

Leicester  
City Council

**WARDS AFFECTED  
ALL WARDS**

**CABINET**

**2 APRIL 2007**

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## **DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION ACT INITIATIVES 2007/08**

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### **Report of the Corporate Director of Resources**

#### **1. Purpose of Report**

The purpose of this report is to advise Cabinet of works recommended to be funded from the Disability Discrimination Act Initiatives budget for 2007/08, and to seek approval to enable the programme to proceed.

#### **2. Summary**

A sum of £500,000 in 2007/08 has been approved for the Disability Discrimination Act Initiatives budget.

Proposals for spending the 2007/08 budget in 23 buildings are attached at Appendix 1. The proposals have been prioritised based on audits and service need, using the new prioritisation model agreed with the Disability Equality Scheme Working Group, which includes external representation from the Leicestershire Centre for Integrated Living (LCIL).

Also shown in Appendix 1 is a sum of £20,000 allocated for the Access to Work Scheme and £8,235 for urgent works that may arise within the financial year.

#### **3. Recommendations**

Cabinet is recommended to:

- 3.1 Approve the works in Appendix 1 including the allocation of £20,000 to the Access to Work Scheme and the urgent works contingency.
- 3.2 Authorise the Corporate Director of Resources to order the works.
- 3.3 Authorise the Corporate Director of Resources to seek all necessary consents.

- 3.4 Authorise the Head of Legal Services to sign any contracts as necessary to allow the work to proceed.
- 3.5 Delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Resources to approve further works during the year, reassess or amend the programme as necessary, in consultation with the Cabinet Lead Member for Resources and Corporate Issues.

**4. Financial and legal Implications**

Financial Implications – Nicola Harlow Ext 7432

The sum of £500,000 (including fees) for 2007/2008 has been included in the Capital Programme for this project.

Legal Implications – Peter Nicholls Ext 6302

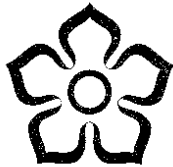
The Head of Legal Services has been consulted on the report and considers there to be no specific legal implications other than to ensure that the consultation complies with the provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and its amending Acts.

**5. Officer to contact:**

Patrick Midson  
 Disability Discrimination Act Officer  
 Property Review Team  
 Resources  
 Ext: 8181

**DECISION STATUS**

<b>Key Decision</b>	No
<b>Reason</b>	N/A
<b>Appeared in Forward Plan</b>	N/A
<b>Executive or Council Decision</b>	Executive (Cabinet)



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## **DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION ACT INITIATIVES 2007/08**

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**Report of the Corporate Director of Resources**

### **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

#### **1. Report**

- 1.1 Appendix 1 contains a proposed list of works to improve access for disabled people to City Council buildings under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and its amendments (DDA). It is recommended that these works should be undertaken using the funding within the Capital Programme for 2007/08.
- 1.2 The Disability Discrimination Act Officer (DDA Officer) based in the Property Review Team, (Resources – Property Services) has the duty of inspecting all City Council buildings (excluding domestic) to ascertain their level of accessibility and usability by disabled people. Any shortfall in access standards is recorded on a database to produce a programme of improvements required. The list is constantly reviewed to ensure that any buildings that are or may be surplus to use are not being included when works are to be carried out. Audits of service delivery to disabled people are the responsibility of the department providing the service from the building.
- 1.3 Prioritisation of works is reached by a system of weighting each piece of work required in each building scored using a prioritisation methodology introduced last financial year. The model is similar to that used for the prioritisation of the Council's Central Maintenance Fund. It considers technical need, service requirements, benefit to the greatest possible number of service users and staff and the Council's likely future intentions for the building.
- 1.4 The scoring is applied using the two audits mentioned above in 1.2 through workshops with each department, which are chaired by the Asset Strategy Manager (Property Services). These are made up of the DDA Officer, the departmental Heads of Property Group representatives and departmental Equality Officers. In order to address the City Council's duties under the Disability Equality Duty (introduced in December 2006), representatives of organisations of and for disabled people including the City Council's Disabled Employees Group are included. This year, the Leicestershire Centre for

Integrated Living (LCIL) and the Chair of the Disabled Employees Group were invited to the meetings but unfortunately LCIL was unable to send a representative. However, to ensure continuous involvement of disabled people, a copy of the draft DDA programme was forwarded to LCIL with an invitation for them to comment on the proposals. In future years the opportunity will be taken to widen the involvement of disabled people and organisations.

- 1.5 The proposed spending of the budget is based on the highest priority scores forming the proposed programme; these are shown at Appendix 1. The buildings are listed in alphabetical order for ease of reference rather than the priority scores.
- 1.6 The City Council has been in the top quartile of the Audit Commission's Best Value Performance Indicator 156 "the number of City Council's buildings open to the public and accessible and usable by disabled people" for the past 4 years. Continuing to provide capital provision for access improvements to buildings should help to keep it in that position.
- 1.7 Appendix 1 is made up of works to buildings, fees and an urgent contingency fund. This fund will allow any works identified by disabled people during the financial year that prevents them accessing a City Council building, to be undertaken. Also included is a sum of £20,000 for the Access to Work scheme (ATW) to continue. This element is controlled by the Corporate Director of Resources, Human Resources Unit. The Access to Work element is to fund the cost of equipment and accessories necessary to assist existing and new disabled members of staff in their work and is largely grant-aided by the Department of Employment on a sliding scale of up to 100% of the cost.
- 1.8 Members should note that the DDA budget stands alone to carry out access improvements to buildings where works have been identified through audit and user comments. When departments are undertaking any refurbishment, alterations or improvement works to buildings they occupy, they are expected to include any access improvements needed at that time without calling on the DDA improvements budget.

## **FINANCIAL, LEGAL AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

### **1. Financial Implications**

The sum of £500,000 (including fees) for 2007/2008 has been included in the Capital Programme for this project.

### **2. Legal Implications**

The Head of Legal Services has been consulted on the report and considers there to be no specific legal implications other than to ensure that the consultation complies with the provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995.

### 3. Other Implications

OTHER IMPLICATIONS	YES/NO	Paragraph References Within Supporting information
Equal Opportunities	Yes	Throughout the report
Policy	No	
Sustainable and Environmental	No	
Crime and Disorder	No	
Human Rights Act	No	
Elderly/People on Low Income	Yes	Throughout the report

### 4. Background Papers – Local Government Act 1972

Capital Programme book 2007/2008.

### 5. Consultations

In 2002 consultation was undertaken with various voluntary bodies through Voluntary Action Leicester, results of which were reported to FREOPs on 19th September 2002 and to Cabinet on 23 September 2002. The results of this consultation were disappointing and therefore to meet its new duties under the Disability Equality Duties introduced in December 2006, Property Services will work with LCIL and others to establish a meaningful system that allows for the full involvement of disabled people, which it is hoped will produce better results. In the meantime we continue to rely on user comments gathered by the service and building audit regime.

Internal consultation has taken place with the Heads of Property Group, individual departmental Heads of Property Group Representatives and Equality Officers (including through them Service Heads and Managers), as well as the Disability Equality Group, which includes external representation (Director of LCIL).

### 7. Officer to contact:

Patrick Midson  
Disability Discrimination Act Officer  
Property Review Team  
Resources  
Ext: 8181

**Tom Stephenson**  
**Corporate Director of Resources**

**APPENDIX 1**

UPRN	BUILDING NAME	Property Type	Department	Works Identified	Predicted Cost
2081	Adult Education College	Adult Education	A&HS	Alteration to building to enable wheelchair access to rear part of ground floor ie café etc. Possible options include lift or ramped external access	£30,000
1709	African Caribbean Centre	Community Centre	RAC	Provide 8 person lift	£150,000
2024/01	Beaumont Enterprise Centre	Industrial Units	RES	Replace inner lobby door (automatic opening). Provide brightly coloured contrast to nosing of step inside of entrance door. Provide suitable colour contrast to nosings of spiral fire stairs. Upgrade lift to current DDA standards.	£20,080
2054	Brookside Intermediate Care Unit	Elderly Persons Homes	A&HS	Change/provide colour contrast to all stairs as required and supply and fit handrails. Relocate intercom to other side of door at NHS entrance and lower to a suitable height for a wheelchair user. Provide dropped kerb near NHS entrance.	£7,100
2129/02	Coleman Lodge	Community Centre	A&HS	Provide an induction loop to both rooms.	£1,500
2087	Cooper House EPH	Elderly Persons Homes	A&HS	Change colour contrast to stair nosings as required.	£2,000
0446	De Montfort Hall	Entertainment	RAC	Replace brass handrails to main stairs to DDA standards. Replace/change colour contrast to nosings of stairs as required. Provide across counter induction loops with suitable signs to both to alternate counters at Box Office. Replace shower in Dressing Room 4 to provide suitable shower for wheelchair user. Widen door to Dressing Room 4 to provide 800mm clear opening.	£26,800
2299/02	Healthy Living Centre Stocking Farm Community Centre	Community Centre	A&HS	Change main entrance doors to automatic opening and increase clear opening. Provide induction loop to hall and across counter induction loop to reception counter.	£9,000
2430	Herrick Lodge EPH	Elderly Persons Homes	A&HS	Widen doors. Supply and fit handrails. Upgrade Staff Toilet to wheelchair accessible. Upgrade existing lift to DDA standard.	£16,000
4123	Humberstone Neighbourhood Housing Office	Offices	A&HS	Alterations to main entrance for wheelchair users.	£5,000
2226	Layton House Day Centre	Adult Day Centres	A&HS	Replace nosings to stairs. Mark car park spaces.	£2,000

UPRN	BUILDING NAME	Property Type	Department	Works Identified	Predicted Cost
4111	Leicester Leys Leisure Centre	Sports Services	RAC	Replace colour contrast nosings to all stairs to provide suitable colour contrast. Resite flush lever in female changing area accessible toilet to other side of tank.	£3,300
2231/02	Linwood Workshops (Common Areas)	Industrial Units	RES	Replace entrance doors (Automatic). Automate double doors in corridor on first floor. Provide suitable colour contrast to nosings of 3 sets of stairs. Relocate the toilet pan in the accessible toilet (1st floor) to be 500mm to centre change flushing lever to other side of cistern and replace hot and cold taps with single lever mixer tap. Provide full set of grabrails and ensure good colour contrast with walls.	£19,800
2232/01	Matrix House (Common Areas)	Industrial Units	RES	Upgrade lift to current DDA standards. Provide additional handrail and suitable colour contrast to nosings to 3 sets of stairs.	£21,000
2260	Melbourne Centre	Industrial Units	RES	Provide single sex accessible female toilet on ground floor and refurbish male single sex toilet. Upgrade lift to current DDA standard. Replace security control on door near lift and move exit button away from door.	£20,800
2323	Rushey Mead Recreation Centre	Community Centre	A&HS	Provide an induction loop in hall.	£1,750
4131	Shopmobilty Haymarket Bus Station	Community	RAC	Investigate Provide wheelchair accessible toilet.	£6,000
2340/02	Southfields Sports Hall	Sports Hall	A&HS	Investigate provision of accessible changing area on ground floor. Provide across counter induction loop to reception.	£2,600
1422/01/001	St Matthews Community Centre & Sports Hall	Community Centre	A&HS	Investigate and provide suitable induction loop system to Main Hall (1st floor) and Lounge (ground floor). Investigate across counter induction loop and replace as necessary. Refurbish changing rooms. Install auto doors to allow disabled access to sports hall.	£14,500
2346	St. Andrew's Contact & Assessment Centre	Children & Family Centre	C&YPS	Alterations to wheelchair accessible toilet.	£3,000
2379	Thurncourt EPH	Elderly Persons Homes	A&HS	Replace nosings to stairs. Raise slabs to fire escape door level.	£5,000

UPRN	BUILDING NAME	Property Type	Department	Works Identified	Predicted Cost
1601	Vulcan House (Common areas)	Industrial Units	RES	Upgrade passenger lifts to current DDA standards. Provide vision panels from 400mm to 1700mm in all corridors doors and either provide automatic opening or fit hold open devises wired to the fire alarm system. Increase clear opening of single doors to lift area all levels. Fit help alarm to accessible toilet, change fittings to colour contrast and change flushing lever to other side. Provide colour contrast to all stair nosings and additional handrails as required.	£38,000
2463	Watershed Youth Centre	Community Centre	A&CS	Upgrade lift controls to meet DDA standards	£5,000
					£410,230
				Fees	£61,535
				Urgent Works	£8,235
				Access to Work	£20,000
					£500,000