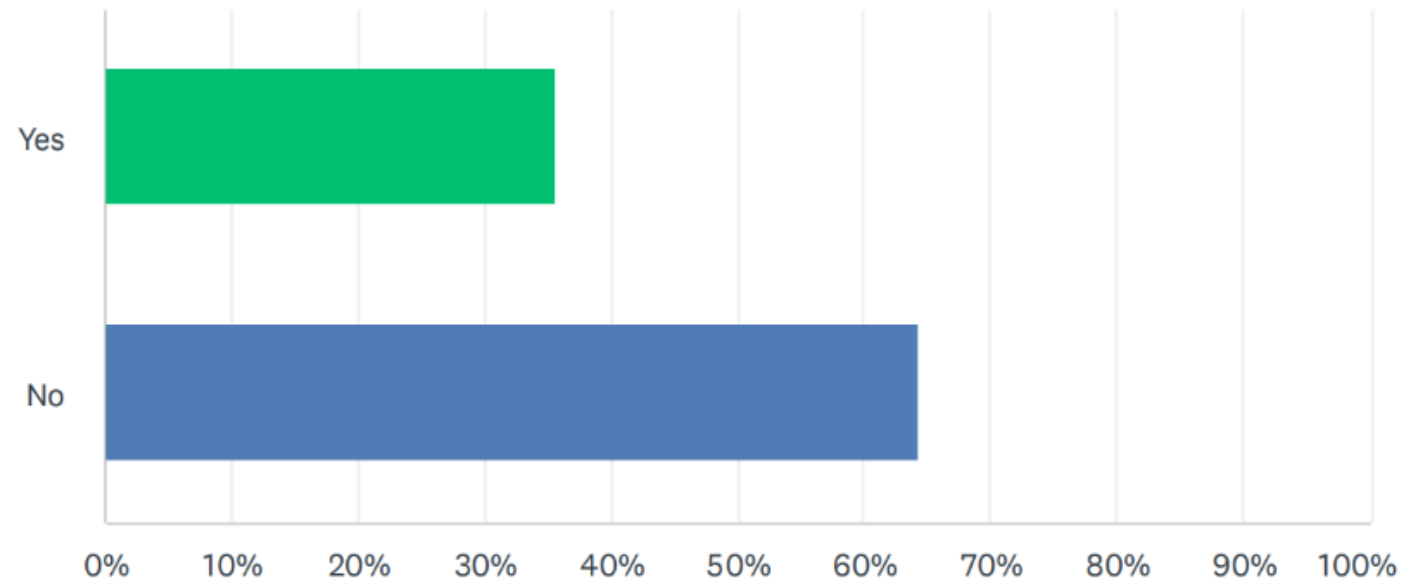
Q5 Would you be prepared to pay to use a Teignbridge public toilet?

Answered: 5,577 Skipped: 0



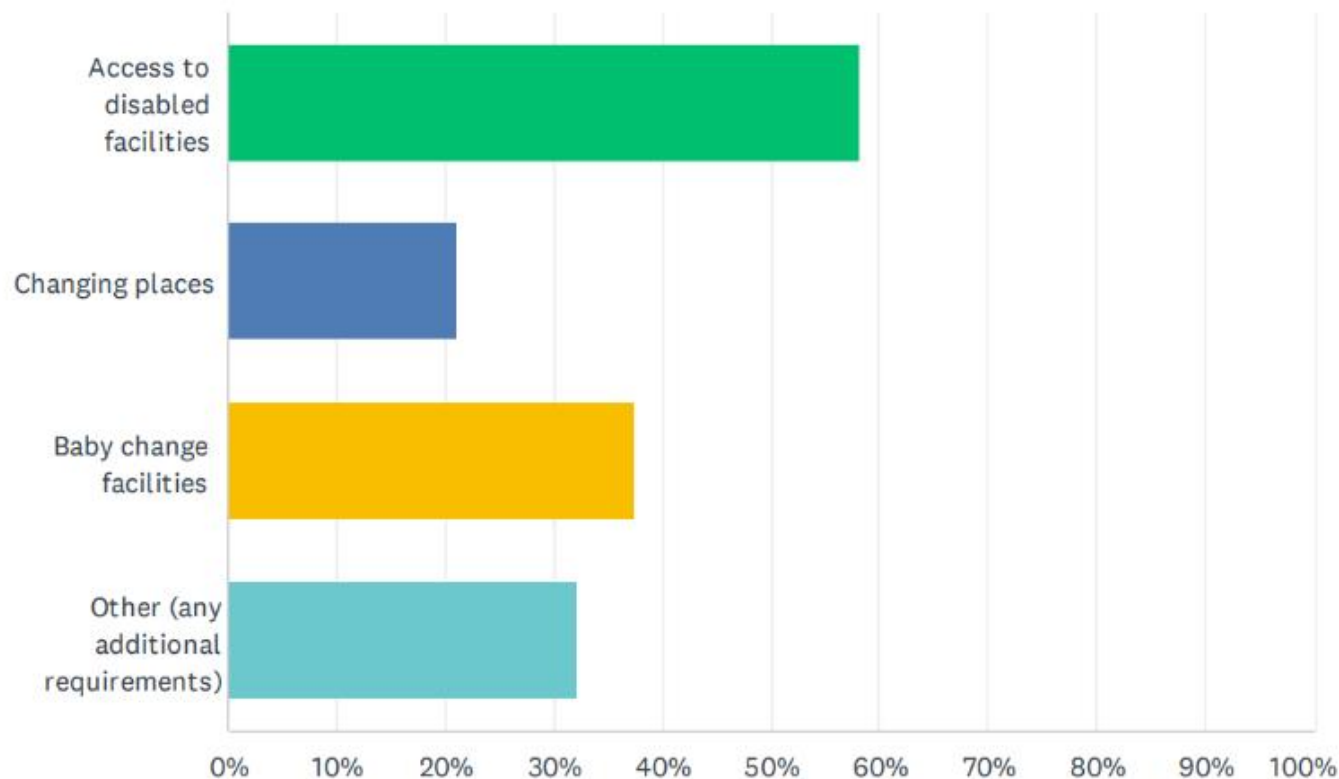
Q9 If you have used alternative facilities, have you experienced difficulty in accessing or using these toilets?

Answered: 5,577 Skipped: 0



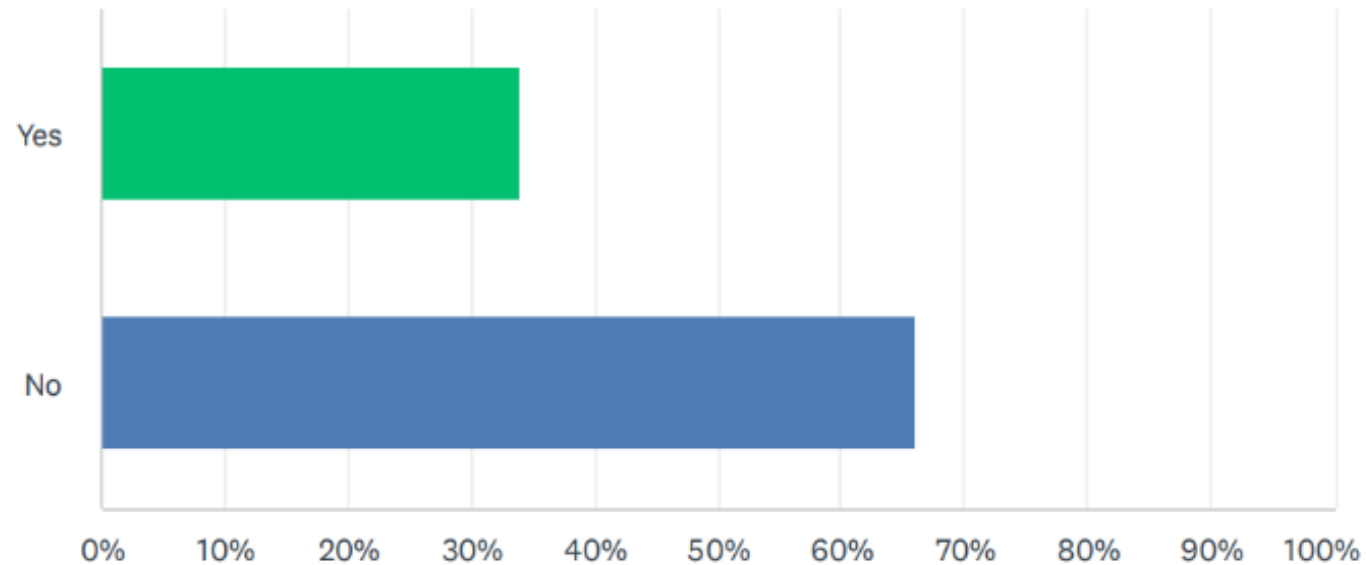
Q11 Are there any needs or requirements for your use of public toilets that you think should be considered as part of this review?

Answered: 3,057 Skipped: 2,520



Q16 Do you have a long term, limiting illness or condition?

Answered: 5,577 Skipped: 0



Scoring Approach & Savings Proposals

A comprehensive assessment of existing public conveniences was undertaken.

Sites were scored against the following three criteria;

- Usage – based on consultation feedback, footfall data and water consumption.
- Costs – factoring in ongoing revenue costs.
- Strategic importance

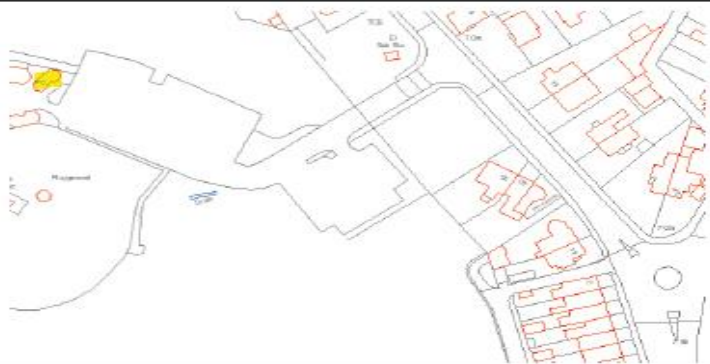
Strategic Importance

Included the following considerations.

- The provision of changing places and disabled facilities
- Facilities linked to other Council owned assets.
- Coverage – accounting for the number of facilities in any given location.
- Liquidity – the anticipated ease of disposal.
- Ownership status.
- Alternative uses including prospect value.

Location Town/Street/Parish

NEWTON ABBOT - DECOY



Usage

Annual Running Costs

1657*

Cleansing Contract
£5,071.00 (2019-20)
£2,320.38 (fixed)

No. of Units

CUBICLES - 4
URINALS - 3
DISABLED - 1
BABY CHANGE - 1

Utility/Maintenance/Other
£10,856.47

Total Annual Cost

£18,247.85

Recommended Option

Dispose/transfer/Introduce charging/
Close and Demolish/No change

Disposal/Transfer/Charging Options

Potential to be incorporated into leisure related uses

Lease/Ownership details:

Freehold

Condition: BABY CHANGE IN MENS/LADIES.

Estimated culmulative cost of maintenance for the next 5 years = £11,400.00

Site Name	Town	Annual Cost Score	Usage Score	Strategic Alignment Score	Overall Score
Boat Cove	Dawlish	3	4	4	11
Dawlish Lawn TIC	Dawlish	1	5	4	10
Dawlish Warren	Dawlish Warren	1	5	4	10
Car Park Beach Road	Dawlish Warren	3	3	4	10
Ness Tunnel	Shaldon	2	4	4	10
Station Road	Newton Abbot	2	3	4	9
Decoy Park	Newton Abbot	2	2	5	9
Kingsbridge Lane	Ashburton	2	5	1	8
Cricketfield Road	Newton Abbot	2	2	4	8
Strand	Starcross	3	4	1	8
Widcombe	Widcombe-in-the-Moor	3	4	1	8
Sandy Lane	Dawlish	4	1	1	6
Barton Hill	Dawlish	2	3	1	6
The Fountain	Kingsteignton	4	1	1	6
Lustleigh	Lustleigh	4	1	1	6
Court Street	Moretonhampstead	3	2	1	6
The Strand	Shaldon	1	3	1	5
Newbridge	Widcombe-in-the-Moor	3	1	1	5
Chudleigh Car Park	Chudleigh	1	2	1	4
Victoria Park	Buckfastleigh	1	1	1	3
Brunswick Street	Teignmouth	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Savings Proposals

The following facilities were considered independently due to their current circumstances.

- **Newton Abbot, Market Walk** – currently closed awaiting Market Walk redevelopment which will include a new public convenience provision.
- **Bakers Park** –recently constructed and already has a charging system installed and linked to a Teignbridge park with a concession opportunity.
- **Teignmouth Point** – Teignmouth Town Council are providing alternative provision in the vicinity.
- **Brunswick Street, Teignmouth** - closed for over a decade. Teignmouth Town Council are providing alternative provision in the vicinity.
- **Newfoundland Way, Newton Abbot** - already Town Council run on an occupational lease.

Savings Proposals

To meet the savings target of £250,000 per year it is proposed that public conveniences scoring 8 or below, and those included in the following table are disposed, through sale or transfer, or closed by April 2027.

We are referring to these as 'In Scope' public conveniences.

The proposals will generate £267,836 of savings per year and contribute to the medium-term financial plan. An equalities Impact assessment has been completed and included with Full Council report.

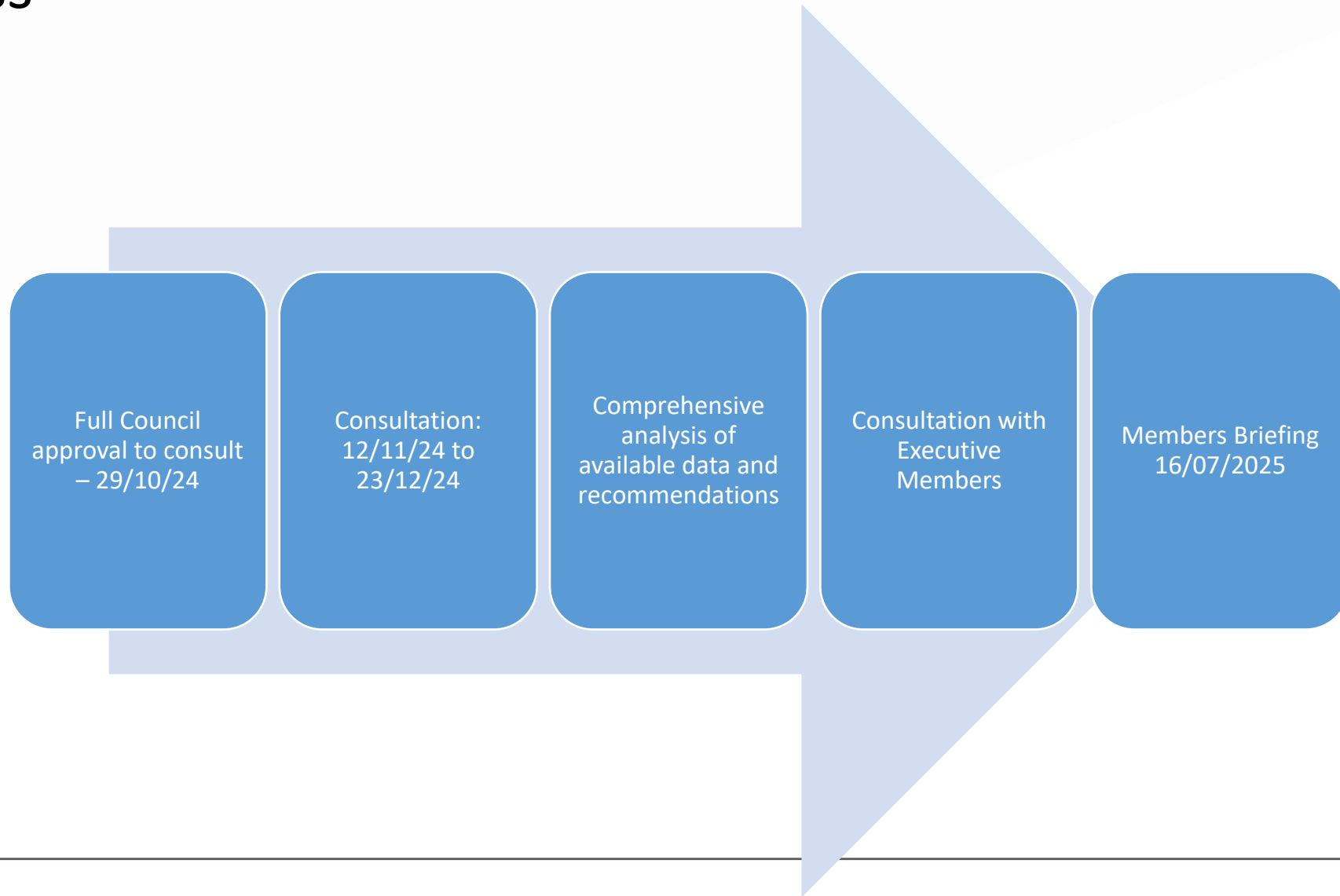
‘In Scope’ Public Conveniences

Facility Location	Score /15	Annual Cost 2024/25
Ashburton Kingsbridge Lane	8	£19,346
Starcross Strand	8	£18,519
Widcombe in-the-Moor	8	£18,200
Newton Abbot Cricketfield Road	8	£17,953
Dawlish Barton Hill	6	£20,017
Moretonhampstead Court Street	6	£17,045
Kingsteignton The Fountain	6	£11,714
Dawlish Sandy Lane	6	£11,330
Lustleigh	6	£11,278
Newbridge Widcombe-in-the-Moor	5	£14,639
Shaldon The Strand	5	£22,150
Chudleigh Car Park	4	£23,761
Buckfastleigh Victoria Park	3	£15,081
Brunswick Street, Teignmouth	Closed for 10+ years	£1,427
Market Walk, Newton Abbot	Linked to redevelopment	£45,376
Teignmouth ‘The Point’	TC Replacement pending	£0
Newfoundland Way, Newton Abbot	Town Council Operated	£0

Town and Parish Considerations

- Precept uncapped
- Proposed timings allow for budget approval process
- Control, ownership, LGR certainty
- Possibility for charging or dual use
- Options to buy into cleansing contract

Process



Next Steps

July 2025

- Authorisation from Full Council to proceed.

Sept-October 2025

- Detailed costing and condition information shared with Town and Parish Councils by second week of October 2025.

November – December
2025

- Consultation with Town and Parish Councils

January 2026

- Town and Parish Precept Setting meetings – initial decisions on transfers

February - March 2026

- Work with Legal and Assets teams to initiate first wave of transfers

April – December 2026

- Negotiations with other third parties to take on ownership or management of these facilities, including exploring dual-use options.

31st March 2027

- Closure of remaining facilities and disposal of buildings in the most economic way.



Questions?

