

---

**DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION ACT INITIATIVES 2002/2003**

---

**Report of the Corporate Director of Resources, Access & Diversity**

**1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 The main purpose of this Report is to advise Members of works recommended to be funded from the Disability Discrimination Act Initiatives Budget for 2002/2003.
- 1.2 The Report also seeks to advise Members of the recommended level of the Access to Work portion of the budget and to seek approvals to enable the programme to proceed.

**2 SUMMARY**

- 2.1 A sum of £300,000 has been approved for the Disability Discrimination Act Initiatives Budget 2002/2003.
- 2.2 The Disabled Person's Access Officer in the Environment, Regeneration & Development Department has applied the "List of Priorities for Improving City Council Buildings for Disabled Persons" (Appendix 1) to the survey of properties he has undertaken over the years. By applying "Paving the Way" criteria to the survey information and taking into account the results of the public consultation exercise reported to FREOPPS 19 September 2002 (Appendix 2), he has come up with the priority list (Appendix 3).
- 2.3 There is a need for a response mechanism to allow for works to be undertaken during the year should a complaint be received and a sum of £59,775 has been reserved for this purpose as at Appendix 3. It will be a requirement of this fund that if works have not been committed by 31 December 2002, then the fund remaining will be allocated to other works which can be completed by 31 March 2003.
- 2.4 Also shown on Appendix 3 is a sum of £20,000 which is allocated from this budget each year for Access to Work.
- 2.5 A request has been received from Leicester Promotions for a sum of £6,000 to make its Tour Bus accessible. Although, this does not strictly comply with the criteria for the fund, Members may wish to consider this and if appropriate, approve the inclusion of this in the programme.

- 2.6 The Asset Management Plan Implementation Team, at its meetings in July and August, approved those works as appropriate in the light of the suitability and sufficiency studies/surveys undertaken as part of the Asset Management Planning Process.

### **3 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 The Cabinet is recommended to

- 3.1.1 Approve the works in Appendix 3 including the allocation of £20,000 to Access to Work and a sum of £59,775 for urgent works required in the light of complaints received.
- 3.1.2 Approve the inclusion of £6,000 for alterations to the Leicester Promotion Tour Bus.
- 3.1.3 Authorise the Corporate Director of Environment, Regeneration & Development Department to order the works.
- 3.1.4 Authorise the Corporate Director of Resources, Access & Diversity to seek all necessary consents.
- 3.1.5 Authorise the Corporate Director of Resources, Access & Diversity's Head of Legal Services to sign any contracts (if necessary) to allow the works to proceed.
- 3.1.6 Authorise the Corporate Director of Resources, Access & Diversity to approve further works during the year as necessary under delegated powers.

### **4 FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 A sum of £300,000 is included in the 2002/2003 Capital Programme for this project and this appears as Scheme 150 on Page 18 of the Capital Programme 2002/2003 book.
- 4.2 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.

### **5 REPORT AUTHOR/OFFICER TO CONTACT**

Geoff Organ  
Head of Corporate Procurement & Business Services  
Corporate Procurement & Business Services Group  
Financial Services  
Resources, Access & Diversity Department

Extn 6014

Andy M Bubb  
Facilities Manager  
Operational Property  
Corporate Procurement & Business Services  
Resources, Access & Diversity Department  
Extn 8927

**DECISION STATUS**

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

---

**DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION ACT INITIATIVES 2002/2003**

---

**Report of the Corporate Director of Resources, Access & Diversity**

**SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

**1 REPORT**

- 1.1 The Disabled Persons Access Officer has produced at Appendix 3 a prioritised list of works which it is recommended should be undertaken to buildings and services.
- 1.2 The provisional list is made up of works and fees to buildings - a sum of £59,775 for urgent works identified during the year and £20,000 for Access to Work.
- 1.3 The works to buildings, it is recommended, should be approved for commencement as soon as possible. The fees on the cost of the works has been set at 15%. These will be subject to change if it is found that the complexity of the works requires an increased fee. Should this be the case, this will be referred back to Cabinet Lead for approval.
- 1.4 It is recommended that the sum of £20,000 is allocated for Access to Work grants, this element being controlled by the Corporate Director of Resources, Access & Diversity's Human Resources Unit. The Access to Work element is to fund the cost of equipment and accessories necessary to assist the disabled member of staff in the work and is largely grant aided by the Department of Employment on a sliding scale of up to 100% of the cost.
- 1.5 There has in previous years been a need to address urgent works at premises as a result of complaints received. In order to allow such works to be undertaken as quickly as possible, a sum of £59,775 has been allocated.
- 1.6 A request has been received for £6,000 to be included for alterations to the Leicester promotions Tour Bus to achieve accessibility.

## 2 CONSULTATION

- 2.1 The Disabled Person's Access Officer in the Environment, Regeneration & Development Department has undertaken an access audit of all premises and in doing so, has consulted Managers of the premises and taken on board requirements of customers in arriving at the priority works (Appendix 3).
- 2.2 Consultation has been undertaken with various voluntary bodies through Voluntary Action Leicester and as a result, the public consultation exercise reported to FREOPPS 19 September 2002 (Appendix 2) has been prepared.
- 2.3 The Asset Management Plan Implementation Team, at its meetings in July and August 2002, approved these works as appropriate in the light of the suitability and sufficiency studies/surveys undertaken as part of the Asset Management Planning Process.

## 3 FINANCIAL, LEGAL AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS

### 3.1 Financial Implications

A sum of £300,000 is included in the 2002/2003 Capital Programme for this project and this appears as Scheme 150 on Page 18 of the Capital Programme 2002/2003 book.

### 3.2 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.

### 3.3 Other Implications

Other Implications	Yes/ No	Paragraph References within this Report
Equal Opportunities	YES	This report details work aimed at removing the barriers society puts in the way of disabled people.
Policy	NO	
Sustainable and Environmental	NO	
Crime and Disorder	NO	
Human Rights Act	YES	This Report details work aimed at allowing all people satisfactory and adequate access to facilities and services.
Elderly Persons/People on Low Incomes	NO	

## **4 RECOMMENDATIONS**

4.1 It is recommended that Members of the Cabinet:

4.1.1 Approve the work in Appendix 3 including the allocation of £20,000 to Access to Work and a sum of £59,775 for urgent work request in the light of complaints received.

4.1.2 Approve the inclusion of £6,000 for alteration to the Leicester Promotion Tour Bus.

4.1.3 Authorise the Corporate Director of Resources, Access & Diversity to order the work.

4.1.4 Authorise the Corporate Director of Resources, Access & Diversity to seek all necessary comments.

4.1.5 Authorise the Corporate Director of Resources, Access & Diversity's, Head of Legal Services to sign any contracts (if necessary) to allow the work to proceed.

4.1.6 Authorise the Corporate Director of Resources, Access & Diversity to approve further work during the year as necessary with delegated powers.

## **5 BACKGROUND PAPERS – LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

5.1 Capital Programme Budget Book 2002/2003.

## LIST OF PRIORITIES FOR IMPROVING CITY COUNCIL BUILDINGS FOR DISABLED PEOPLE

### BACKGROUND

In 1994, the Disabled Persons' Access Officer (DPAO) identified and undertook surveys of 74 City Council buildings, in order to supply information required under the Audit Commission Performance Indicators 5a "The number of buildings owned and occupied by the authority that have areas normally open to the public" and 5b "The number of such buildings in which all public areas are suitable for and accessible to disabled people". Of these only 10 passed the standard set by the Audit Commission. To improve this situation, provision was made in the capital programme for 'Disabled Persons Initiatives' to carry out improvement works from 1996/97.

The DPAO drew up a list of buildings each financial year that he considered could be improved within the budget provided. He then consulted with Departments that had buildings on the audit list of 74 buildings, seeking their views on his recommendations. Once the list was agreed, it was presented to the then Policy and Resources, Equal Opportunities and Personnel Sub-Committee and Finance Sub-Committee for approval. This practice continued up to and including 2000/01.

During that time, the DPAO started to undertake access surveys of all City Council buildings, whether open to the public or not, in readiness for the introduction of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA). These surveys were completed in 2000.

### PROPOSED PRIORITY LISTING

There are in excess of 250 buildings owned and occupied by the City Council. Of these 111 are classed as "normally open to the public". This means that the building is open to anyone to drop in at anytime during normal opening hours. It excludes schools and colleges that have areas available for use by the public at limited times of the day.

In order to better control access improvements, deal with requests for improvements from disabled people in addition to works already identified and to better monitor improvements it is necessary to provide a clearer priority system. To this end, the following prioritisation list is recommended:

Priority 1	Buildings open to the public with user requests for additional works
Priority 2	Buildings open to the public
Priority 3	Education buildings with areas open to the public not covered by DfEE funding for Statemented Pupils
Priority 4	Other education buildings not covered by DfEE funding for Statemented Pupils. Buildings not open to the public

---

DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION ACT (1995)  
PUBLIC CONSULTATION EXERCISE

---

Report of the Corporate Director of Resources, Access & Diversity

**1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 To inform Members of the result of the Public Consultation Exercise in relation to the DDA.

**2 SUMMARY**

- 2.1 Members have requested details of the work in hand and progress of key areas of the Council's response to the DDA.
- 2.2 250 three-part questionnaires were distributed to disabled users and disabled groups through Voluntary Action Leicester (VAL). Of these, 22 were returned.
- 2.3 The key results of the three parts of the consultation are shown below.
- 2.3.1 **Part 1** – The types of barriers faced when using Council facilities was the first area questioned. The responses were:
- (a) 24% of respondents (14 registered instances) found car park access the main obstacle.
  - (b) 15% (9 registered instances) of respondents found wheelchair access the main obstacle.
  - (c) 11% (7 registered instances) of respondents found room access the main obstacle.
  - (d) 10% (6 registered instances) of respondents found doors and doorways the main obstacle.
- 2.3.2 **Part 2** – Asked how access could be improved or how the service or facility be better provided. The responses were:
- (a) 28% of respondents (8 registered instances) suggested improvements to access.



- (b) 17% of respondents (5 registered instances) suggested parking improvements.
- (c) 13% of respondents (4 registered instances) suggested door improvements.
- (d) 10% of respondents (3 registered instances) suggested improvements to ramps.

2.3.3 **Part 3** – Asked for respondents to indicate which Council buildings should be improved first and why.

- (a) Respondents to this section reiterated the answers highlighted in Section 1 of the questionnaire.

2.4 The majority of respondents are concerned about:

2.4.1 Movement around premises, including wheelchair access to rooms or other buildings on the site. Of the 22 forms received, 31 instances were registered with regard to these issues.

2.4.2 Car parking arrangements included signage, proximity of car parks, provision of disabled spaces and the surface of the car park and paths. Of the 22 forms received, 19 instances were registered with regard to these issues.

2.5 The City Council has 111 buildings in its ownership which are open to the public, of which 40 are already fully compliant with the DDA. The survey returns refer to only 13 properties ie 11.7%. The resulting perception/analysis indicates that the majority of our buildings do not pose a significant access problem to disabled service users.

2.6 Specific buildings identified as causing the majority of concerns are:

Thurnby Lodge Community Centre; and

Raven Youth Club.

2.7 The results of the consultation will inform the recommended programme of works to meet our requirements under the Act.

### **3 RECOMMENDATIONS**

3.1 Scrutiny Members are recommended to note the areas of access causing most concern to disabled service users and to support the principle of these being used to inform the recommended programme of works prior to 1 October 2004.

#### 4 FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 A sum of £300,000 for this and the next two years has been included in the Capital Programme to enable works to comply with the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 to be carried out.

4.2 The Head of Legal Services has been consulted. The public consultation exercise has been carried out with a view to enabling the Council to comply with its legal requirements under the Act".

#### 4.3 Other Implications

Other Implications	Yes/ No	Paragraph References within this Report
Equal Opportunities	YES	This Report details areas of work aimed at removing the barriers society puts in the way of disabled people.
Policy	NO	
Sustainable and Environmental	NO	
Crime and Disorder	NO	
Human Rights Act	YES	This Report details areas of work aimed at allowing all people satisfactory and adequate access to facilities and services.
Elderly Persons/People on Low Incomes	YES	This Report contains responses from elderly persons/people on low incomes where they are also either disabled persons or carers.

#### 5 CONSULTATION

5.1 This Report is solely concerned with consultation.

#### 6 REASONS FOR TREATING THE REPORT AS "NOT FOR PUBLICATION" (only if it is an exempt report)

6.1 Not applicable.

#### 7 REPORT AUTHOR/OFFICER TO CONTACT

Geoff Organ  
 Head of Corporate Procurement & Business Services  
 Corporate Procurement & Business Services Group  
 Financial Services  
 Resources, Access & Diversity Department  
 Extn 6014

## SUGGESTED FIRST PRIORITY FOR ACCESS IMPROVEMENT WORKS 2002/03

SUGGESTED PRIORITY	REF No	BUILDING NAME	WORKS OUTSTANDING	EST. COST
1	004	Belgrave Hall Church Road	Refurbish wheelchair accessible toilet, supply and fit handrails to internal stairs.	£5,000
1	016	Westcotes Library Narborough Road	Rebuild ramp, supply and fit handrails, provide 2 sets of asymmetric automatic doors, refurbish wheelchair accessible toilet.	£17,000
1	021	Knighton Library Clarendon Park Road	Widen Fire Escape, build ramp, supply and fit 2 sets of asymmetric doors, rebuild main entrance door and replace handrail	£12,500
1	032	Kingfisher Youth Centre Boulder Lane	Up grade wheelchair accessible toilet, enclose rear entrance and provide ramp, install timber ramp to activity area, provide additional wheelchair accessible toilet in store room (lower level) link existing ramp to new entrance installed by Sure Start and relocate CCTV cabinet	£30,000
1	051	Eyres Monsell Comm. Centre Hillsborough Rd	Automatic main entrance doors, supply and fit bell, refurbish accessible toilet, alterations to internal doors, build ramps to Fire Escape doors	£13,000
1	052	Magpie Youth Centre. Hillsborough Rd	Replace handrails, build wheelchair accessible toilet, colour contrast to steps, relocate entrance to bar area and build ramp in seating area.	£13,000
1	053	Thurnby Lodge Community Centre Thurncourt Rd.	Automatic doors to main entrance, rebuild ramp, alterations to internal doors, provide internal ramp, mark 3 car park spaces and make good to surface from car park area to entrance, provide ramps to fire escape from Green Room, replace Annex double doors with asymmetric remove threshold step and external approach to suite, provide additional wheelchair accessible toilet in corridor from Annex to main building.	£40,000
1	054	Thurnby Lodge Youth Centre*(Raven) Thurncourt Rd	Alterations to external ramp, replace internal hand rails, colour contrast to steps, build wheelchair accessible toilet provide ramp to coffee bar area, provide ramps to rear fire exits.	£18,000
1	140	Leicester Leys Leisure Centre	User identified need for widening 2 single doors from dry sports corridor to wet sports corridor which contains wheelchair accessible toilet. (work not priced estimate only)	£5,000
1	142	Saffron Lane Sports Centre Saffron Lane	Alterations to male and female changing rooms, remark disabled persons car park spaces, paint nosings to steps.	£20,000
1	153	Braunstone Oak Neighbourhood Centre	Refurbish wheelchair accessible toilet, mark out disabled persons car parking spaces	£7,000
1	167	Cossington Street Sport Training Hall Cossington Street	Refurbish wheelchair accessible toilet	£5,000
		Leicester Promotions	Grant for access improvements to Leicester Tour Bus.	£6,000

ESTIMATED COST OF WORKS	£191,500
FEEES AT 15%	<u>£ 28,725</u>
BUDGET ESTIMATE TOTAL	£220,225
ACCESS TO WORK SCHEME	£ 20,000
STANDBY BUDGET TO MEET UNIDENTIFIED REQUESTS FROM USERS	<u>£ 59,775</u>
TOTAL ESTIMATED FOR YEAR	<b><u>£300,000</u></b>