

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, YOUTH, FAMILIES AND CULTURE****RESPONSE TO PETITION – GIVE US BACK OUR LOOS CAMPAIGN****Purpose of the Report**

1. This report informs Committee of the Council's response to the issue raised in a petition presented to the Chairman of the County Council at the Full Council meeting on 26 November 2015.

**Information and Advice**

2. A petition of 1,416 signatories was presented to Full Council on 26 November 2015 titled 'Give us back our loos' campaign stating 'we the undersigned would like to lodge, through our County Councillor, Hucknall First Community Forum's John Wilmott and the Hucknall Tourism and Regeneration Group, the Hucknall visitors and town's residents would like a public toilet in Hucknall library'.
3. The County Council has a statutory duty to provide a comprehensive and efficient library service and discharges this in part through a network of 60 static libraries and 3 mobile libraries.
4. The Library Service estate, where affordable and feasible, provides toilets designed for customers to use. The provision of customer toilets is a discretionary service provided for library users.
5. Where customer toilets are not provided due to space or cost, access to staff facilities will be provided at the discretion of staff to help those customers who require use of toilet facilities, especially those with disabilities and the more elderly.
6. Staff toilets are often not suitable for general open access public use. Access to staff toilets often requires staff to escort customers through non-public areas which can place staffing levels under pressure and have a negative impact on the delivery of the core library service.
7. Hucknall Library is a listed building and on a site that is limited in space. The building has limited capacity and would require significant re-modelling and investment to provide customer toilets without detriment to service delivery.
8. The staff toilets are within a secure staff area and were not designed for open public use. Staff often allow library customers to use facilities, but this does require escorting customers and can distract from the core service delivery.

9. Public toilets have never been provided in Hucknall by the County Council, either at the library or in any other facility.
10. Public toilets historically have been provided by district and/or parish/town councils. Facilities in Hucknall in the past have been provided by Ashfield District Council.
11. The provision of toilets in public libraries is for customers of the library and where provided are not a substitute for public toilets. The County Council has no duty to provide public toilets.

### **Other Options Considered**

12. No other options have been considered as the County Council has no duty to provide public toilets.

### **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

13. To inform Committee of the Council's response to the issue raised in a petition presented to the Chairman of the County Council at the Full Council meeting on 26 November 2015. The Committee's recommendation will be reported to the next available Full Council meeting.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

14. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, public sector equality duty, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

- 1) That the Committee confirms the Authority will not provide a public toilet in Hucknall Library for the reasons contained in the report and that the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

**Derek Higon**  
**Service Director, Youth, Families and Culture**

**For any enquiries about this report please contact:**

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### **Constitutional Comments (SLB 05/01/16)**

15. Culture Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of this report.

### **Financial Comments (SS 23/12/15)**

16. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

### **Background Papers and Published Documents**

None.

### **Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

Hucknall:	Councillor Alice Grice
	Councillor John Wilkinson
	Councillor John Wilmott

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