

## **14. Period Poverty**

Background: Members may be aware that the Scottish government has agreed to provide free sanitary products in public buildings. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-46904775>

As we know Liskeard has a number of estates in deprivation, and it is likely that period poverty exists within the town. The exact numbers of those who may require support is unknown and asking could be considered intrusive and insensitive. The decision to supply free products in schools does not cover holidays, the homeless, and those in need outside of the school environment.

It is suggested therefore that a trial is carried out in one LTC run public building, (e.g. Dean street toilets) from December 2019 until January 2020 to determine demand, and the feasibility/cost of providing free sanitary products in the 2020/2021 financial year. Christmas is a time when personal budgets are often stretched to their maximum.

This motion is to agree that staff and committee time can be used to obtain costs, and research potential suppliers in time for the November facilities meeting to make a decision on the trial.

Budget: The committee may be aware that the budget set aside to fund new bins in the town has not been required. It is recommended that a portion of the under spend on this budget line is allocated to any potential trial. Currently £2,500 unspent.

Risk: Theft, (which could justify demand). A raised expectation of free products during 2020/2021.

Benefit: Anti deprivation project. Positive story for Liskeard Town Council and town. Hopefully other public bodies will follow suit.