

## Agenda item 5

### For decision - Refurbishment of toilets at Victoria Park

Authors: Cllr Mark Dorrington and Vivienne Whitaker, Project Officer

#### Summary

The following report provides an update on work regarding the refurbishment of the toilets at Victoria Park and a proposed specification of new facilities. Cllrs are invited to approve an invitation to tender for the work and to agree to financing the project through a Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) loan.

#### Introduction

The toilet block at Victoria Park is in need of refurbishment and has been subject to increasing vandalism. The proposal is to refurbish the toilets so that they are in line with best practice in terms of public toilet design and functionality, are more welcoming and accessible and reduce the risk of vandalism.



#### *Current toilet block*

#### Onsite visits with contractors

In May 2022 we met with two public toilet design and build contractors on site to look at options for modernising and refurbishing the Victoria Park toilets.

Both contractors advised that the current layout, with rear access and communal ladies and gents, should be replaced with single unisex cubicles that are accessed from the Mary Baily Field side of the block. Reconfiguring the access in this way would create a more accessible and welcoming entrance for users, as well as reduce vandalism and anti-social behaviour.

An asbestos survey was carried out in April 2022 which identified that there was no confirmed or suspected asbestos in the building.

### Proposed specification

It is proposed that the specification includes moving all the toilet entrances to face Mary Baily Field and create two unisex cubicles plus one Changing Places unit.

### Unisex cubicles

Both unisex cubicles would have baby changing facilities for families using the park. The cubicles would have tiled walls and floors, with a floor gully for wash down.

To reduce vandalism, fittings would be recessed where possible, with stainless steel paper dispensers and 'wave-on' flush system.

The existing Wallgate hand-wash units would be retained, along with the existing timer system to open and close the toilet cubicles.

### Changing Places unit

Changing Places toilets are designed for people who may be limited in their own mobility so need equipment to help them to either access the toilet or have their continence pad changed.

The cubicle would have a RADAR only access system with built in timer for opening & closing.

There would be a full room overhead track hoist system and height adjustable adult-sized changing bench. There would also be a height adjustable wash basin, drop-down rails either side of WC, and a shower with shower seat.

An example of a Changing Places unit will be shown at the meeting.

### Water bottle filling station

A water bottle filling station to the outside of the toilet block is proposed for park users to use.

### Funding and procurement

The refurbishment works will be over £25,000. Therefore, the project will need to go out to tender in line with financial regulations. The anticipated overall costs are expected to exceed the current amount in the EMR (currently £58,000) so we would be looking to make a Public Works Loan Board (PWL) application to finance the project.

**Recommendation**

To go out to tender for the refurbishment of the Victoria Park toilets and to make a PWLB application to finance the project.