

Maidstone Borough Council
Ref: FOIreq3788
Date: 7 November 2014

Request

Please can you supply me with the Equality Impact Assessment and all other documentation, such as the rationale for not providing female toilet facilities in Maidstone town centre at weekends. Please include any emails, cabinet and committee papers which discuss this plus any other paperwork.

Our Response

There is no recent Equalities Impact Assessment. The Council's policy in relation to the provision of public conveniences was last reviewed and considered by the Environment and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Committee in December 2008, following which, a Report for Decision by the Cabinet Member for Environment was submitted on 6 August 2009, and a Decision issued on 14 August 2009. Copies of the reports are attached for your reference.

Recently, we have responded to a press enquiry on this topic and we have included with this response a copy of the email exchange between the relevant officers.

The matter was also raised at the Town Centre Management Initiative's Streetscene Group meeting on 17 October 2014. Please find excerpts below:

6.4	<i>BM, on behalf of FW, brought up the issue of ladies' WC at weekends. It was suggested at the TCM Night Forum to fund the facilities from the littering fines pot. MR stated that initial outlay for the scheme would be in the region of £25k plus £10k a year to maintain for a Friday/Saturday night facility. She reminded the group that the scheme is there to keep the borough clean and that the scheme is proving to be a success that fines are being reduced. MR suggested that if TCM wants to come back with an offer of funding or other help, then we can re-start discussions on the matter. BM understands the Council's difficult financial position.</i>
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