

BRIEFING NOTE

MOTION: To Enable Access to Holders of the 'Just Can't Wait Card'

This Council notes:

170,000 people carry the 'Just Can't Wait Card' across the country including in Lancaster where the number is rising. Many people across the district suffer from illnesses/conditions which can be debilitating, ranging from incontinence to stoma surgery. These conditions can lead to them needing the emergency use of toilet facilities urgently.

The Bladder & Bowel community have established the 'Just Can't Wait Toilet Scheme' which enables people to carry a card and enables businesses and organisations to allow emergency access to toilet facilities. People have told the Bladder and Bowel Community that they are trapped in their own homes due to the lack of public toilets and the fear of being caught short. There are over 14 million people in the UK living with a bladder condition and 6.4 million with a bowel condition with thousands suffering across Lancashire desperately in need of emergency access to toilet facilities.

Therefore, this Council resolves:

- That Lancaster City Council becomes a partner for the 'Just Can't Wait Card' scheme and all Lancaster City Council public buildings are accessible for those carrying this card.
- That the Chief Executive writes to town and parish councils and our suppliers and business partners across the district encouraging them to join this scheme."

Proposer: Cllr Jean Parr

Seconders: Cllrs Pattison, Redfern and Thornberry

OFFICER BRIEFING NOTE:

Most of the Council's buildings open to the public already have toilet facilities available to the public when the building is open. Therefore, there are no known issues with allowing this to continue and ensuring holders of the "Just Can't Wait" card can access these facilities. There are some practical considerations for access to the Platform via the VIC's so access will be dependent on staff availability. It isn't clear what is involved in becoming a partner of the "Just Can't Wait" scheme other than allowing access to facilities. Any other requirements and costs would need to be considered.

The Council holds contact lists for the Town and Parish Councils and has business contacts so would be able to email a message encouraging the Councils and businesses to join the scheme. A welcome pack and window stickers are available directly from the bladder and bowel community via their website.

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The S151 Officer has been consulted and has no further comments to add.

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no further comments to add.