

The Highland Council

Agenda Item	8
Report No	BSAC-20-24

Committee: Badenoch and Strathspey Area Committee

Date: 25 November 2024

Report Title: Grantown Public Conveniences

Report By: Assistant Chief Executive – Place

1. Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 During the rationalisation of public conveniences (PCs) in 2018 it was agreed that one Council operated PC would remain open in Grantown. At that time the High Street facility remained open, and the Burnfield site closed.
- 1.2 In 2023 there was a successful community asset transfer of the Burnfield PC to the Grantown Initiative and earlier this year the Burnfield PC reopened, being run by the community.
- 1.3 Since then, monitoring of usage at the High Street site has shown reduced footfall and a discussion with Members about the future provision of PCs in Grantown has taken place with the proposal to close the Council operated site and provide support, via the Comfort Scheme, to the community operated facility.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to Agree:
 - i. Closure of the Grantown High Street public convenience from 31st December 2024.
 - ii. Formal disposal of the asset, to allow the Grantown High Street public convenience be marketed for sale.
 - iii. Support a Comfort Scheme with the Grantown Initiative for the Grantown Burnfield public convenience from 1st January 2025 to 31st March 2026.

3. Implications

3.1 Resource

The Council currently operates 74 Public Conveniences throughout the Highlands. The function had a revenue budget of £939k (net). The current cost to operate the Grantown High Street PC is an estimated £10,176 per annum. The total income generated from the site since 2018 was £31,340.36.

Supporting a Comfort Scheme at Grantown Burnfield will cost £200 per month.

3.2 **Legal**

The Council does not have a statutory responsibility to provide or operate Public Conveniences.

3.3 **Risk**

There are no known implications arising from this report.

3.4 **Health and Safety (risks arising from changes to plant, equipment, process, or people)**

There are no known implications arising from this report.

3.5 **Gaelic**

There are no Gaelic implications arising from this report.

4. **Impacts**

4.1 In Highland, all policies, strategies or service changes are subject to an integrated screening for impact for Equalities, Poverty and Human Rights, Children's Rights and Wellbeing, Climate Change, Islands and Mainland Rural Communities, and Data Protection. Where identified as required, a full impact assessment will be undertaken.

4.2 Considering impacts is a core part of the decision-making process and needs to inform the decision-making process. When taking any decision, Members must give due regard to the findings of any assessment.

4.3 **Integrated Impact Assessment - Summary**

4.3.1 An Integrated Impact Assessment screening has been undertaken on 11th November 2024. The conclusions have been subject to the relevant Manager Review and Approval.

4.3.2 The Screening process has concluded that there are negative impacts related to equalities, however these are mitigated by the Burnfield public convenience being supported as a Comfort Scheme and with this site being only 500m away.

4.3.3

Impact Assessment Area	Conclusion of Screening
Equality	Negative impact
Socio-economic	No impact
Human Rights	No impact
Children's Rights and Well being	No impact
Island and Mainland Rural	No impact
Climate Change	No impact
Data Rights	No impact

5. **Background**

5.1 During the 2018 rationalisation of public conveniences (PC) it was agreed that one Council operated PC would remain in the town of Grantown, the High Street facility remained open, and the Burnfield facility closed on the 31 October 2018.

- 5.2 Following a successful Community Asset Transfer (CAT) to the Grantown Initiative in November 2023 the Burnfield PC was reopened after significant refurbishment by the community. The facility was given a new layout, new doors, windows, lighting and plumbing. There were also baby changing facilities installed in the gents, ladies and disabled areas.
- 5.3 The Burnfield PC operates daily from 6.30am to 11pm, with a 50p entrance fee and all funds raised go towards the maintenance and management of the toilets.
- 5.4 Since the reopening of the Burnfield PC the Council have been monitoring usage of the High Street facility and a discussion on the viability of two facilities has been ongoing.
- 5.5 The Council also charge 50p for usage of the High Street facility and charge £2 for the showers, a full income breakdown for the Grantown High Street facility is detailed in the table below.

Financial Year	Cash Income	Contactless Income	Shower Income	TOTAL INCOME
2018/19	£1,295.47	£243.50	N/A	£1,538.97
2019/20	£4,299.80	£454.69	N/A	£4,754.49
2020/21	£2,036.65	£1,106.22	N/A	£3,142.87
2021/22	£3,825.10	£2,858.24	N/A	£6,683.34
2022/23	£3,023.49	£2,116.04	£92.81	£5,232.34
2023/24	£3,008.01	£2,717.94	£294.67	£6,020.62
2024/25 up to September 2024	£2,409.45	£1,386.77	£171.51	£3,967.73
TOTALS	£19,897.97	£10,883.40	£558.99	£31,340.36

- 5.6 The average annual running costs to operate the High Street facility are shown below.

Water	£1367
Electricity	£1954
Maintenance	£1444
Consumables	£925
Staffing	£4486
Total	£10,176

- 5.7 The Grantown High Street facility has therefore been operating at a loss each year.

6. Proposal

- 6.1 The proposal is that the Grantown High Street PC is closed from 31st December 2024 and formal disposal of the asset is agreed so the property can be marketed for sale.
- 6.2 To offer a Comfort Scheme to the Grantown Initiative for the Grantown Burnfield public convenience at a cost of £200 per month from 1st January 2025 to 31st March 2026 inclusive.

Designation: Assistant Chief Executive – Place

Date: 11 November 2024

Author: Debbie Sutton, Strategic Lead Community Operations and Logistics

Background Papers: None

Appendices: None